

### **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
- Be clear and concise, indicating how your abilities, skills and 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)

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.

**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 punctuation

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

### (space allowing)

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

me

Permanent Address ## Street City, ST ZIP

### **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)

**Length**: With less than 10 years

of experience, limit to one page

unless a second page is essential

should be labeled with name and

for details or to prevent

'page 2"

crowding. Additional pages

Available upon request (Tips: p. 11)

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

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 current or past supervisors and utilize a thesaurus. Try to not use the same verb more than once or twice.

**SKILLS** Leadership Skills administered analyzed appointed approved assigned attained authorized chaired considered consolidated contracted controlled converted coordinated decided delegated developed directed eliminated emphasized enforced enhanced established executed generated handled headed hired hosted improved implemented increased initiated inspected

instituted

managed

motivated

organized

originated

overhauled

oversaw

planned

presided

prioritized

recommended

produced

replaced

restored

secured

selected

streamlined

strengthened

supervised

terminated

advertised

arbitrated

arranged

transformed

scheduled

merged

contacted conveyed convinced corresponded debated defined described developed directed discussed drafted edited elicited enlisted explained expressed formulated furnished incorporated influenced interacted interpreted interviewed involved joined judged lectured listened marketed mediated moderated negotiated observed outlined participated persuaded presented proposed publicized reconciled recruited referred reinforced reported resolved responded solicited spoke summarized synthesized translated wrote

articulated

collaborated

composed

conferred

consulted

communicated

authored

clarified

Research Skills analyzed clarified Communication collected **Skills** compared addressed conducted

critiqued

detected

determined diagnosed evaluated examined experimented explored extracted formulated gathered identified inspected interpreted interviewed invented investigated located measured organized researched reviewed searched solved summarized surveyed systematized

tested

**Technical Skills** adapted applied assembled built calculated computed conserved constructed converted designed determined developed engineered maintained operated overhauled printed programmed regulated remodeled repaired replaced restored solved specialized standardized studied upgraded

**Teaching Skills** adapted advised clarified coached communicated conducted coordinated critiqued developed enabled encouraged

utilized

evaluated explained facilitated focused guided individualized informed instilled instructed motivated persuaded set goals simulated stimulated taught tested trained transmitted tutored

Financial/Data **Skills** administered adjusted allocated analyzed appraised assessed audited balanced budgeted calculated computed conserved corrected determined developed estimated measured planned prepared programmed projected reconciled reduced researched retrieved

acted adapted began combined composed conceptualized condensed created customized designed developed directed displayed drew entertained established fashioned formulated illustrated initiated

**Creative Skills** 

instituted integrated introduced invented modeled modified originated performed photographed planned revised revitalized shaped

**Helping Skills** 

adapted advocated aided answered arranged assessed cared for clarified coached collaborated contributed cooperated counseled demonstrated diagnosed educated encouraged ensured expedited facilitated familiarized furthered guided insured intervened motivated prevented provided rehabilitated represented resolved simplified supplied supported volunteered

**Organization Skills** achieved approved arranged catalogued categorized charted classified coded collected compiled corrected corresponded distributed executed filed generated implemented

incorporated

inspected logged maintained monitored obtained operated ordered organized prepared processed

provided purchased recorded registered reserved responded reviewed routed scheduled screened served set-up submitted supplied standardized systematized updated validated Verified

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

### **PERSONAL 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

# CHRONOLOGICAL RÉSUMÉ FORMAT SAMPLE

FUNCTIONAL RÉSUMÉ FORMAT SAMPLE

### lma Tiger

## Current Address:

Auburn, AL 36849 23 College Street

9999 Dream Street

imatiger@auburn.edu

Permanent Address:

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

Frank A. Functional

# OBJECTIVE Innovative thinker with strong creative problem solving and analytical skills

To obtain advertising internship utilizing creative, writing and interpersonal skills

## **EDUCATION**

Bachelor of Arts, English Major; May 20xx Auburn University, Auburn, AL

• GPA: 3.80/4.00

## 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

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

### 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

### Computer

- 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 The Plainsman, Sales Rep, September 20xx - Present Phi Beta Kappa, Secretary; March 20xx - 20xx

Vational Kidney Foundation, Intern; January - April 20xx

## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS -

• Energetic young professional seeking Public Relations Assistant Director position Sunshine, AL 36123 (334) 844-0000

### 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** -

· Create Facebook and Twitter post calendar (over four months), increasing links XYZ Organization; Auburn, AL | Social Media Intern; January 20xx - Present

Collaborate with supervisor to develop Facebook ad back to website by 65%

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
Communicated effectively with members, University administration and national · Created, implemented and maintained social media and website

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

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, MING and blogging Design: Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator

### COMBINATION RÉSUMÉ AND REFERENCE PAGE SAMPLES

# **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

n Creative Writing program

Auburn University; Auburn, AL **EDUCATION** 

• GPA: 3.5/4.0

Bachelor of Arts, English Major; May 20xx

The Plainsman; Auburn University; Auburn, AL

 Proof incoming articles for weekly newspaper Editor, April 20xx-Present

EXPERIENCE

WRITING

• Write editorial pieces published through national, local and campus print and social media

Create short stones for entertainment section bi-weekly

Happy Summer Camp; Statesville, GA

• Wrote, directed, and produced student play Creative Assistant; Summers 20xx, 20xx, 20xx

• Supervised, edited and compiled 50 campers' (high 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

Dean's List, All Semesters

Sigma Tau Delta, May 20xx - present

## Cani B. Acombo

REFERENCE PAGE FORMAT SAMPLE

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

Mrs. Jane Doe REFERENCES

The Plainsman Advisor

anedoe@auburn.edu Foy Student Union Auburn, AL 36849 334.844.0000

Mr. John Smith

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