BARGAIN SHOPPING FOR A PROFESSIONAL WARDROBE

Compliments of University Career Services
Student Service Center * (713) 743-5100 * www.career.uh.edu

STOP #1: Bluebird Circle Shop, 615 W. Alabama (& Montrose), 713-528-0470
Bluebird is one of the best consignment stores in Houston. The proceeds benefit a children’s hospital in the area, so philanthropic folks donate clothes and furniture to sell for this cause. The clothing is really good for a consignment store, and the longer the item is in the store, the more the price is reduced. Someone once bought a Talbot’s sweater—with the original tags still on it —there for $5. The price can’t be beat, and you’ll go into the dressing room with lots of things to try on. This is the kind of store where you’ll really lose track of time. Be careful, though. They are open odd hours, because the staff is completely volunteer. Call and ask to be sure.

STOP #2: Hosiery Outlet, 2518 Bissonnet, 713-533-1688
Hose and nice socks can be expensive, considering how often they run. Outlet stores like this one can save you money, while you can get good quality hose.

STOP #3: Target, various locations, check Yellow Pages for listings. Closest: 8500 Main St., 713-666-0967
Yes, you can get good deals at Target. Target’s selection of clothes suitable for the office is getting better and better. Most of the pieces you’ll find are mix and match; you can put together a great closet of separates here. From dress shirts to inexpensive slacks, Target can be a great bargain—if you know what to look for. Target also has a good selection of costume jewelry, from watches to earrings. See also: WalMart, K&G Fashion Superstore. For men only, see SuitMart.

STOP #4: Marshalls, various locations, check Yellow Pages for listings. Closest: 550 Meyerland Plaza, 713-661-2838
Marshalls is great! Marshalls and T.J. Maxx are owned by the same company, TMX, Inc. They do carry different clothes, however, so it makes sense to check out both stores. You can find good suits in Marshalls, as well as great buys on separates. Check back often to see what new stock they have. See also: Ross Dress for Less, Burlington Coat Factory

SHOES

DSW Shoe Warehouse, 8409 Westheimer, 713-977-8691
There are literally thousands of different shoes in there, of all different kinds, brands and price ranges. Definitely worth your time to shop here.

Payless Shoe Source, various locations, check Yellow Pages for listings. Closest: 930 Main St., 713-571-8001
Need taupe shoes? Tie-up black work shoes? Visit Payless for a quick pair of shoes to add to your wardrobe. They’re not too expensive, so you can buy a pair for just one outfit, if need be, and if they get wrecked from wearing them all the time, you won’t feel bad as if you spent $70 on a pair of shoes. Also check the shoe departments in WalMart, Target and Marshalls.

CONSIGNMENT

Red Door Consignment, 2531 Sunset Blvd., 713-522-4343
Red Door, like Bluebird, has a good a good selection. However Red Door is pricier. If you are looking for a suit, you may want to check here if you can’t find one at Bluebird. Sometimes you’ll get fantastic deals. Sometimes, however, it’s worth it to go out and buy the brand new suit, instead. All designer labels here.

Alamo Thrift Store, 2215 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, 713-944-6722
What a thrift store should be! Don’t go broke dressing to earn a paycheck. The clothes you need to work, the styles and brands you want to wear, all for much less than retail. Real clothes for the real world. Show your college ID and save 15%!!!

The Cottage Thrift Shop, 811 Westheimer, 713-526-4663; Open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Baubles & Beads Resale Boutiques, various locations, 3503 W. Holcombe, 713-592-5501