

Resume Writing

AUBURN UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTER YOUR CAREER. OUR MISSION.

303 MARTIN HALL | 334.844.4744 | AUBURN.EDU/CAREER

A RÉSUMÉ...

- Summarizes your work and/or activity experiences, educational background and skills that relate to the job you are seeking in one to two pages.
- Is a document that arouses interest and helps you obtain an interview so you can sell your strengths in person.

A curriculum vita (CV) is a comprehensive biographical statement, usually three or more pages in length. See CV Tip Sheet for more information.

RÉSUMÉ BASICS

- · Be accurate and honest
- Avoid mistakes
- Be consistent in format and style in overall page design
- Omit high school information unless relates to objective
- Use matching style for résumé, letter and reference page
- Print on quality paper and printer, if applicable

A RÉSUMÉ IS USED TO OBTAIN...

- Interviews for internships, seasonal, part- and full-time jobs
- Admission to graduate/professional school
- A leadership position in an organization

RÉSUMÉ FORMAT OPTIONS

Chronological

Use this style when work experience, education or activities are strong and relevant to your objective; previous job titles or company names sound impressive; job history shows growth or to emphasize specific career-related accomplishments.

- List experiences from present to past, primarily focusing on accomplishments and skills used.
- Highlight progression and growth through job titles and/or names of employers.
- Caution: This style makes non-impressive job titles and frequent changes in career path clearly visible.

Functional or Skills-based

Use this style to deemphasize irrelevant job titles and work history in order to draw attention to transferable skills.

- Highlight demonstrated skills and abilities by organizing categories around major areas of accomplishment to best support job objective rather than dates.
- Draw from all sources of experience (jobs, volunteering, activities and coursework) to describe skills.

Combination

- Combine aspects of chronological and functional formats.
- Emphasize both work history and skills/accomplishments equally.

RÉSUMÉ CONTENT

Here is a list of sections most often used in a standard résumé. Include and organize sections based on what you want to emphasize as relevant to the position you are seeking.

Heading/Personal Information

• Name: May include "nickname" or (nickname)

• Address: Permanent and/or current addresses

• Phone Number: Differentiate between work and cell

• Email Address: In black and not underlined

• Personal Website: If appropriate

Summary of Qualifications (Optional)

In a "national survey of 600 hiring managers, the overwhelming majority said the most important part of your resume is the Summary of Qualifications section." Employers reported they read the summary first and if it caught their attention, they slowed down to give the applicant more careful consideration. Hiring managers also reported only about 5% of resumes received contained this key section.

This section should consists of four to six bullets that present an overview of your experience, accomplishments, talents, work habits, and skills. "Think of it as a mini-outline of you; a highly influential summation of the specifics you bring to the job."

Resource: http://robinryan.com/resumeQuiz.htm

Summary of Qualifications Samples

- Proven track record of leadership, leading team to start organization, be recognized by the University and recruit 300 members
- Responsible for customer service and production during shift as well as managing 10 staff members
- Proficient interpersonal and presentation skills utilized both in one-on-one settings and group presentations to students, alumni, parents and community leaders
- Recognized for superior problem-solving, project management, relationship building, and strategic planning skills.

Do not lie, exaggerate or misrepresent your skills. Highlight your experience and accomplishments based on solid facts.

Objective (Optional)

The objective is another option (but should not be used with the Summary) to introduce yourself to the reader, and it sets the tone for your résumé, demonstrates professional direction and indicates the type of work you are seeking. The objective says, "This is what I want to do," and "These are the skills I want to utilize." The rest of the résumé says, "This is why I am qualified to do it."

Be careful not to repeat information in your cover letter and that you do not narrow your employment opportunities too much.

Include this type of information:

- Level of position, job title or industry area
- Type of organization or department that interests you
- Description of job activities you wish to perform
- Interests, knowledge or skills you wish to contribute to the organization
- Long and/or short term goals

Your objective should do the following:

- Fit your background/career desires
- Show your confidence in career goals
- background relate to your objective

One that states the obvious is not worth listing!

Sample Objectives

- Management position in production utilizing my expertise and organization skills, supporting my commitment to customer service, employee development and continuous improvement.
- Operations management position at a major operating facility for a growing pulp and paper or related company, fully utilizing management, communication and problem-solving skills.

Education

- See resume sample on p. 4 for formatting tips
- List in reverse chronological order
- Grade point (if 3.00 and above; do not round up)
- Awards/Honors/Scholarships (if more than three, use a separate section)
- Percentage of schooling paid for by self
- Study abroad experiences
- Special training, trade schools or workshops

Related Coursework

This might be included in the Education section or as a separate section. Use it when you are lacking related experience but want to demonstrate relevant academic training and knowledge by listing specific course titles.

Experience

- See resume sample on p. 4 for formatting tips
- List in reverse chronological order
- Include all types of *relevant* experience including full-time, part-time and summer positions; volunteer work, internships, self-employment, research projects and activities if the skills that were developed in those activities are directly related
- Create two sections, Related Experience and Other Experience if needed
- Determine whether to list job title or employer first by what is more impressive, just be consistent
- Describe job duties using phrases that begin with active verbs (see p. 5)

Honors, Activities, Research or Professional Affiliations

Include activities that demonstrate job-related skills, leadership or membership in career related organizations.

Key Skills

Computer: List as specifically as possible indicating proficiency level. If seeking a technology position, include more specific sections to include programming languages, hardware, software, operating systems, databases, peripherals, etc.

Foreign Language: Indicate your level of written, reading and oral proficiency in each.

Miscellaneous Information (space allowing)

• Be clear and concise, indicating how your abilities, skills and Add additional categories that reflect your uniqueness, such as interests or volunteer work, publications, presentations and hobbies, but always consider the relevance that category and its contents have to your objective and/or the position at hand.

- Willingness to travel
- Willingness to relocate or geographic preference
- Date of availability
- Special interests

REFERENCES

Simply list "Available upon request" on your resume. List references on a separate page and always obtain permission and keep references informed of the positions you are pursuing. Reference information should include:

- Complete name (using Mr., Miss, Mrs., Ms. or Dr.)
- Job title
- Name of the organization
- · Work address
- Phone number (ask if they prefer work or home)
- · Email address

Choosing your references

- Brainstorm a list of people who will speak highly of your past work performance (job, class work, research, etc.).
- A colleague may also provide a strong reference if you worked on a team project together.
- Character/personal references should only be provided if requested or if your choices are limited.
- Generally, provide three to five references.
- Ask the people you have selected if they will serve as a positive reference, and do not provide their names to an employer without asking first.

Preparing your reference page

Check spelling of each reference's name, company, official job title, and address. Learn what phone number and email address they want used.

Educating and informing your references

• Provide a copy of your résumé to your references so they may speak intelligently about your background and strengths.

- Inform them of the kind of positions you are seeking.
- Coach them about the skills and strengths you would like them to emphasize.
- Notify them of every position you apply for so they may anticipate the call and are prepared to "sell" you for that particular position.
- Thank your references and notify them when you accept a position.

TIPS FOR RÉSUMÉ WRITING

Paper/Ink: Use at least 50% cotton, 8 1/2" x 11" résumé paper, and use same paper for cover letter and reference page. Print in black ink on white, ivory, beige or light gray paper.

Fonts: Use popular, non-decorative typefaces such as Arial and Times New Roman. Type the body in 10-12 point font and your name in 16 point or larger.

Margins: Use 1/2" to 1" margins on all four sides.

Length: Recent graduates should limit résumés to one page unless a second page is essential for details or to prevent crowding on the first page. If you use a second page, type your name and "page 2" on the top of the second page.

Proof for Errors: Résumés take a long time. Have Career Center staff, professors, family and peers critique yours.

Custom Design: Vary your résumé for different environments. Change the objective/summary and content with every position and perhaps even the content/format. Avoid using templates.

Attention Getting: Most readers will only spend 20-30 seconds on the initial scan of your résumé. Readers prefer bullets, bold print and indentions to guide their eyes quickly to main points.

Accentuate the Positive: Highlight accomplishments, not just duties. Show how you contributed to or impacted the employer.

Action Verbs: Do not use passive (-ing) verbs. Keep the verb tense consistent with the dates you list: past activities should be in past tense and current activities in present tense.

Numbers: Quantify your statements by using numbers, statistics and percentages.

Punctuation: Be consistent with how you punctuate or do not punctuate the end of bulleted statements.

DO NOT...

- Make it too long, but do highlight the major areas which will help get you the interview.
- List just your job title, company and dates or extracurricular activities. Communicate your responsibilities and accomplishments in the position(s).
- Use "I," "My" or "Our"; exception is the Objective.
- Date your résumé or entitle it "RÉSUMÉ."
- Introduce anything that could be perceived as a negative.
- Refer to religion, political party or national origin (or use statements that may indicate these) or recognize that you open yourself to unwelcome discrimination despite

legislation and ethical concepts that make it wrong to discriminate because of race, religion or national origin. There is still much prejudice either open or hidden. Consider using general terms to indicate experience in one of these areas.

- Include salary information.
- Forget to proofread your résumé several times.
- List references. Prepare a separate page.
- Ruin a well prepared and carefully developed résumé by poor format, crowding or sloppy reproduction. Leave adequate margins and use quality résumé paper.
- Send a résumé without a cover letter.
- Use an email address that is unprofessional.
- Include race, gender, high school information (unless it is relevant), marital status, height/weight, birthplace, birth date or photograph.

RÉSUMÉ MAILING (IF APPLICABLE)

Use either a business envelope that matches résumé paper or a large manila envelope that does not require that you fold it. Always send a cover letter with your résumé, placing it on top of the résumé. Do not staple pages, use paperclips.

FREE RÉSUMÉ REVIEW RESOURCES

E-Résumé Review: Email resume to **eresume@auburn.edu** for feedback within 48 hours.

Résumé Drop-Off Service: Bring a copy of your résumé by 303 Martin Hall to have a career counselor review it and provide feedback for you to pick up within 48 hours.

Walk-in & Appointment: To meet one-on-one with a career counselor, walk-in Monday - Friday, 12 noon - 4:00 p.m. or call 844.4744 to schedule an appointment. For assistance in scheduling an appointment in an accessible location, please call 334.844.4744.

SKILLS/QUALITIES EMPLOYERS SEEK

Based on a survey printed in the NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) 2010 Job Outlook, employers recruiting college students, rated and ranked the following skills between very important and important:

- 1. Communication skills
- 2. Strong work ethic
- 3. Initiative
- 4. Interpersonal skills (relates well to others)
- 5. Problem-solving skills
- 6. Teamwork skills (works well with others)
- 7. Analytical skills
- 8. Flexibility/adaptability
- 9. Computer skills
- 10.Detail-oriented

Pursue work experiences and activities that develop these skills and traits. Then, make sure you communicate, via your résumé, cover letter and interview, that you have mastered these skills and qualities.

Resource: NACE, www.naceweb.org

RESUME FORMAT AND TIPS

Name: (nickname)
Address: Permanent and/or current

addresses

Phone Number:

Differentiate between work, cell or home

Email Address:

School or professional. Deselect link.

Personal Website: If appropriate

Be accurate and honest 100%

Be consistent in how you list job title and employer

Create two sections, Related Experience / Other Experience to move more related positions to the top Be consistent in

Margins: Use 1/2" to 1" margins on all four sides

(space allowing)

punctuation

These categories reflect uniqueness but consider relevance:

Interests, volunteer work, hobbies, publications and presentations, willingness to travel or relocate, and date of availability

High School Information:

Omit after freshman year unless related to position Name

Current Address

Street phone number
City, ST ZIP email address

OBJECTIVE OR SUMMARY

- Objective: State specific job title and list skills you bring to position
- Summary/Highlight of Qualifications: Summarize, in 3 5 bullets, the skills and personal traits you possess and that mirror the job description to best communicate you are a fit for the position/company. (Tips and Samples: p. 10)

EDUCATION

University; City, ST

Degree; Majors; Date of Graduation

• GPA: #.##/4.0 (Overall is assumed. Add Major GPA if higher and label as such)

APPLICABLE COURSEWORK (Optional Section)

Only list courses that fill a gap in resume or otherwise illustrate required knowledge that you have not yet utilized in a job (use columns)

EXPERIENCE

Job Title; Dates of Employment

Employer, City, ST

- List experiences present to past
- Include volunteer work, internships, co-ops, part- and full-time jobs and leadership positions if they relate to the position you are seeking
- Start each bullet with active verb/skill (past tense if experience is completed): p. 12
- Quantify: How many people did you supervise? How much money did you manage?
- Share successes, outcomes and improvements you made, not just duties of position

Special/Senior Projects

• List leadership contributions and outcomes for class project if applicable to position

ACTIVITIES/HONORS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (Optional Section)

Organization, current position, dates; previous position, dates

List only those organizations (sports, clubs, student government and honoraries) where you contribute regularly and actively

KEY SKILLS

Foreign Languages: List oral, written and reading competency levels, not course years **Computer:** Include hardware and software proficiencies, if seeking tech position, include more specific sections: programming languages, hardware, software, operating systems, databases, peripherals, etc.

Certifications/Licenses: List dates

Personal: List personal skills/traits that help make you a better candidate for position

INTERESTS (Very Optional Section)

List interests and hobbies if you have space and if they are relevant to goals of objective

REFERENCES (Optional Section)

Available upon request (Tips: p. 11)

Length: With less than 10 years of experience, limit to one page unless a second page is essential for details or to prevent crowding. Additional pages should be labeled with name and "page 2"

Custom Design: Avoid templates. Vary résumé for different environments. Change objective/summary and content with every position and perhaps even the content/format Printing: Use 8 1/2" x 11" résumé paper and print in black ink on light, neutral paper

Permanent Address

Street

City, ST ZIP

Fonts: Use Arial, Times New Roman or Garamond

Name: 16-22 pt Headers: 12-14 pt Body: 10-12 pt font

- List in reverse chronological order
 Grade point (if 3.0 and above)
- Awards/Honors/ Scholarships (3 or more, add section)
- Study abroad experiences
- Special training, trade schools or workshops

Be consistent in format and style

- List activities that demonstrate jobrelated skills, leadership or membership in career related organizations.
- Honors/Awards may be separate
- Volunteer work may be separate

Proof for Errors:

Have Career Center staff, professors, family and peers critique

20-30 Second Scan: Readers prefer the following to guide their eyes quickly to main points:

- Bullets
- Bold print
- Indentions

ACTION VERBS

Choose action verbs that communicate applicable skills to an employer. If you are currently in the position, use present tense. If you are no longer in the position, use past tense. Use this list to brainstorm, but also look at old job descriptions, talk to cur-

SKILLS	Skills	wrote	studied	Creative Skills	rehabilitated
JINILLS	addressed		upgraded	acted	represented
Leadership Skills	advertised	Research Skills	utilized	adapted	resolved
administered	arbitrated	analyzed		began	simplified
analyzed	arranged	clarified	Teaching Skills	combined	supplied
appointed	articulated	collected	adapted	composed	supported
approved	authored	compared	advised	conceptualized	volunteered
assigned	clarified	conducted	clarified	condensed	
attained	collaborated	critiqued	coached	created	Organization Skills
authorized	communicated	detected	communicated	customized	achieved
chaired	composed	determined	conducted	designed	approved
considered	conferred	diagnosed	coordinated	developed	arranged
consolidated	consulted	evaluated examined	critiqued developed	directed	catalogued categorized
contracted	contacted	exammed experimented	enabled	displayed	charted
controlled	conveyed	experimented		drew	classified
converted	convinced	explored	encouraged evaluated	entertained	coded
coordinated	corresponded	formulated	explained	established	collected
decided	debated	gathered	facilitated	fashioned	compiled
delegated	defined	identified	focused	formulated	corrected
developed	described	inspected	guided	illustrated	corresponded
directed	developed	interpreted	individualized	initiated	distributed
eliminated	directed	interviewed	informed	instituted	executed
emphasized	discussed	invented	instilled	integrated	filed
enforced	drafted	investigated	instructed	introduced	generated
enhanced	edited elicited	located	motivated	invented	implemented
established executed	encited enlisted	measured	persuaded	modeled modified	incorporated
generated	explained	organized	set goals	originated	inspected
handled	expressed	researched	simulated	performed	logged
headed	formulated	reviewed	stimulated	photographed	maintained
hired	furnished	searched	taught	planned	monitored
hosted	incorporated	solved	tested	revised	obtained
improved	influenced	summarized	trained	revitalized	operated
implemented	interacted	surveyed	transmitted	shaped	ordered
increased	interpreted	systematized	tutored	эмрен	organized
initiated	interviewed	tested	T1 1.1/D /	Helping Skills	prepared
inspected	involved	T121 Cl-211-	Financial/Data	adapted	processed
instituted	joined	Technical Skills	Skills	advocated	provided
managed	judged	adapted applied	administered	aided	purchased
merged	lectured	• •	adjusted	answered	recorded
motivated	listened	assembled built	allocated	arranged	registered
organized	marketed	calculated	analyzed appraised	assessed	reserved
originated	mediated	computed	assessed	cared for	responded
overhauled	moderated	computed	audited	clarified	reviewed
oversaw	negotiated	constructed	balanced	coached	routed
planned	observed	converted	budgeted	collaborated	scheduled
presided	outlined	designed	calculated	contributed	screened
prioritized	participated	determined	computed	cooperated	served
produced	persuaded	developed	conserved	counseled	set-up
recommended	presented	engineered	corrected	demonstrated	submitted
replaced	proposed	maintained	determined	diagnosed educated	supplied standardized
restored	publicized	operated	developed		
scheduled	reconciled	overhauled	estimated	encouraged ensured	systematized updated
secured	recruited	printed	measured	ensured expedited	updated validated
selected	referred	programmed	planned	facilitated	Varidated
streamlined	reinforced	regulated	prepared	familiarized	vernicu
strengthened	reported	remodeled	programmed	furthered	PERSONAL
supervised	resolved	repaired	projected	guided	
terminated	responded	replaced	reconciled	insured	QUALITIES

WORK **ENVIRONMENT**

fast-paced structured

flexible provide variety autonomous team-oriented supportive friendly conservative competitive innovative results-oriented customer-oriented highly-organized systematic improvement

PERSONALITY **Direct / Decisive** results-oriented independent initiative risk-taker decisive competitive quick goal-oriented

Supportive consistent team-oriented deliberate specialist patient attentive listener cautious

Precise / Reflective / Reserved diplomatic analytical accurate fact-finder systematic cautious attentive to detail

Outgoing / **Optimistic** persuasive enthusiastic people-oriented verbal articulate optimistic energetic

> Resource: broncojobs.wmich.edu

transformed

Communication

solicited

summarized

synthesized

translated

spoke

insured

intervened

motivated

prevented

provided

researched

retrieved

reduced

restored

specialized

standardized

solved

CHRONOLOGICAL RÉSUMÉ FORMAT SAMPLE

FUNCTIONAL RÉSUMÉ FORMAT SAMPLE

Current Address:

123 College Street

Permanent Address:

Sunshine, AL 36123 9999 Dream Street

222 Poplar Street | Opelika, AL 36801 | H: 334.000.0000 C: 334.000.0000 | fafunction@auburn.edu

Frank A. Functional

OBJECTIVE

To obtain advertising internship utilizing creative, writing and

interpersonal skills

· Innovative thinker with strong creative problem solving and analytical skills

Auburn University, Auburn, AL

• GPA: 3.80/4.00

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, English Major; May 20xx

KEY SKILLS

- Created custom designed logo and promotional materials
 - Designed weekly flyers to advertise social functions
 - Developed ad lay-outs for school newspape
- Applicable course work: Advertising, marketing and public relations

Writing

- Wrote, edited and distributed monthly newsletter for academic honor society
 - Published fictional stories in annual campus literary magazine
- Promoted non-profit organization through press releases on state-
- Applicable course work: business writing

Interpersonal

- Coordinated publication of newsletter with 22 fraternities, Greek Life Office, and printing company to meet deadlines
- Exceeded goals for campus newspaper ad sales
- Communicated via phone and face-to-face with patrons interested in learning about non-profit organization
 - Applicable course work: Personal Selling, organizational behavior, communication in organizations, persuasive discourse

- Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher), Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator
 - Proficient in social media: Facebook, Twitter, Ning
 - Working knowledge of web page design

EXPERIENCE/ ACTIVITIES

Social Fraternity, Publicity Chair; January 20xx - Present

Vational Kidney Foundation, Intern; January - April 20xx The Plainsman, Sales Rep; September 20xx - Present Phi Beta Kappa, Secretary; March 20xx - 20xx

lma Tiger

imatiger@auburn.edu (334) 844-0000

• Energetic young professional seeking Public Relations Assistant Director position SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS Auburn, AL 36849

EDUCATION

strategies

Auburn University; Auburn, AL | Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations; May 20xx

Technologically savvy, proficient in utilizing Facebook and Twitter marketing

blogging and giving presentations

Strong communicator (verbal and written), experienced in technical writing,

• GPA: 3.5/4.0

EXPERIENCE -

XYZ Organization; Auburn, AL | Social Media Intern; January 20xx - Present

- · Create Facebook and Twitter post calendar (over four months), increasing links back to website by 65%
- Collaborate with supervisor to develop Facebook ad
- Develop social media standards for organization

Social Sorority; Auburn University, AL | President; March 20xx - Present

- Direct 10-member executive council to achieve chapter/national goals Assess ideas and make recommendations for implementation
- Served as liaison to 225 member organization and national organization
 - - VP of Marketing; March 20xx February 20xx
- · Managed print and promotional item design, printing and distribution · Created, implemented and maintained social media and website
- Communicated effectively with members, University administration and national representatives

Sales Manager; Summers 20xx, 20xx and 20xx | We Are Hip Inc.; Sunshine, AL

- Supervised five sales clerks
- Maintained budget, inventory and payroll

TECHNICAL SKILLS -

General Software: Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher Social Media: Proficient in Facebook, Twitter, NING and blogging Design: Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator

COMBINATION RESUME FORMAT SAMPLE

Acombo Cani B.

Box 999 Auburn University | Auburn, AL 36849 334) 000-0000 | cmbo@auburn.edu

Admittance into University of Mississippi Master of Arts OBJECTIVE

Auburn University; Auburn, AL n Creative Writing program **EDUCATION** Bachelor of Arts, English Major; May 20xx • GPA: 3.5/4.0 WRITING

The Plainsman; Auburn University; Auburn, AL Editor, April 20xx-Present EXPERIENCE

• Write editorial pieces published through national, local Proof incoming articles for weekly newspaper and campus print and social media

Create short stories for entertainment section bi-weekly

Happy Summer Camp; Statesville, GA

Creative Assistant; Summers 20xx, 20xx, 20xx

• Supervised, edited and compiled 50 campers' (high • Wrote, directed, and produced student play

school) collections of creative writing

KEY SKILLS

Edited faculty research paper to be published nationally

• Wrote four short stories and three poems that were published in the University literary magazine Critiqued and creatively enhanced camp newsletter and parent letters

Creativity

• Participated in traveling improv drama group

 Designed history of film presentation for senior level course, open to entire campus

Computer

PowerPoint, Publisher), and Adobe (InDesign, Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Illustrator, Photoshop), Internet, and email

Working knowledge of Dreamweaver

HONORS

Sigma Tau Delta, May 20xx - present Dean's List, All Semesters

Cani B. Acombo

REFERENCE PAGE FORMAT SAMPLE

Box 999 Auburn University | Auburn, AL 36849 (334) 000-0000 | cmbo@auburn.edu

Mrs. Jane Doe The Plainsman Advisor

REFERENCES

anedoe@auburn.edu Foy Student Union Auburn, AL 36849

Mr. John Smith

334.844.0000

Happy Summer Camp Statesville, GA 22222 _smith@camp.org 1212 Plaza Director

Dr. Sunny Shine

11.111.1111

English Department Haley Center Professor

Auburn University, AL 36849 shinesu@auburn.edu 334.844.1234