

RÉSUMÉS AND COVER LETTERS

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Basics

- The **résumé** contains your "background information", including academic information such as GPA, work experiences, skills, etc.
- In a **cover letter**, the purpose is to convince the reader that you are qualified for the job, because of your academic qualifications, work history, interests, etc.
 - Why should the employer hire YOU?
 - (The employer doesn't really care why you want to work for THEM.)

Common themes

- Both the résumé and cover letter should be tailored for the job you are applying for.
 - Résumé – you can tailor your objective, skills, relevant courses,
 - Cover letter –
 - state the specific job you are applying for (and where you saw the job posting).
 - Highlight your experiences and skills relevant to the job.
 - Use language similar to what you see in the job advertisement.
- The Résumé and cover letter are both *writing samples*.
- Remember that the reader knows *nothing* about you other than what you include in the cover letter and resume.
- Make sure there are no grammatical or spelling mistakes, and no brown M&Ms.

Additional References

- Resumes
 - Pointers
 - Prioritize experience (if applicable) and skills, and not courses
 - Include *relevant courses* (and only relevant courses) if room allows
 - Examples
 - <https://www.topresume.com/career-advice/excellent-resume-for-recent-grad-05-2016>
 - <http://www.businessinsider.com/excellent-resume-for-recent-grad-2014-7>
 - Cover letter pointers:
 - <https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/CoverLetters.html>