



# OFFICE OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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## Sections of a Resume

### A. Heading

- Include name, address, phone number, and email address. Make sure the information is current.
- Let anyone who may answer your phone (roommates, parents, friends) know you will be expecting phone calls from potential employers! Make sure they take a complete and accurate message in a professional and polite manner.
- Be professional when answering your phone or recording the greeting on your phone – avoid music in the background, sarcastic messages, cussing, etc.

### B. Objective or Professional Summary

- A job objective is an optional, brief statement stating the type of position you're seeking. Generally, an objective is used by someone who has recently graduated or has very little experience. It is optional on the resume, but should be included in your cover letter.
- A professional summary is one to three sentences at the beginning of your résumé to help describe the value you bring through your skills and experience. It is more common than an objective, but is also optional.

### C. Education

- Include degree, major (minor) or program, school, and graduation date (month/year).
- Spell out the degree you are receiving and include GPA if it is 3.0 or higher.
- May also include an additional section listing relevant courses (3000 level and above only) or descriptions of specific academic projects.

### D. Experience

- Include company name, city and state where you worked, your title, date of employment, and duties.
- List each job in reverse chronological order (starting with most recent).
- Duties may be listed as bullets or in paragraph form. However, bullets are advised in most cases for easier reading. Phrase duties in terms of what you accomplished rather than what was required of you and include as much quantifiable information as possible.

### E. Skills

- Consider skills you have in communication, conflict resolution, computers, leadership, foreign languages, etc. *Remember, you should select skills relevant to the job you are applying for.*
- Try to give three to five statements describing the skills that are most relevant to the position.
- Skills may be developed from paid employment as well as volunteer work, internships, activities, and coursework.

### F. Honors and Activities

- Include any organizations or committees in which you have been involved.
- Provide information on any offices held, committees served, awards, scholarships, etc. May bullet or provide in paragraph form. If there are too many, list only the most relevant or create two sections.

## G. References

- You may simply state “References available upon request” or you may choose to leave this section off. However, be prepared to provide references during the interview or when requested.
- If you choose to include references with your resume, list them on a *separate page* with your name and contact information at the top followed by the section title REFERENCES. The Reference Page should be typed in the same format as your resume. You’ll need 3-5 professional references and should request permission before listing an individual as a reference. Include the individual’s name, title, organization, address, and phone number as listed below. Under Relationship include a brief description (as shown below) to indicate how that individual knows you.

Mr./Ms./Dr. Name, Title

Organization

Address

Telephone Number

Relationship: Academic Advisor, Current Supervisor, etc.

## Types of Resumes

**Chronological** – Focuses on work history. This format is useful if you are currently working or have worked recently and the work experience is related to your job objective.

**Functional** – Focuses on your skills and qualifications rather than your actual employment/job titles. A functional format is beneficial if you have been out of work for a length of time, if you have worked for the same company for numerous years, or if you have held several unrelated jobs. If you utilize this format, you will want to provide two to three (no more than five) skill sets and elaborate on how you have developed such skills.

**Combination** – Utilizes components of the above two formats. Typically used by individuals who have a strong background and find certain characteristics of each useful. A list of skills is provided in addition to describing any relevant experience.

## Points to Remember

DO	DON'T
Provide information that is positive and relevant to the job objective.	Provide the reader with your life history or negative information that is not required.
Make use of spacing, bold, capitalization, italics, and indentation to make the resume visually appealing.	Overuse different fonts, graphics, etc. in a way that becomes distracting.
Try to limit to one or two pages. The employer will not take the time to read your resume word for word during the initial screening of resumes.	Include information that is irrelevant simply to fill space.
Use correct terminology related to the industry you are interested in.	Misuse words simply because it sounds impressive or abbreviate terms even when used correctly.
Print resume on 8 ½” X 11” paper. White is preferred but neutral colors are acceptable. Also, do not print in colored ink.	Use paper of an unusual size or color. Fluorescent colors, dark paper, and colored ink are not viewed as professional.
PROOFREAD!!! Check your resume for grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Ask others to critique it.	Assume the computer spell check will catch every mistake.
Leave out information regarding ethnicity, religion, marital status, and age.	Include a photograph or physical description of yourself.

## ACTION WORDS

Refer to the list below for help in selecting the right word when writing your resume and cover letter. Remember that the words you use must convey the skills you have developed that are applicable to the position you are applying for. *Utilize past tense for previous positions and present tense for current positions.*

Ability	Conceive	Encourage	Launch	Proficient	Serve
Accomplish	Conduct	Establish	Lead	Promote	Set
Account	Confirm	Estimate	Lecture	Propose	Simplify
Achieve	Conserve	Evaluate	Locate	Protect	Solve
Active	Consistent	Examine	Log	Prove	Spearhead
Adapt	Consolidate	Expand	Maintain	Provide	Speculate
Advise	Construct	Expedite	Manage	Qualify	Sponsor
Analyze	Consult	Explain	Manipulate	Realize	Study
Answer	Contribute	Facilitate	Manufacture	Receive	Substantial
Apply	Control	File	Measure	Recommend	Succeed
Approve	Coordinate	Formulate	Mediate	Record	Summarize
Arbitrate	Copy	Found	Memorize	Recruit	Supervise
Arrange	Correspond	Gather	Modify	Reduce	Supply
Assemble	Counsel	Generate	Monitor	Refer	Support
Assess	Create	Guide	Motivate	Regulate	Synthesize
Assign	Decide	Handle	Negotiate	Reinforce	Teach
Audit	Decrease	Help	Obtain	Relate	Technical
Build	Define	Identify	Offer	Reorganize	Test
Calculate	Delegate	Illustrate	Operate	Repair	Train
Capacity	Deliver	Implement	Order	Represent	Translate
Categorize	Demonstrate	Improve	Organize	Research	Troubleshoot
Chart	Design	Increase	Originate	Resourceful	Tutor
Classify	Detect	Influence	Outline	Respond	Unite
Coach	Determine	Initiate	Participate	Restore	Utilize
Code	Develop	Install	Perform	Retrieve	Vault
Collaborate	Devise	Institute	Persuade	Revamp	Verify
Collect	Diagnose	Instruct	Pertinent	Review	Versatile
Communicate	Direct	Interact	Plan	Revise	Vigorous
Competent	Discover	Interpret	Prepare	Revitalize	
Compile	Distribute	Interview	Prescribe	Route	
Complete	Edit	Invent	Present	Schedule	
Compose	Effective	Invest	Print	Search	
Compound	Elaborate	Investigate	Process	Select	
Compute	Eliminate	Judge	Produce	Sell	

# Chronological Resume SAMPLE

**JANE DOE**

1500 North Patterson Street | Valdosta, GA 31698  
(229) 333-5942 | careerops@valdosta.edu

## EDUCATION

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**Valdosta State University, GPA 3.2**

*Bachelor of Business Administration, Management*

Completed summer study abroad in Istanbul, Turkey studying  
International Business

**Valdosta, GA**

*May 2012*

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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**Hibbett Sports**

*Assistant Manager*

**Valdosta, GA**

*2015-Present*

- Oversees store opening/closing procedures including daily cash flow, inventory control, and facility security
- Assists in hiring, training, and supervising new employees
- Prepares nightly sales reports and deposits of approximately \$5,000
- Resolves customer and/or employee disputes according to company policies and guidelines

*Sales Associate*

*2013-2015*

- Assisted customers with merchandise purchases and exchanges and processed payments by cash, check, and credit/debit card
- Marketed benefits of store credit accounts and monthly promotions in-store and via social media outlets
- Developed creative product displays to promote sale and seasonal items
- Inventoried and replenished floor merchandise

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- Microsoft Office Programs (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Publisher, Outlook)
- Social Media Content Management and Marketing (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)

## ACTIVITIES

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- Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), *President-VSU Chapter*
- Student Government Association, *Vice-President*
- Phi Beta Lambda (PBL-FBLA), *Member*

## HONORS & AWARDS

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- Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Student Chapter Merit Award
- Beta Gamma Sigma (*Business Honor Society*)
- Belk-Hudson Management Scholar

## Functional Resume

# JANE DOE

1500 North Patterson St. • Valdosta, GA 31698  
Phone: 229-333-5942 • Email: careerops@valdosta.edu

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### SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

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Innovative risk-taker who excels at analyzing data to create critical solutions, establishing vision and initiating change, and motivating teams to achieve exceptional results. Proficient on Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint and Outlook) and various social media applications (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest). Seeking a position in Human Resources.

- Research
- Training & Development
- Public Speaking
- Computer Operations
- Program Planning
- Product Comparison
- Sales Strategy
- Account Management
- Advertising

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### EDUCATION

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#### **Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies**

*Concentrations in Marketing, Communications, and Work Office Technology*  
Valdosta State University

**December 2016**

*Valdosta, GA*

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### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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#### **Marketing and Communications**

- Conducted surveys from the student body to evaluate the retention of organizational members, project effectiveness, and desired leadership.
- Managed online social networks, establishing entrepreneurial spirit by updating project status through visuals such as pictures and videos.
- Generated new initiatives and social events to recruit new members, promote awareness about current projects and upcoming events, and collaborate with other student organizations and alumni.
- Networked with local businesses to sponsor the annual Blazin' Spring Classic Golf Tournament.
- Awarded "Top Sales" for promoting and selling the largest number of NBA League Passes during one month.

#### **Leadership**

- Coordinates creative business-minded activities for grades K-9 as a Project Leader for Hudson Docket Housing Authority-Literacy Program.
- Mentors and assists students with homework in subjects of Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.
- Assisted with educational outreach programs at the L.A.M.P. New Horizons Homeless Shelter to help individuals develop the skills needed to succeed in the free enterprise system.

#### **Organization and Planning**

- Co-facilitated activities and event planning for the Relay for Life fundraising competition.
- Facilitates bi-weekly meetings for special projects by planning structured activities to expand the vision and opportunities of mentees.
- Leads a public relations team project by strategically creating solutions to maneuver through stressful time constraints.

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### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

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*Server, Olive Garden, Valdosta, GA, 2015-Present*  
*Sales Account Specialist, Convergys, Valdosta, GA, 2015*  
*TOGO Specialist/Trainer, Applebee's, Valdosta, GA, 2014-2015*

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### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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*Marketing Chair and Event Coordinator, Presentation Team Representative, Project Leader, Enactus Member, Public Relations Students Society of America (PRSSA)*  
*Member, American Marketing Association (AMA)*

## Combination Resume SAMPLE

### Jane Doe

1500 N. Patterson St. • Valdosta, GA 31698  
Phone: (229) 333-5942 • careerops@valdosta.edu

#### EDUCATION

<b>Valdosta State University</b> <i>Bachelor of Fine Arts, Speech Communication</i> <i>Public Relations Emphasis</i>	<b>Valdosta, GA</b> <i>May 2016</i> <i>3.3 GPA</i>
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#### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

<b>WellStar Health System</b> <i>Student Intern – Marketing &amp; Public Relations</i>	<b>Marietta, GA</b> <i>Summer 2016</i>
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- Wrote and edited content for web and print editorials, stories, patient testimonials and guides/tutorials.
- Assisted with all aspects of social media production and planning.
- Maintained department content calendar.
- Compiled data for marketing and research reports.
- Performed daily website updates.
- Shot photography for content and social media.

#### RELEVANT SKILLS

Software: Photoshop, InDesign, WordPress, Microsoft Office  
Social Media Management: Sprinklr and Hootsuite  
Web Development: HTML and CSS

#### ACTIVITIES/HONORS

Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA): *Vice President*  
Student Government Association: *Senator*  
Any Sorority: *Treasurer*  
GEICO Achievement Award 2015  
Georgia Community Bankers Scholarship Recipient 2013

#### OTHER WORK

*Server, Cheddar's Casual Café, Valdosta, GA 2014-Present*  
*Student Assistant, Valdosta State University, Art Department, Valdosta, GA 2013-2015*

## Writing a Cover Letter

A cover letter is essential when you are not able to personally give your resume to the prospective employer. Your cover letter should be personal and convey to its reader what you know about the employer or organization and how you will best fit in with the organization. The letter should be three to four paragraphs in length and should fulfill four goals.

- 1. Make direct contact between you and the person you are writing to.** This first paragraph should contain information on the position you are applying for and how you discovered the position (i.e. newspaper ad, mutual acquaintance, or webpage). If the position has not been advertised then this paragraph should state the type of position you're interested in and alert the reader to the characteristics of the organization that appeal to you.
- 2. Present your skills, experiences, and special attributes as they relate to the needs of the employer.** The body of the cover letter should show the employer that you have researched the company and the position. Using the information from your research describe your skills and experience in terms of how you can benefit the company. The prospective employer will want to know why he/she should hire you. *Do not restate your resume!* Share with the employer your goals as they relate to the employer's goals or mission, your knowledge about their products and/or services, and your knowledge about the industry as a whole.
- 3. Refer the reader to the enclosed resume.**
- 4. Initiate direct contact with person reading the letter.** Many individuals leave it up to the employer to make the initial contact. This can be viewed as a passive attitude. It is much more assertive and direct to state a date that you will contact the employer to confirm receipt of your resume and discuss what opportunities might be available to you. *However, some employers may request that you do not call. In this instance, do not call.* Remember, you want to be assertive not aggressive.

### Points to Remember

DO	DON'T
Address it to an individual. "To Whom It May Concern" is not as personal as a name. Verify spelling, job title, and gender if necessary.	Use a form letter for every application. You should tailor it to the job description and the company.
Call to find out the name and title of the individual who will be receiving your cover letter and resume (unless the company specifies "No Phone Calls").	If the company requests no phone calls then do not call. Sometimes addressing the letter to the Hiring Manager or the Personnel Manager is unavoidable.
Keep it brief but thorough. Address how your background fits the key requirements in the announcement.	Repeat your resume. Rather, expand on one or two things in your resume that the employer would find impressive.
Make sure the final copy is professional. Use quality paper, use a business letter format, and <b>SIGN THE LETTER.</b>	Make any mistakes. Make sure you check grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.

## Cover Letter Example

**Jane Doe**

1500 North Patterson St. | Valdosta, GA 31698  
(229)-333-5942 | careerops@valdosta.edu

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February 11, 2016

Trevor Whipple, Chief of Police  
South Burlington Police Department  
19 Gregory Drive  
South Burlington, VT 05403

Dear Chief Whipple:

It is with great enthusiasm that I apply for the position of patrolman, recently posted on South Burlington Police Department's website. It has been a long-term professional goal of mine to serve your community in this capacity since I was a youth in the South Burlington schools. This initial interest developed into a serious commitment demonstrated by my experience as a volunteer EMT and bike patrol officer. I am currently registered to attend the Vermont Police Academy this summer.

As a student, I interned for the Burlington Police Department. This opportunity allowed me to observe best practices learned in the classroom and to develop skills that are critical to developing positive relationships with the community.

When addressing what a police officer does, many focus on the response to crisis or enforcement of laws. While these are important aspects of the job, I believe the most important is engaging with the community in a positive manner, e.g. using conflict resolution skills, being culturally aware and sensitive to bias.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you about my candidacy in greater detail.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe

Enclosure: Resume