

# **VOL GUIDE TO RESUME WRITING**



# **RESUME CHECKLIST**

#### 1. <u>Format</u>

- Easy to scan (not read)
- Concise (one page-preferably)
- Half-inch to one-inch margins all the way around page
- 8.5x11 resume/bond paper
- No colors or flashy font styles (font size can be 10-12 point)
- Looks professional and aesthetically pleasing

# 2. <u>Heading</u>

- Name centered and largest text on the page (2-3 points larger than resume text)
- Current address on left, permanent address on right (centered if you only use one)
- Phone number and professional/school email address
- LinkedIn personalized URL (if you have a complete profile)

# 3. Objective (Optional)

- Type of job/industry, when, and geographic location
- No pronouns; no period at end

# 4. Education

- Only schools from which you received a degree or are currently attending
- Graduate school listed first (if applicable)
- Degree(s) spelled out (not abbreviated)
- All majors, collaterals, concentrations, and minors
- Graduation month and year (or list dates attended if freshman through junior)
- Overall and major GPAs if over 2.8

# 5. <u>Relevant Coursework (Optional)</u>

- All courses relevant to the job (not just those in your major)
- Bullet format
- No course number; name and subject of the course spelled out

# 6. <u>Experience</u>

- Internships included (No. 1 on resume to employers)
- Jobs/internships listed in reverse chronological order (most recent first)
- Month and year started and ended ("present" if you're still working)
- City and state
- ☐ Job or internship title

- Major achievements and skills developed, displayed in bullet point format
- Action verb at the beginning of each statement, with each verb varied if possible. Bullet point formula: Action verb + task + outcome or purpose.
- Numbers and metrics where appropriate (Ex: "which resulted in a cost savings of \$1,500")

Additional sections—list in order of relevance/importance

### 7. Honors and Awards

- Name of each honor and award with little or no description
- Scholarships
- Dean's list (3.7/4.0), number of semesters

# 8. <u>Computer Skills</u>

Software and languages listed if relevant, beginning with those that not every other applicant will have

# 9. Activities

- Name of organization and any leadership positions held
- Leadership roles in bullet points
- Limited description if just a regular member

#### 10. Volunteer Experience

Name of organization and limited description

#### 11. Foreign Languages

Listed with descriptions "Fluent in..." "Working knowledge of..." or "Familiar with..."

#### 12. Study Abroad Experience

- Location, school, and dates
- Courses listed or described in bullet point format
- Relevant projects described in bullet point format

#### **Other Section Headers to Consider**

Licenses, Certifications, Relevant Projects, Job Shadowing, Achievements, Professional Associations, Presentations, etc.

#### References

- Listed on a separate page or document from the resume
- "References available upon request" not included on resume

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This booklet is a comprehensive guide for preparing a resume that will be effective in getting a job interview. It represents the most current information gathered from references in the Center for Career Development and Academic Exploration and from our continual interaction with employers, students, and alumni. Many more detailed references on resume writing are available.

There is no one way to write a resume, and no one should write it for you. You are the expert on yourself and therefore the best qualified to present your unique strengths and capabilities in a way that is appropriate for your specific career objectives.

# PREPARING YOUR RESUME

Your resume provides employers with information about your abilities and experiences so they can assess your potential for a successful job match. It is a marketing document designed to catch the interest of an employer. First impressions are critical, since as little as 15 seconds may be devoted to scanning each resume.

The focus of the resume must be on the employer's needs, not your own. The word *resume* means summary, not autobiography. Space is critical, so carefully evaluate each item and its relationship to your career objective.

### GETTING STARTED

To begin, put together a complete inventory of your resources—higher education and training, work experiences, activities, and special skills. Focus on achievements, especially as they relate to your education and work experience.

Preparing a resume involves two elements: format and content. *Format* describes the structural component, or how the information is organized and presented. *Content* describes the information itself, or what is presented.

See Appendix A: Career Readiness Competencies and Your Resume.

#### FORMAT

The two most commonly used formats are chronological and functional:

A **chronological format** is appropriate if you are staying in the same field, have training or experience consistent with the career objective, have relevant job titles in your work history, or are applying for a job in a highly traditional field. It is the most effective format for most recent college graduates.

A **functional or skills format** is an option if you are changing careers, re-entering the job market, or applying for positions for which your training and experience do not directly apply. The skill categories should be ordered to support your career objective. Consult with a career advisor before deciding on this format.

Choose the format that you believe will best market your abilities in conjunction with your experiences, skills, and immediate career objective. You can also combine these formats to create a combination resume.

A sample resume for each format is provided in this booklet. Additional resume examples are also included.

- An employer will evaluate you as a person when scanning your resume. If it is neat, well organized, and error-free, you will be perceived as neat, well-organized, and careful. If it is professional in appearance, you will be seen as competent.
- Be consistent in formatting. You can use either centered or left-hand headings, but use them consistently. Typographic devices like capitalization, underlining, boldface, and indentation can help direct the reader, but don't use them overwhelmingly.
- Present information only once. If you have had multiple job titles with the same employer or more than one degree from the same school, combine them into a single listing.
- Start each phrase with an action verb. The list at the end of this booklet can give you some ideas of verbs you can use to describe your accomplishments and experiences.
- Spell out numbers one through ten-for example, four instead of 4.
- Avoid using parentheses; they tend to give a resume a cluttered look. Use dashes, commas, or ellipses instead.
- Place major headings in order of their relevance to your career objective so the most significant information appears first.
- Limit your resume to one page if at all possible. If you must choose between crowding material onto one page or leaving out relevant information, however, it is best to add a second page. Always put your name and "Page 2" on the second page.
- Balance the material on the page. Use equal margins on all sides. You may go as small as a half inch on all sides.
- Double-check for spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors, and then have another person check. Be careful when using a computer spelling checker because it will miss errors like *to* in place of *two*. An error can send your resume to the wastebasket.
- Your final copy must be neat, well-organized, and easy to read. For hard copies, use 20# bond resume paper and purchase additional matching paper for the cover letter. White, off-white, cream, tan, and pale gray are accepted colors for most areas. Pastels are not recommended. Creative fields such as advertising, graphic design, or the performing arts have more leeway in using a variety of colors and formats, while more traditional fields require a conservative standard resume.
- Remember, your first impression is a lasting one. You don't have a second chance to make a first impression!
- Consider having a separate resume that is in compliance with Applicant Tracking Systems (navigate to this section in the guide for more details).

# CONTENT

This section will help you develop the content of your resume section by section.

# IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

At the top of the page, list your name, address, cell phone number, and email address. Some writers believe that it is best to avoid placing the heading on the left side so the name is not covered if materials are paper-clipped together. If you have a business address and telephone number, you may include them if it is not a confidential job search. You may include the URL of a personal website or your LinkedIn account if it represents you professionally, but exclude it if it contains pictures of your dog, links to favorite websites, and other personal information.

# CAREER OBJECTIVE (OPTIONAL)

The purpose of the career objective is to communicate clearly the type of position in which you are interested and focus the content of the resume toward the job desired. It is usually written in up to four parts:

- The type of position desired
- The kind of company, industry, or organization for which you want to work
- Any special skills or abilities you have that you would like to use (optional)
- Any strong geographic preference or restriction

Many people like to add their desire to advance into management. This does not impress employers, however, unless you identify a specific management area compatible with your long-range career goals. Do not imply that the position desired is to gain experience for your own long-range career objectives. Do not mention graduate school plans.

Condense the career objective into one or two short, simple phrases. Avoid the shotgun approach of using a very general career objective and sending it to numerous companies. Instead, prepare different resumes with different career objectives if you are looking for positions that are not similar in nature, such as sales or retail management trainee, or if you are looking for a similar position in two different types of companies—for example, an accounting position in a public accounting firm or a corporation. Geographic desires can be mentioned here, but keep in mind that they may eliminate you from consideration.

Some examples of career objectives:

- Position as field service representative with national software corporation.
- Management trainee position with a specialty retailer. Willing to relocate and work long hours.
- Technical sales with an energy-related industry in the Southwest.
- Long-range goal of regional sales management.

Following the career objective, order the major headings by importance to the career objective. If you are completing a degree that qualifies you for your career objective, start with the heading **Education**. After you have been in a job for a year or more, experience will usually outweigh education and that heading should be listed first. If you are applying to educational institutions, however, always show education first, regardless of the date of your degree or degrees.

# EDUCATION

Degrees should be listed in reverse chronological order with the most recent listed first. Information should include degree granted, date of graduation, college or university, city and state (if the state is not part of the institution's name), major, and minor if applicable. Include the state and country if the college or university is outside of the United States. Check the catalog to see how your degree will read—for example, B.S. in Business Administration with a major in Finance, or B.A. in English with a concentration in creative writing. It is not necessary to include core courses, but you may list elective coursework that is relevant to your career objective. Indicate your dissertation or thesis title for graduate work.

Exceptions:

- If the resume is for part-time work, an internship, or a co-op position and your graduation date has not yet been determined, use the inclusive dates of attendance at the institution rather than a graduation date.
- Use inclusive dates of attendance for other institutions when a degree was not granted.

Include certifications or licenses relevant to your major and career objective, such as a teaching certification or engineer-in-training designation.

Degrees below the bachelor's level as well as other schools you have attended (including high school) need not be listed unless they are of special significance to your career objective. For example, attendance at a school in an area where you want to work can be used to let employers know that you are familiar with the area for an added advantage. This type of information could also be included under the heading of **Additional Information**.

In listing your grade point average, always include the grade basis. For example, 3.3/4.0 means a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale. Carry out your decimals evenly. Any favorable GPA can be included, as long as it is clearly labeled (such as GPA in major, GPA in core curriculum, or GPA in upper-division courses). For on-campus interviews, it is recommended to include your GPA on your resume even if it is below a B.

# **Amount of College Expenses Earned**

Employers are interested in knowing the percentage of money you earned for college expenses and your sources of income. Some employers may believe that working while you attend college develops personality traits that are valuable in a work setting—time management, the ability to meet deadlines under pressure, motivation, goal setting, and the like. It may also indicate that your grades may not be as high as they might have been if you had not had to work. Include all living costs while in school, not just tuition, fees, and books. Financial resources could include scholarships, loans for which you are responsible, grants, summer and part-time earnings, and savings.

Exception: Include this amount only if it is 40 percent or more. This may be shown as a separate entry at the end of the **Experience** section if the funds are mainly from employment, or under **Education** or **Additional Information** if they are from other sources.

# HONORS AND AWARDS

Honors, awards, and scholarships are important items and should be listed in order of importance to your career objective. High school honors and awards should be included only if they relate to your current career objective. If you have only one entry, include it under **Education** or **Activities** rather than under a separate heading.

#### EXPERIENCE

Use the term *experience* instead of *work history* or *employment* so you can include full- and part-time jobs, self-employment, volunteer work, and practicum, field, and cooperative education experiences. Start with the most recent experience and work back in reverse chronological order. Do not go back more than five years for work experience unless it strongly relates to your current career objective.

Indicate the job title, employer, city, state, country (if out of the US), and dates of employment. The order of these entries depends upon what is being emphasized. If job titles are relevant to the career objective, put them first. If the employer is well known, however, you may want to place the organization before the job title.

Describe your functional skills in short, snappy phrases, starting with descriptive action verbs (see the list in Appendix B). Avoid personal pronouns and complete sentences. Be specific and never wordy. Convey your accomplishments and problem-solving skills. Emphasize leadership potential, organizational ability, verbal and written communication skills, ingenuity, and teamwork. Include any promotions, particularly if they were received within a short time period. Indicate measurable results: "Increased productivity by 15 percent."

- Do not start descriptions with "Responsibilities were" or "Duties included." Avoid words like *helped* and *worked*; instead, describe the tasks you performed.
- Use past tense for past jobs and present tense for present jobs. Describe skills, not duties. Vary the words used in descriptions of similar jobs.
- Order the phrases by their importance to the career objective and individual job posting, so if the employer reads only one phrase it will be the most relevant.
- Write the year only once if both months fall within it (June-September 20xx), or use Summer 20xx or Fall Semester 20xx. You may also use periods of time, such as *two years* or *six months*, instead of dates. This approach may be especially helpful if there are gaps in your employment or you have no recent work experience.
- Major headings may include Experience, Relevant Experience, Professional Experience, Teaching Experience, Research Experience, Clinical Experience, and so forth. You can choose a single general heading or multiple headings, depending on whether you want to emphasize the relationships between positions or the variety of your experience.
- If you have experience through a co-op, internship, or practicum, list it under a major heading such as Co-op Experience, Internship, or Practicum Experience. Use the heading Other Experience for other jobs.
- If you have had many jobs but want to highlight only two or three, include a blanket statement such as "Have held various other part-time and summer positions since early high school."

# PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

List professional associations, leadership positions, and other activities in order of their importance to your career objective. There is no need to say "Member of...." Emphasize your leadership roles. Spell out the name of the organization; do not use abbreviations or acronyms. If active in political or religious groups, refer generally to the group rather than to specific party or denomination—for example, "Campus religious organization, Vice President 20xx to 20xx ," or "Campaign worker, state senate race." Of course, if you are applying for a position with that group, you will want to identify it.

# SPECIALTY CONTENT

Unique relevant experiences should always be included on your resume to help set you apart. Consider including some of the following sections:

### Study Abroad

Include a study abroad section when you want to highlight your international experience. You can include your study abroad experience under **Education, Experience, International Experience, Activities,** or **Additional Information**. Make sure to include dates, locations, and specific skills or strengths you gained (for example, language skills or experience with cultural diversity).

#### Study Abroad

London, England, Summer 2014

- Integrated into city culture by interning at Citibank and experienced business in the U.K.
- Analyzed differences of international business practices through on-site visits to U.K. companies
- Visited seven countries and learned about the culture and business environment in Europe

# **Relevant Coursework**

Listing relevant courses can be extremely beneficial if you have taken classes that are not required within your major or that included work on nonconventional projects. This section can also be useful if you lack experience directly related to a position but have taken classes that grounded you in the field.

#### **Relevant Coursework**

Marketing Analytics	Search Engine Marketing	Information Management
Financial Reporting	Global Supply Chain	Data Mining

# Research

Employers and graduate admission offices may want to know about relevant research experience in addition to work experience. By incorporating research experience, you can highlight technical skills, interests, and professional development. Research should be included only if it is relevant. It can be placed under **Experience** or a separate **Research Experience** heading.

#### **Research Experience**

Department of Chemical and Bimolecular Engineering, University of TennesseeKnoxville, TNUndergraduate Research AssistantMay 20XX-July 20XX

- Analyzed and interpreted data collected from various stages of the research process
- Developed and utilized problem-solving skills by proactively improving the tests
- Improved communication skills by collaborating with both lab technicians and interns

# **Projects**

Having a projects section on your resume can show employers that you have the ability to work within a team of people and adapt to the challenges that arise in a group project. Additionally, it is something to talk about in an interview. Projects can be individual or group, and can include research, fundraisers, class projects, projects assigned to you at a job, etc. It can be placed under **Experience** or in its own section.

# **Projects**

Public Writing: YWCA

- Student Campaign Assistant
  - Led a team of four during a month-long campaign benefiting YWCA
  - Exceeded our campaign goal by more than 100 percent, raising over \$2,100
  - Marketed through electronic, print, and social media for four successful fundraising events
  - Utilized skills in FinalCut Pro to edit promotional videos for the campaign

# Shadowing/Observations

This information is particularly helpful when applying for internships or jobs that require a certain amount of experience in areas where jobs are unattainable without a higherlevel degree. It can be placed under **Experience** or in its own section.

# **Shadow Experience**

The University of Tennessee Medical Center Emergency Room Observer Physician: Dr. Little

- Observed open-heart surgery in 50-year-old trauma patient
- Witnessed incubation and bandaging of burn victim

East Tennessee Children's Hospital Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Physician: Dr. Schmitt

# MILITARY EXPERIENCE

If you're a veteran or service member, the Center for Career Development and Academic Exploration honors your service.

Here are some guidelines for effectively communicating your military achievements and successes in civilian terms that speak to employers' needs:

- Assume the person reading your resume knows nothing about the military.
- Avoid confusing military jargon.
- Keep the names of specific products, techniques, or tools only if they are relevant to the position you are applying for.
- Tone down or remove references to the battlefield and weapons.

Start by creating an outline of your military responsibilities and training. Download your Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET), DD Form 2586, as a reference and work from the details there to translate your experience into condensed, relevant description statements.

Knoxville, TN Jan 20XX-May 20XX

May 20XX

March 20XX

# U.S. Army

Mar. 20XX-Mar. 20XX

- Inspection and maintenance of equipment
- Certified in rappelling from buildings and helicopters
- Planned training programs about weapons, area recon, and tactical movements
- Responsible for up to 40,000 pounds of net worth explosives, 2 heavy armored Humvees, military sensitive items, and the welfare of 8 military personnel
- Deployed to Afghanistan and Kuwait

# Awards

- Army Achievement Medal
- Soldier of the Year

# After

# U.S. Army

Mar. 20XX-Mar. 20XX

- Oversaw biweekly inspection and maintenance of equipment valued at \$500,000
- Coordinated workplace training for up to 50 people, writing course curriculum and assessing class success
- Supervised eight people, creating work schedules and providing regular performance evaluations
- Traveled to 10 countries in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East; navigated different cultures and customs successfully

# Awards

- Army Achievement Medal: Received for completing 400+ medical evaluations and improving patient reports through the creation of a patient database
- 20XX Solider of the Year: Competed against soldiers from around the word in endurance and aptitude tests

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Include this category only if it will include information besides interests and hobbies that will expand information related to your career objective—for example, a farm background for a job in agribusiness. Also include any specialized skills, training, certification, or licenses that are unrelated to your career objective, such as foreign language ability, ability to sign for the deaf, pilot license, chauffeur license, CPR, etc. Many employers desire computer skills, and you may want to include this information (programs, languages, applications, hardware, etc.). Depending on your skill level, you may prefer to have a separate **Computer Skills or Technical Skills** heading. Other points, such as "Traveled throughout Europe," can also be listed here.

Include unique experiences; they sometimes get attention. For example, a student who was a finance major reported that, after much deliberation, he included under **Additional Information** his tour of Europe with the Chattanooga Boys Choir when he was six years old. Employers asked him about the experience and remembered him by it. Do not, however, include interests that may appear dangerous or negative, such as hang gliding or motorcycle racing.

# DATE AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT

Most employers will assume you are available for work within a month of your graduation date. If your availability date is more than two months out, list it on your resume and include it in the cover letter. Never circulate a resume that mentions an availability date that has passed. Remove the date or replace it with a future date.

### REFERENCES

It is not necessary to include a line stating that references are available upon request; it is assumed you can provide references. However, you may choose to include it if your resume is short. Never list anyone as a reference without first asking their permission. If you haven't talked to them in a while, be sure to contact them and reconnect. Then provide each reference with a copy of your resume and the job description. Use professors, advisors, and employers as references. Do not use personal or family friends or clergy unless personal references are specifically requested.

# Exception

All majors in architecture and planning are advised by their school to include references on their resume.

When you do list references, provide three or four. Include name, title, organization, complete business address with ZIP code, and phone number with area code. It is also appropriate to include an email address. Choose a format that best fits your needs and preferences and matches your resume format. See the samples on the next page for formatting ideas.

# **Davy Crockett**

County Road 23 Greenville, TN 37743 (423) 555-4243 davycrockett@utk.edu

#### References

Ms. Samantha Cunningham Owner, Cunningham Family Farm 54 Country Road Knoxville, TN 37919 (865) 555-3276 scunningham@cunninghamfarms.com

Dr. Jim Bob Tennessee Associate Professor Department of Animal Science The University of Tennessee 100 Volunteer Blvd. Knoxville, TN 37996 (865) 555-4444 jimbob@utk.edu

Mr. Smokey D. Dog Owner, Smokey's Cafe 67 Main Street Greeneville, TN 37743 (423) 555-2223 smokeydog@mansbestfriend.com

# CARL WALKER YOUNG

55 CALLAWAY DRIVE • KNOXVILLE, TN 37919 • (865) 555-0022 CYOUNG@GMAIL.COM

#### REFERENCES

Dr. Jim Bob Tennessee Associate Professor Department of Animal Science The University of Tennessee 100 Volunteer Blvd. Knoxville, TN 37996 (865) 555-4444 jimbob@utk.edu

Ms. Samantha Cunningham Owner, Cunningham Family Farm 54 Country Road Knoxville, TN 37919 (865) 555-3276 scunningham@cunninghamfarms.com

Mr. George Michael Advisor, Students for the Betterment of Society The University of Tennessee 100 Student Services Building Knoxville, TN 37996-4010 (865) 555-9942 gmichael@utk.edu

# PERSONAL INFORMATION

Personal information such as age, height, weight, marital status, state of health, etc. should not be listed since it can lead to a violation of equal employment opportunity guidelines. For the same reason, do not include a picture with your resume.

# Exceptions

- When it is relevant to the job. For example, you may want to list your age if you are applying for a position with an establishment that serves liquor.
- When it clearly supports your career objective—for example, actors and models generally include a photo with their resume.
- If you have a disability that you want prospective employers to know about before an interview. A sample listing might read "Legally blind but completely independent; live alone, participate in social activities, use public transportation, and have successfully completed a bachelor's degree with a B average." Note that achievements are stressed.

#### PORTFOLIO

In art, architecture, and communications fields, employers expect to know about the availability of your portfolio. Use **Portfolio** as a major heading and state "Available at time of interview" or whatever is applicable. If you have an electronic portfolio, include the URL.

# RESUMES & APPLICANT TRACKING SYSTEMS (ATS)

The use of Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS) has become common with organizations of every size. It is reported that 98% of Fortune 500 and over 66% of large companies use it. ATS is an integral part of how organizations now process resumes. Creating a resume that will be processed by an ATS means you need to think about the format, content, and use of keywords/phrases as you develop your document. An ATS is a software program that can automate and optimize the hiring process being able to filter out unqualified applicants. Keep in mind that any time you apply through an online form or portal most likely an ATS will "review" your resume.

ATS can be set to ask questions or have sections completed as part of the application process which enables the system to filter the viability of an applicant. The system will screen each application enabling the ATS to organize and rank applicants based on the position descriptions and needs of the employer. These systems allow businesses to collect information, organize prospects based on experience and skill set, and filter applicants.

Each person must be aware of the use of ATS. Being prepared with this information will enable you to create a resume that best highlights your experiences, skills, qualifications, training, and educational background. Your resume will need to be tailored for each position you apply to.

# FORMATTING FOR ATS

- Submit your resume as a PDF file. After 80 to 100 uses or if it sits on your computer for 3 months with no use, your PDF can become corrupt. You can check this by copying and pasting all the information from your PDF to a word doc. If it loses all its formatting, your file is corrupt. This is easy to fix by accessing the original word file you used to create your resume and exporting a new PDF.
- Avoid templates, text boxes, columns, and tables; avoid using header and footer sections—keep everything in the body of the resume. TIP: You can use columns inside a section to list things like "skills", but you MUST use bullet points in front of every list item.
- Use standard section headings on resume such as: Education, Experience, Activities, etc. TIP: ATS will take every section with the word "experience" in it as an important section. Consider changing section titles like "Activities and Organizations" to "Leadership Experience".
- When adding numerical detail into the bullet points of your experience, consider using percentages and dollar amounts. ATS cannot differentiate between "4 hours of work" and the 4 in your phone number.
- Recommended fonts: Arial, Calibri, Georgia, Tahoma, Times New Roman.
- Font size 10 to 12; Margins .5 1 inch, left aligned. Keep your margins consistent around the page!

- Simple bullets can be used and vertical lines for dividers (ex: I ).
- Avoid abbreviating months use month and year (ex: December 2024).
- If resume is longer than one page avoid using name and full contact information on succeeding pages. Just list your name and page number in small font size in upper corner of pages.
- Avoid graphics as the images. They can get scrambled together in an ATS. In many ATS, your resume can be excluded from consideration if even 10% of your page is graphics (ie icons, fun borders, etc.) Resumes with graphics are best used when networking in person.
- Use correct spelling and grammar. Run resume through spell check/grammar and have someone else proof for any errors.

# CONTENT

ATS are scanning resumes for words, phrases, titles, etc. that align with information in the job announcement. Pay close attention to items listed in Preferred and Required sections on the job announcement and make sure those match with information in your resume. Use exact wording for relevant information but do not copy the job announcement into your resume. For example, if a job announcement says experience in "managing a team" and you say "managing 10 team members" it will not recognize this as a match. A high score match is your goal to achieving contact from the organization and an interview. ATS scores your resume against the job description. Ideally you want to score around 80% and higher. You typically will not know how your resume scored.

Avoid abbreviating or using acronyms on your resume. If in doubt list both – i.e., Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access. This clearly communicates you can use Microsoft Office Suite and its various software products. Another example listing Master of Business Administration (MBA) on your resume. By including both ways your degree can be listed assures one will match the ATS. If a job posting asks for "Point of Sales experience" make sure to write it out and not use POS or point of purchase. Pay close attention to industry specific words in the job announcement and make sure they are included on your resume.

When considering the length of your resume, one size doesn't fit all. Some individuals may have a one-page resume while others who have more experience may be several pages. For a resume being reviewed by an ATS, length is not the main concern but how informatively and concisely you have worded your information is what is important.

Applicant tracking systems are here to stay. You may find that it is best to create multiple versions of your resume – a resume that you use in an ATS that specifically aligns your experiences, qualifications and education with the job description and industry; and a resume that may have more graphic touches for in-person networking. Be prepared for all settings.

# Sarah Jane Jones

1521 Cu	mberland Ave. • Knoxville, TN • 37916 • (865) 595-0000 • jones@utk.edu	L
Objective	Sales Representative with a major manufacturer with opportunity to a into management	dvance
Education	The University of Tennessee, Knoxville	
May 20XX	Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Marketing	
	Overall GPA: 3.2/4.0	
	Completed 12 hours in Retail and Consumer Science	
Honors	Dean's list four semesters	
	Phi Chi Theta, Professional Women's Business Fraternity	
Experience	BELK	Knoxville, TN
August XX-present	Salesperson	
	<ul> <li>Sell women's clothing and suggest appropriate accessories</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Conduct inventory; arrange displays of merchandise</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Received performance-based salary increases</li> </ul>	
Summers XX-XX	DILLARD'S DEPARTMENT STORE	Nashville, TN
	Salesperson/Clerk	
	<ul> <li>Promoted to Salesperson after three months; sold clothing and accessories in Junior Department</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Designed and arranged displays for Back-to-School promotions</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Assigned to buyer for six weeks, included trip to New York market</li> </ul>	
August XX-May XX	WALGREENS	Knoxville, TN
	Cashier	
	<ul> <li>Collaborated with store manager on orientation and assignments f new employees</li> </ul>	or
	<ul> <li>Oversaw cash drawer and made bank deposits</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Assisted pharmacist as needed</li> </ul>	
Activities	American Marketing Association, 20XX-present	
	Vice President, 20XX-XX	
	Treasurer, 20XX-XX	
	Delta Delta Sorority, 20XX-present	
	Panhellenic Representative, 20XX-present	
	Rush Chairman, 20XX-XX	
	<ul> <li>Coordinated eight committees</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Increased membership by 20%</li> </ul>	
Additional	Financed 60% of college education through employment and loans	
Information	Familiar with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access	
	Working knowledge of Spanish	
	Traveled extensively throughout U.S. and Europe	

May 20XX

GPA: 3.25/4.0 Major GPA: 3.6/4.0

# Anita Jones

2000 Sunshine Ln., Knoxville, TN, 37921 (865) 123-4567 | AnitaJones92@utk.edu www.linkedin.com/in/AnitaJones

#### EDUCATION

# The University of Tennessee

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

# TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Knowledge in ANSYS
- Pro-e/Creo

- MATLAB
- C++ Programming

Knoxville, TN

ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

# Senior Design Project with DENSO Knoxville, TN

Team Member

- Collaborated with team of four to improve waste removal, containment, and disposal of foreign materials by 4%
- Researched numerous products that are currently on the market for waste removal and recycling
- Designed, built, and tested three working prototypes that met employer specifications including size, weight, and energy usage
- Communicated monthly with representatives from DENSO Manufacturing to create a healthy and open communication channel

# **Norfolk Southern**

- Carbon Reduction Intern
  - Explored and researched industry standards for carbon emissions
  - Partnered with lead engineer to learn more about production processes; ultimately learning where carbon emissions were highest

Norfolk, VA

- Created and designed four proposals within system operations that could reduce carbon production
- Built two of the four designs to further consider implementation and long term results

# OTHER EXPERIENCE

# **Kroger Marketplace**

Cashier

- Recorded daily register totals to ensure accuracy of transactions
- Partnered with three other cashiers to provide timely and efficient checkout procedures

**Knoxville**, **TN** 

#### RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Business & Professional Communication
- Brand Management
- Thermal Engineering

- Business Software Application
- Sales Force Management
- Engineering & Waste Reduction

- C# Programming
- Microsoft Office Suite
  - August 20XX-May 20XX

May 20XX-August 20XX

May 20XX-August 20XX

# **John Stephens**

jstephens@utk.edu

Current Address: 1720 Melrose H-233 Knoxville, TN 37916	865-555-5555	Permanent Address: 5432 Red Rover Lane Florence, SC 29553
Objective	To obtain a part-time job in the Knoxville YWCA	
Education	<b>The University of Tennessee, Knoxville</b> Bachelor of Arts in History Minor in Business	Aug. 20XX-Present
	West High School, Florence, SC GPA: 3.25/4.0	June 20XX
Experience	<b>Chick-fil-A</b> , Knoxville, TN Salesperson	Sep. 20XX-Present
	<ul> <li>Assist up to 100 customers per shift in selection of items</li> <li>Promote new menu items to customers in effort to increate</li> <li>Resolve customer complaints by effectively communicate</li> <li>Collaborate with a team of five to complete orders in a time</li> <li>Prepare meals utilizing company quality control guideling</li> </ul>	ase sales ing mely manner
	Self-employed Child Care, Knoxville, TN	June 20XX-Aug. 20XX
	<ul> <li>Nanny</li> <li>Provided care, safety, and nutrition for up to four childre</li> <li>Demonstrated ability to handle emergency situations eff</li> <li>Determined and implemented wide range of activities fo</li> <li>Tutored children on various topics and aided them in corassignments</li> </ul>	ectively r different age levels
Activities	Pride of the Southland Marching Band	Aug. 20XX-Present
	West High School Marching Band Ist Chair • Led section of 10 students in learning songs and perfect	Aug. 20XX-May 20XX
	Provided assistance in developing music skills for fellow	students
	<ul> <li>National Honor Society</li> <li>Vice President</li> <li>Organized social events for over 100 members</li> <li>Planned fundraising events resulting in over \$3,000 don</li> <li>Led meetings by preparing an agenda in advance and keeping</li> </ul>	
Additional Information	Leadership Excellence Scholarship Recipient West High School Leadership Development Conference Spe Proficient in American Sign Language Working Knowledge of Microsoft Excel, Word, and PowerPc	

# **Justin Jones**

May 20XX

4567 Maple Avenue, Knoxville, TN, 37920 (555) 555-1234 | jjones@gmail.com www.linkedin.com/in/jjones

GPA 3.65/4.0

#### EDUCATION

# CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

# University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville, Tennessee

Relevant Courses: Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology

Volunteer, Renal Dialysis Center

- Provide comfort and support for patients receiving renal dialysis
- Engage in conversation with patients

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee **Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Minor in Biology** 

Work with medical staff to keep pod units fully stocked and running smoothly

# Supportive Services for Veterans and Families Programs, Knoxville, TN

Volunteer, Volunteers of America

- Developed relationship with low-income veteran families through conversations once a week
- Assisted with outreach, case management and obtaining VA and other benefits

# SHADOW EXPERIENCE

# Memphis Health Center, Memphis, Tennessee

Shadowing

- Shadowed Dr. Susan Johnson a general practitioner for 60 hours
- Viewed Dr. Johnson's interactions with patients during examination and throughout explanations of diagnosis
- Gained a greater understanding of the strong communication skills needed to be a physician

# University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville, Tennessee

Shadowing

- Shadowed various Emergency Room doctors during two eight-hour shifts
- Observed the unpredictability and variety of cases seen in an emergency room setting
- Gained a better understanding of the flexibility and guick thinking needed to work as a physician in this environment

# **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

# University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee

Research Assistant, Department of Microbiology

- Created single amino acid mutations in an enzyme involved in sulfur metabolism, sulfite reductase
- Cleaned and organized lab equipment
- Ordered and maintained office and lab supplies

# Research Assistant, Cellular, Biochemistry & Cellular and Molecular Biology May 20XX-August 20XX

- Studied cell responses to a mutant yeast protein in a protein trafficking laboratory
- Performed site-directed mutagenesis through PCR to create specific mutants and transformed them into yeast
- Observed protein stability and ubiquitination by immunoblotting and localization by immunofluorescence

#### PUBLICATIONS

Damon GQ, Jones JA, Smith S. Methods of Endocytosis. Annu Rev Biochem 2015, 78:843-916.

September 20XX-Present

December 20XX-January 20XX

September 20XX-May 20XX

May 20XX-August 20XX

October 20XX

# **Steven Gray**

Steven Gray		
Current Address: 1234 Queen Anne Way Knoxville, TN 37916	865-555-5555	Permanent Address: 32 W. Main Ave Richmond, VA 23223
EDUCATION		
<b>The University of Tennessee</b> , k Bachelor of Arts, Global Studie GPA: 3.3/4.0 cumulative, 3.6/4.	es, Minor in French	May 20XX
	ris, France A hours of French language and culture boke only French while in the home	1/20XX-5/20XX
RELEVANT EXPERIENCE		
International Student Services Peer Advisor	<b>5 Office, University of Tennessee,</b> Knoxville, TN	8/20XX-Present
<ul> <li>Connect international stude with American students</li> <li>Co-coordinate and advertis</li> <li>Provide information on imm</li> </ul>	ents with resources on campus and promote an e for Advising International Students Seminar nigration regulations and academic policies nt requests and communicate with student inte	
<i>Volunteer</i> • Support case workers with	hip Services, University of Tennessee, Knoxvil providing local resources to incoming refugees linators to communicate with Spanish-speaking	S
Intern <ul> <li>Participated in meetings wi</li> <li>Drafted, edited, and contributed</li> </ul>	ee bureau events and conferences	5/20XX-8/20XX
ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE		
Member	<b>sity of Tennessee</b> , Knoxville, TN	8/20XX-Present
	y, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN	6/20XX
Participant Model United Nations, Univers Participant	<b>sity of Tennessee</b> , Knoxville, TN	10/20XX, 10/20XX
Global Studies Club, Universit	<b>y of Tennessee</b> , Knoxville, TN	9/20XX-5/20XX
<b>Oxfam America Club, Universi</b> Member	<b>ty of Tennessee</b> , Knoxville, TN	9/20XX-5/20XX
LANGUAGE SKILLS		

• French: fluent (speaking, reading, writing)

• Spanish: intermediate (speaking, reading); basic (writing)

# **Roger Jeffries**

RogerJeffries@utk.edu (865) 123-4567 Portfolio: RogerJeffries.net

Current Address: 123 Campus Drive Knoxville, TN 37919		Permanent Address: 456 Home Street Anywhere, KY 48921
Objective	Seeking an opportunity to combine relevant education and expension nonprofit sector	erience in the
Education	The University of Tennessee	Knoxville, TN
	Bachelor of Arts in Communication	May 20XX
	Major: Communication Studies	GPA: 3.45/4.0
Related	New Student & Family Programs, The University of Tennessee	Knoxville, TN
Experience	Family Initiatives Programmer De	ecember 20XX-Present
	<ul> <li>Create programs designed to support and teach first-genera and their families</li> </ul>	tion college students
	<ul> <li>Support current office initiatives and events such as New Stu the Parents Association</li> </ul>	Ident Orientation and
	<ul> <li>Partner with one graduate student to provide overview prog summer orientations</li> </ul>	rams throughout 14
	Alpha Phi Omega	Knoxville, TN
	President	April 20XX-Present
	<ul> <li>Coordinate chapter meetings which included 45 members ar</li> </ul>	nd two advisors
	<ul> <li>Communicate with members about upcoming events, rituals, organization news</li> </ul>	, and national
	<ul> <li>Partner with the Knoxville Humane Society to provide a cam which raised over \$2,000</li> </ul>	pus-wide fundraiser
	New Member Educator	April 20XX-April 20XX
	<ul> <li>Created a three-month education series which focused on ch team building</li> </ul>	napter traditions and
	<ul> <li>Planned a new member philanthropy where we supported th of Commerce with downtown cleanup</li> </ul>	e Knoxville Chamber
	Recruitment Coordinator	April 20XX-April 20XX
	<ul> <li>Standardized the recruitment process including both formal held during fall and spring semesters</li> </ul>	and informal events
	• Expanded recruitment numbers and increased our attendance	ce by 10%
	<ul> <li>Organized one major recruitment event which had record att 100+ students</li> </ul>	endance:
Campus Activities	Student Organizations: Badminton Club and Ultimate Frisbee Clu Honor Societies: Lambda Pi Eta Alternative Spring Break: Branson, Missouri Trip	ub (20XX-20XX) (20XX-20XX) (Spring 20XX)
Additional	Computer: Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Acrobat, InDesign, and	
Information	Language: Proficient in Conversational Spanish	

1521 Cumberland Ave • Knoxville, TN • 37916 865-595-0000 • sarah.j.jones@gmail.com www.linkedin.com/in/jjones

#### SUMMARY OF SKILLS

- Communicated with local social service agencies to schedule appointments for clients
- Informed clients of responsibilities surrounding child welfare, health and safety
- Utilized basic counseling techniques to encourage healthy lifestyles among young women
- Facilitated group interaction and multiple hands-on activities
- Supervised up to 10 children and adults in various roles

#### EDUCATION

The University of Tennessee, Knox Bachelor of Arts in Psychology Minor: Child and Family Studies	ville	May 20XX GPA 3.7/4.0
RELATED EXPERIENCE		
Child and Family Tennessee	Knoxville, TN	July 20XX-Present
of approximately five mothers • Assess and evaluate programm • Co-facilitate support group of 1	5 mothers meeting weekly for one olunteers assisting with independe	e hour
Blount County Children's Home	Maryville, TN	May 20XX-Aug 20XX
OTHER EXPERIENCE		
<ul> <li>Amerigo: An Italian Restaurant</li> <li>Head Hostess</li> <li>Trained new servers and hostes</li> <li>Created and maintained the ho</li> </ul>	Brentwood, TN ses stess schedule for a team of six ho	May 20XX-July 20XX
Dillard's Department Store Sales Associate • Provided customer service in se	Knoxville, TN	Sep 20XX-May 20XX
	and completed return transaction	s in a professional, customer-
COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE		
Mental Health Association of E Boys & Girls Club Volunteer	ast Tennessee	20XX-Present 20XX-20XX
HONORS		

#### HONORS

# Sam Greene

#### 1521 Cumberland Avenue Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

865-595-0000 greene@utk.edu

#### OBJECTIVE

A full-time position in consumer product sales that utilizes communication and interpersonal skills

#### RELEVANT SKILLS

#### Selling

- Demonstrated ability to sell goods in three retail stores during the past three years
- Earned "Top Sales Associate of the Month" honors on five occasions
- Surpassed weekly sales quotas consistently

#### Marketing/Promotion

- Designed and arranged award-winning displays for back-to-school promotions in Junior Department
- Participated in class project identifying East Tennessee market opportunities; used research to plan and implement a competitive marketing strategy
- Assigned to Junior Department buyer for six weeks, including trip to New York market
- Increased sorority membership by 20% as Delta Delta Delta Rush Chairwoman
- Attended Atlanta American Marketing Association (AMA) regional conference and four Knoxville AMA chapter meetings

#### Leadership

- Assisted store manager in orienting and assigning new employees
- Elected as sorority representative to Panhellenic Council and served as elected representative to Panhellenic National Convention
- Coordinated eight sorority committees including public relations, risk management and ethical standards
- Promoted from clerk/typist to salesperson after three months

#### Communication

- Conversational in Spanish
- Wrote new employee training manual for all new sales associates
- Selected to lead class presentation of marketing project results; team received only "A" given in section
- Made cold calls and follow-up visits to vendors throughout the region to support sorority philanthropy events
  - Generated more than \$2,000 in goods and financial support from companies
- Kept accurate, current computer records of inventory using Microsoft Excel and Access

#### ACTIVITIES

Global Leadership Scholars	20XX-Present
American Marketing Association	20XX-Present
Delta Delta Sorority	20XX-Present

#### HONORS

High Honors (four semesters) Scholarships: University, HOPE, and Panhellenic

#### EDUCATION

#### The University of Tennessee

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration GPA 3.57/4.0

#### EXPERIENCE

Belk, Knoxville, TN Sales Associate Dillard's Department Store, Knoxville, TN Salesperson Walgreens Drug Store, Nashville, TN Cashier

jmartin@aaa.com

# **Jennifer Martin**

• New Product Development

Engineering Management

New Market Development

865-555-1111

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

123 My Street

- Product Management
- Sales Execution
- Strategic Planning

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### Petfo Corporation. Knoxville TN

Strategic Business Unit Director

Accountable for driving profitable growth in \$34M Pet Door Strategic Business Unit (SBU).

Knoxville, TN 37996

- Managed and achieved performance objectives for revenue, profit growth, product quality standards and forward looking new revenue sources.
- Directed 11 professionals including mechanical and electrical engineers, market manager and supply chain specialist.
- Combined three acquired companies into a single entity.
- Managed vendor consolidation from six to two suppliers and SKU rationalization process resulting in a 7 base point increase in gross profit margin percentage.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Revenue increase of 36%, from \$25M to \$34M in three years.
- Pioneered new TECH radio frequency product application which was introduced in two new products and will provide a defensible new product launch platform for years to come.
- · Launched four additional new products based on consumer needs analysis resulting in annual revenue impact of \$4.5M at a 55% gross margin.
- Established a New Product Concept Asset list with \$7.5M of potential new product revenue.
- Developed a Cost Reduction Concept Asset list with the potential of \$2.1M annual savings.

#### Kimberly Clark, Neenah, WI

Marketing Director

- Directed all marketing and product development opportunities for a \$75M disposable paper products line targeted to the health care market.
- Led a cross-functional team achieving a gross margin increase of \$600K, with no additional capital investment.
- Worked with a third-party resource to establish first ever market measurement database.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• First ever new product development program yielding an incremental annual sales increase of \$1.5M from Plus Size products and medical kit packs.

#### Green Giant Foods, LeSueur, MN

Director Sales and Marketing

- Directed all sales and marketing activities for the start-up Green Giant's Steamers consumer brand.
- Hired four grower partners who licensed the brand from Green Giant and marketed it nationally.
- Co-managed Green Giant's sales team calling on the top 100 U.S. wholesalers and retailers.
- Directed an accrual-based marketing budget of \$500K. Executed brand packaging, sales collateral, point-of-sales merchandising aids and coupon programs.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Achieved \$50M retail sales in two years.

#### EDUCATION

#### The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

MBA, with emphasis in Marketing and Management BBA, with double majors in Marketing and Finance

#### **TECHNICAL SKILLS & TRAINING**

Microsoft Office, SAS, Adobe Premier, Acrobat Pro, and Photoshop, formal training in HTML Dale Carnegie Sales Training

- Team Leadership
- Marketing
- Product Ideation

20XX-20XX

20XX-20XX

19XX-20XX

# COVER LETTER

A cover letter contains an explanation of your interest and additional information about your resume. It is sometimes called an application letter or letter of inquiry, and it may be sent in response to a position announcement or sent to a company for which you would like to work.

Employers often receive hundreds of letters and resumes for each advertised vacancy. Your letter, therefore, needs to be well-written and designed to attract attention in a positive way. It should communicate something personal about yourself along with information specific to the division, organization, or company to which it is being sent. This lets the reader know you have spent some time researching the organization and writing a personal letter. Form letters elicit a negative reaction, if not a toss into the trash can.

To receive a positive response, it is imperative that you research every company to which you apply so you can give knowledgeable and specific reasons for your interest in that company and your ability to meet their needs through your qualifications, experiences, and personal qualities.

Do not repeat your resume. Use the cover letter to interpret and expand the resume, stressing relevant details in a personalized fashion. Communicate your ability to assist and support the organization. State explicitly how your background relates to the specific job; emphasize your strongest and most pertinent characteristics. The cover letter should demonstrate that you know both the company and yourself.

Cover letters should never be duplicated. Each must be individually written and printed, single-spaced on a good-quality bond paper matching the paper used in your resume. The cover letter should be one page in length and addressed to a specific individual in charge of the department or unit in which you want to work or to the human resources department. Different employers handle resumes differently, and you might want to try writing to both.

Use simple, direct language and correct grammar. Triple check the letter to be absolutely sure there are no spelling, typographical, or grammatical errors. Remember, the letter and resume are examples of your written communication skills and organizational abilities.

A sample format for a cover letter follows. Because your letter must communicate your ambition and enthusiasm in a unique and assertive manner, a sample letter has not been included. Use the guidelines to write your own letter applicable to the position and company, and to individualize your background and abilities.

# Anita Jones

2000 Sunshine Ln., Knoxville, TN, 37921 (865) 123-4567 | AnitaJones92@utk.edu www.linkedin.com/in/AnitaJones

May 17, 20\_\_\_

Mr. Fred Isenhower Vice President of National Sales Drexel Heritage Furnishings 1515 Industrial Park Drive Drexel, NC 28619

Dear Mr. Isenhower:

First Paragraph. In the initial paragraph, state the reason for writing the letter, specify the position or type of work for which you are applying and indicate from which resource (friend, employment service, news media, placement center) you learned of the opening or received his/her/their name.

Second Paragraph. State why you are interested in the position, the company, and its products or services, and, above all, indicate what you can do for the employer. If you are completing a degree or are a recent graduate, explain how your academic background qualifies you for the position. If you have had some practical work experience, point out specific achievements or unique qualifications. Highlight your strengths and achievements and state how they suit you for the position. Provide details, examples, and explanations that are not found on your resume. Indicate what you can do for the organization: Do not inquire about what the organization can offer you.

Third Paragraph. Refer the reader to the enclosed resume or employment application that summarizes your qualifications, training, experiences, and the like. Assure the employer that you are the person for the job.

Concluding Paragraph. Initiate the next follow-up whenever possible (for example, "I will call you..." "I will be in your city on a certain date and would like to meet..." "Are you recruiting at a school in my area?"). Exceptions are newspaper or other ads where you cannot identify the person. Indicate your flexibility, repeat a phone number (or add a different number where you can be reached during certain hours, if appropriate), and offer any assistance necessary to help obtain a speedy response.

Sincerely,

Anita Jones

Anita Jones

# **Career Readiness Competencies & Your Resume or CV**

How can your resume or CV reflect the competencies employers are seeking?

#### **Competency & Definition** Give specific examples & quantify where possible Club/organization, internship, co-op, part or Consider printing a position description & full-time job, assistantship, creative inquiry, research, circling the words and synonyms below that appear in it. study abroad, volunteering, special project, etc. Bullet points should reflect these words/synonyms. Example: Marketing Internship: Created strategic marketing plans by Identify and respond to needs conducting extensive research for various clients based upon an understanding of **Critical Thinking** situational context and logical analysis of relevant information. Clearly and effectively exchange information, ideas, facts, and Communication perspectives with persons inside and outside of an organization. Build and maintain collaborative relationships to work effectively Teamwork toward common goals, while appreciating diverse viewpoints and shared responsibilities. Understand and leverage technologies ethically to enhance Technology efficiencies, complete tasks, and accomplish goals. Recognize and capitalize on personal and team strengths to Leadership achieve organizational goals. Knowing work environments differ greatly, understand and Professionalism demonstrate effective work habits, and act in interest of larger community and workplace. Identify skills, strengths, knowledge, Career & experiences, and areas of growth Self Development related to career goals; navigate job options and pursue opportunities Demonstrate openness, inclusiveness, sensitivity, and the ability to **Equity & Inclusion** interact respectfully with all people; understand individuals' differences

Adapted from the NACE Career Readiness Competencies

# APPENDIX B: ACTION VERBS & PROFICIENCY

Management & Leadership achieved administered allocated analyzed appointed approved arranged assembled assigned attained authorized awarded chaired completed conceived conducted considered consolidated contracted controlled converted coordinated correlated decided delegated designated determined developed directed disapproved discharged eliminated emphasized encouraged enforced engineered enhanced established evaluated executed expanded generated governed handled headed hired hosted implemented

improved incorporated increased initiated inspected inspired instituted launched led maintained managed merged motivated navigated organized outlined overhauled oversaw planned prepared presided prioritized procured produced provided recommended reevaluated regulated rejected reorganized replaced reported required restored reviewed scheduled secured selected settled signed solved specified sponsored stipulated streamlined strengthened supervised terminated

Communication addressed advertised arbitrated arranged articulated authored called circulated clarified coached collaborated communicated composed condensed conferred consulted contacted conveyed convinced corresponded counseled debated defined demonstrated described developed directed discussed drafted edited elicited emphasized enlisted explained expressed facilitated formulated furnished incorporated influenced informed interacted interpreted interviewed involved joined judged lectured listened

marketed mediated moderated motivated negotiated notified observed oriented outlined participated persuaded presented promoted proofread proposed publicized published purposed recommended reconciled recruited redirected referred reinforced related renegotiated reported represented researched resolved responded reunited showed solicited specified spoke suggested summarized synthesized translated transmitted tutored wrote

#### Research

analyzed clarified coded collected compared conceived conducted contrasted critiqued detected determined diagnosed disproved evaluated examined experimented explored extracted formulated gathered identified inquired inspected interpreted interviewed invented investigated located measured organized remodeled repaired reported researched reviewed searched solved studied summarized surveved systematized tested wrote Technical adapted

analyzed applied assembled budgeted built calculated computed conserved constructed debugged designed determined developed devised engineered fabricated financed fortified handled inspected installed maintained manipulated operated overhauled printed programmed rectified regulated remodeled repaired replaced resolved restored solved specialized standardized studied trained upgraded utilized Teaching adapted

converted

correlated

advised assessed clarified coached communicated conducted coordinated critiqued defined demonstrated developed educated enabled encouraged evaluated explained

facilitated focused guided illustrated individualized informed initiated instilled instructed lectured mentored motivated persuaded planned presented set goals simulated stimulated taught tested trade transmitted tutored updated Financial

adjusted administered allocated analyzed appraised assessed audited balanced budgeted calculated compared computed conserved corrected determined developed estimated forecasted managed marketed measured netted planned prepared programmed projected qualified

reconciled reduced reevaluated researched retrieved sold

### Creative

acted adapted applied authored began built combined composed conceived conceptualized condensed constructed created customized designed developed directed displayed drew entertained established estimated fashioned forecasted formed formulated founded generated illustrated initiated integrated introduced invented investigated launched loaded modeled modified molded originated perceived performed photographed piloted planned

presented produced proposed refined researched revised revitalized rewrote set up shaped solved studied updated Helping

adapted advised advocated aided answered arranged assessed assisted brought cared for clarified coached collaborated coordinated contributed cooperated counseled dealt demonstrated diagnosed directed educated encouraged ensured expedited facilitated familiarized furthered guided helped influenced inspired insured intervened led maintained mentored modified

motivated performed prevented provided referred rehabilitated represented resolved served simplified supplied supported upheld volunteered **Clerical or Detail** activated altered assembled approved arranged catalogued classified collected compiled described dispatched edited estimated executed gathered generated implemented inspected listed maintained monitored

observed operated organized overhauled prepared processed proofread published purchased recorded reduced retrieved screened

### specified streamlined systematized

tabulated validated

#### Organizational

approved arranged assembled catalogued categorized charted classified coded collected compiled completed conducted controlled corrected correlated corresponded determined dispatched distributed eliminated engineered executed expanded filed generated implemented incorporated inspected logged maintained monitored obtained operated ordered organized prepared processed procured provided purchased recorded registered reserved responded

retrieved reviewed routed scheduled screened set up solved sorted standardized submitted supplied systematized tabulated updated validated verified Levels of Proficiency (adjectives) accurate (in) adept (in, at) advanced (knowledge of) alert (in) competent concise conversant (in) detailed (knowledge of) effective (in) empathy exceptional exemplary expert (in, at) extraordinary fluent (in) functions (well) gifted good (at) great high (degree of) intermediate (knowledge of) judicious

keen (sense of,

knowledge (of)

master (of)

understanding of)

perception (of) perceptive practical (experience in) proficient (in) relentless (in pursuit of) rudimentary sensitive (to) skilled (at, in) sophisticated (understanding of) strong (sense of, background in) successful (in, at) uncommon understanding (of) unusual

#### Clinical

Admitted Advanced Advocated Aided Assigned Assessed Cared Charted Charged Consoled Counseled Diagnosed Distributed Documented Educated Evaluated Examined Guided Helped Identified Informed Qualified Listened Monitored Nursed Practiced Prevented Proceeded

Provided Referred Regulated Repaired Reset Resourced Restricted Reviewed Secured Supported Sutured Trained Volunteered

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Student Union, Level 2 Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM 865-974-5435 career.utk.edu



CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMIC EXPLORATION