Resume Guide





HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

While there are some basic rules (spellcheck is a must!) and standard practices to resume writing, it is largely a personal undertaking. We encourage you to take a holistic approach to creating your resume, considering your unique set of experiences in relation to the types of roles to which you aspire. In other words, think of your resume as a marketing tool that demonstrates how a product (you) meets the needs of a potential customer (employer).

This Resume Guide is designed for both the novice resume writer and the more seasoned candidate. Follow the basic principles, adding in advanced components when appropriate.

Start with the... On Page... If you are... Introductory Resume 3 New to resume writing Worksheet Adding new items and Advanced Resume 4 trying to cut old ones Worksheet 5 Shifting career **Crafting Your** directions Descriptions

Basic Principles of Resume Writing

Your resume's job is to get you an interview.

- Look at job descriptions carefully. If certain keywords, skills, or traits keep popping up, check that they are reflected in your resume in your own words.
- Experience comes not only from internships and jobs but from campus activities, class projects and volunteer work as well. There is value – what employers call transferable skills – in all you do as a Princeton student.
- Readers only know what you tell them. Include concise yet detailed Action-Oriented Accomplishment Statements to pique a reader's interest.
- Demonstrate skills through your bullet points in addition to listing them in a "Skills" section.
- Think ahead to the interview. Make sure the content you'd talk about is well-represented in your resume.

Your resume should be easy to scan and digest in 15-30 seconds.

- Use bullet points instead of paragraphs. Avoid pronouns (I, we) and minimize the use of articles (a, an, the).
- Use CAPS, **bold fonts**, and line spacing to distinguish between sections.
- Set the margins between 0.75" and 1" (ideal) and no less than 0.5".
- Use consistent font styles and sizes (10-12pt) throughout the document.
- Save space by leaving off your mailing address. Your phone number and email suffice.
- List content in reverse chronological order in each section of your resume.

2 The document should be written with the reader in mind

- Consider the context for which you're using your resume and adjust content, headers and details to match the specific job/internship posting, scholarship application, career fair/ Meetup or other opportunity.
- Note differences in style, tone, keywords and content across industries and around the globe.
- Distinguish yourself from other Princeton students by detailing your individual role and unique impact, especially when several students may have the same experience (e.g., RCA, McGraw Center Tutor).
- Do not include personal information like age, Social Security number, marital status, religion or parents' occupations.
- Do you need a CV or resume? In the U.S., a CV is used primarily for admission to or roles in academia. It is a type of resume with an in-depth focus on research, presentations, academic awards, and/or publications.
- Typically resumes should be one page. However, for graduate school, fellowship, and non-corporate applications, it is acceptable to extend to two pages with a significant amount of aligned experience.

As long as you are aspiring to professional advancement, your resume is a work in progress.

- Know that resume writing can be complex and take several tries to master.
- Save PDF and .txt versions of your resume. Keep prior versions of your resume for reference.
- Do not fear changing directions. You can reposition any experience by focusing on **Transferable Skills.**
- Ask for feedback from a Peer Career Adviser or <u>schedule an</u> <u>appointment with a career adviser in Handshake</u>.
- Typically resumes should be one page. However, for graduate school, fellowship, and non-corporate applications, it is acceptable to extend to two pages with a significant amount of aligned experience.



Introductory Resume Worksheet

This worksheet is meant as a guide – not a template – for new resume writers. Do not feel compelled to fill in every blank or section, just focus on those that reflect your experience.

| Firstname M. Lastname netID@princeton.edu | |
|--|---|
| EDUCATION Princeton University, Princeton, NJ A.B. (or B.S.E.) in Intended Concentration and Certificate Relevant Coursework:,,,, | Expected Grad Month YYYY |
| Bridge Year, Location Information if you attended a program or completed classes | Month YYYY - Month YYYY |
| Prior College or High School, Location Relevant Coursework:,,, | |
| EXPERIENCE Title or Role, Organization, Location List the most recent/current experience first Consider formal and informal jobs, volunteer work and community activities Start bullet points with action verbs, providing context using quantitative and demonstrating the end result to show the value of your contributions Quantify bullet points with information like number of people involved or time | |
| Title or Role, Organization, Location Use past tense action verbs for experiences that have ended Describe the scope/pace of the work and your level of responsibility Convey how you contributed, what you accomplished and the results of your | Month YYYY - Month YYYY efforts |
| ACTIVITIES Title or Role, Organization, Location • Can include athletic, academic, performance, professional or social activities • Consider a separate "Leadership" section for roles with significant decision-n | Month YYYY - Present naking responsibility |
| SKILLS Languages: Multilingual abilities (Fluent in Spanish), separate from programming (F Certifications: Examples: CPR, Wildlife First Responder, Gold Award/Eagle Scout, to Technology: Software applications, hardware, and other tools relevant to your field Additional Subcategories: Examples: Social Media, Laboratory, Business and Innov | technical training I(s) of interest |
| INTERESTS Anything from timpani to Tough Mudder, from modern art to mountain climbing! T | his is an opportunity to convey |

personality and perseverance, especially if these interests showcase skills and talents not otherwise evident on your resume.

Ready to start writing? See page 5 for tips on Crafting Your Descriptions!



Advanced Resume Worksheet

This page is meant as a guide – not a formal template – for students with more experience. The order and content of the categories used should reflect your experience and target audience.

| netID@princeton.edu | - • • |
|---|---|
| EDUCATION Princeton University A.B. (or B.S.E.) in Intended Concentration and Certificate Relevant Coursework:,,,,, | / |
| Prior College, Study Abroad, Summer Coursework, Bridge Year, a Activities: | nd/or High School Month YYYY |
| Awards:,,, | |
| INDEPENDENT RESEARCH Senior Thesis: Title, Adviser Place more or less emphasis on this section of resume depend Frame content around research questions, lit review, methodo Focus on process of/context around conducting independent | logy and findings for research roles |
| Junior Independent Work: Title, Adviser Consider reader when choosing to include technical details, so | Month YYYY - Month YYYY ientific terms or field-specific language |
| EXPERIENCE Title or Role, Organization, Location Can opt for specific header(s), like Healthcare Experience, Des List the most recent/current experience first Consider formal and informal jobs, volunteer work and commute Start bullet points with action verbs, providing context using a end result to show the value of your contributions | unity activities |
| Title or Role, Organization, Location Use past tense action verbs for experiences that have ended Describe the scope/pace of the work and your level of respon Convey how you contributed, what you accomplished and the | |
| LEADERSHIP ROLES Title or Role, Organization, Location Can include athletic, academic, performance, professional, or Consider roles in which you held significant decision-making re | |
| Title or Role, Organization , Location Quantify bullet points with info like number of people involved | Month YYYY – Presen d or how much time spent on a project |
| ACTIVITIES Princeternship/shadowing, professional organizations or other Social clubs, sports teams, performance groups, etc., not listed | activities aligned with career path d in Leadership Roles section |
| SKILLS Languages: Multilingual abilities (e.g., Fluent in Spanish) or compute Certifications: Examples: CPR, Wildlife First Responder, Gold Award Technology: Condense/expand list as needed based on your particu Additional Subcategories: Examples: Social Media, Laboratory, Bus | /Eagle Scout, technical training lar skills and field(s) of interest |

Ready to start writing? See page 5 for tips on Crafting Your Descriptions!



CRAFTING YOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Adapted from South Dakota State University Office of Career Development; includes content from http://artsbridge.com/how-can-a-theatre-major-prepare-you-for-success/

Students often lament a perceived lack of experience, struggle to make connections between their experiences and what is required in a job description or worry about how experiences in one realm (e.g., independent research) translate into another (e.g., an industry internship). To allay those fears, use this three-step worksheet to (1) identify your transferable skills or the skills listed in a specific job description (2) note where those skills were learned/developed, and (3) turn these general concepts into Action-Oriented Accomplishment Statements.

Step 1: Identify your transferable skills

Place a check mark next to each skill you possess. Think about all settings in which you may have used/developed each skill. Then, circle the ones you consider to be your top 10.

Teamwork

Leadership

Communication & Creativity

() Writing clearly and concisely Managing and supervising groups Generating and initiating ideas \bigcirc Listening attentively Delegating responsibility Making decisions with others \bigcirc \bigcirc Expressing ideas Promoting and adapting to change Respecting others \bigcirc Using media to present ideas Prioritizing tasks Developing rapport \bigcirc Reporting information Identifying areas for improvement ○ Sharing credit/cooperation \bigcirc Public speaking Facilitating meetings Interacting effectively \bigcirc \bigcirc Making presentations Coaching/mentoring/counseling Collaborating in diverse or \bigcirc multicultural environment **Evaluating progress** O Describing feelings О Meeting team expectations Improvising Giving praise and credit ()Perceiving feelings, situations O Doing more with less Setting and accomplishing goals) Listening to others Appreciating diversity Eliciting input and providing feedback Providing accurate descriptions **General Work Problem-Solving** Research Setting and meeting deadlines Forecasting/predicting Anticipating potential problems Accepting responsibility ()Designing an experiment Defining problems and possible C Enlisting help causes ()Imagining alternatives \bigcirc Identifying and selecting solutions C Editing/proofing Identifying resources Creating innovative approaches \bigcirc Negotiating/persuading Extracting important information \bigcirc Involving group members in Seeking opportunities for Defining needs professional growth problem-solving \bigcirc **Development strategies** Taking initiative O Developing plans to implement \bigcirc Formulating conclusions solutions Managing time and stress ()Conceptualizing ideas Establishing general principles Responding well to feedback ()Observing and discovering Teaching/training others Remaining calm under pressure ()Analyzing information Solving problems/mediating Presenting findings Implementing sound decisions Learning new tools/techniques



Step 2: Brainstorm examples of how you used each skill

Use <u>this template</u> to list your top 10 skills in the far-left column, then note the place(s) where you demonstrated each skill. Do not sweat the details here, you'll get to that in Step 3. Although the example below illustrates a skill in use across all three categories, some of your specific skills may have only be used on one or two.

| Transferable Skill | Employment & Internship Experiences | Course Projects & Research | Campus and Community Activities |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Example: Public speaking | End of summer presentation to department staff | Group presentation in class last semester | Submitted proposal for campus-wide event |
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Step 3: Bring it all together with an accomplishment statement

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Turn these general concepts into bullet points on your resume. You can **ACE** this part of resume-writing by starting with an **Action Verb** to show you did something, providing the **Context** for that action using quantitative and qualitative terms and then demonstrating the **End Result** of your actions to show the value of your contributions.

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| Action Verb | Context | End Result |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Example: Pitched | idea for a "Princeton Popcorn" night to the Undergraduate Student Government | and ultimately created an event which attracted 300+ attendees to a 2-day student-run film festival. |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |



ACTION-ORIENTED ACCOMPLISHMENT STATEMENTS

Showcasing what you've done and why it mattered is the best way to ACE resume writing! Start with an **Action Verb** to show you did something. Then provide the **Context** for that action using quantitative and qualitative terms. Lastly, demonstrate the **End Result** of your actions to show the value of your contributions!

Sample Accomplishment Statements

corresponded

defined

described

discussed

drafted

edited

elicited

enlisted

- Allocated \$1,500 budget to promote annual National Coming Out Day rally, increasing participation 25% over previous year.
- Coordinated three fundraising events for local shelters, raising \$8,000 and greatly improving community awareness.
- Collaborated with a partner to formalize a 400-page training curriculum, creating a structure that made the progression of material clear and logical.
 Action Verbs

Management

& Leadership administered appointed approved assigned attained authorized chaired consolidated controlled coordinated decided delegated directed eliminated emphasized enforced enhanced executed handled headed hired hosted increased instituted led managed merged overhauled oversaw planned prioritized produced recommended streamlined strengthened supervised

Communication

addressed

advertised

articulated

composed

condensed

conferred

consulted

contacted

conveyed

convinced

communicated

authored

clarified

expressed influenced informed instructed interacted interviewed joined judged listened mediated moderated motivated negotiated observed outlined persuaded presented promoted proposed publicized recruited reinforced reported responded solicited specified suggested synthesized translated wrote Research

analyzed compared conducted critiqued detected determined diagnosed evaluated examined experimented explored extracted formulated

gathered identified inspected interpreted investigated located measured researched searched summarized

surveyed

tested Technical adapted assembled built constructed converted debugged engineered fabricated installed maintained operated programmed rectified regulated remodeled repaired replaced solved specialized studied upgraded

Financial/Data

adjusted allocated analyzed appraised assessed audited balanced calculated computed conserved corrected estimated forecasted marketed projected reconciled retrieved

Helping advised advocated answered cared for coached collaborated contributed cooperated counseled demonstrated educated enabled encouraged ensured expedited explained facilitated familiarize furthered guided intervened motivated provided referred rehabilitated simplified supplied supported taught trained tutored volunteered **Organization/ Detail**

arranged cataloged categorized charted classified coded collected compiled distributed generated implemented incorporated logged monitored obtained ordered organized prepared

processed purchased recorded registered reviewed routed scheduled submitted standardized systematized updated validated verified

Creative

acted combined conceptualized created customized designed developed displayed drew entertained established fashioned founded illustrated initiated integrated introduced invented modeled modified originated performed photographed revised revitalized shaped

Accomplishments

achieved completed expanded exceeded improved pioneered reduced resolved restored transformed



SAMPLE RESUMES

Early College Resume

| Tori Tiger 123.456.5432 / tori.tiger@princeton.edu | | |
|--|--|--|
| EDUCATION | | |
| Princeton University, Princeton NJ A.B. Candidate; Intended concentration: Sociology Relevant Coursework: Inequality, Mobility, and the American Dream; Sociology of Sports; An Self and Society | Expected May 2024 nerican Society and Politics; | |
| Big Public High School, Dallas, TX Honors: National AP Scholar, Class Treasurer | June 2020 GPA: 3.45 | |
| WORK EXPERIENCE | | |
| Firestone Library, Princeton University – Student Assistant Build relationships with students and other patrons at busy Circulation desk Redesigned website using Dreamweaver, increasing visits to page by 15% over 3 months | September 2020-Present | |
| The Clothing Company, Fort Worth, TX – Retail Associate Recommended products to customers, generating an average of \$1,200 in sales Recognized by management for creating attractive displays that draw attention to new pro- Trained 5 new employees on effective sales techniques and mastering product knowledge d and holiday hours | | |
| Princeton University Orchestra – Clarinet Rehearse 10 hours per week and perform at 3 recitals each year Collaborate with music historian to suggest pieces for future concerts | September 2020-Present | |
| Local Community Newspaper – Contributor Interviewed 100+ students to capture balanced and fair stories across 5 public schools Submitted monthly articles highlighting local students' academic, athletic, and artistic achieved activity of the students of the st | August 2018-June 2020 | |
| Girl Scouts of the USA – Gold Award Hosted a "College & Career Night" for 200 students from 3 area underserved communities Recruited 20 professionals and marketed event to hundreds of middle and high school students | | |
| SKILLS | | |
| Language: French (4 years) and Spanish (6 years) Office Applications: Word (Advanced), Excel (Proficient), PowerPoint (Intermediate) Graphic Design: Dreamweaver (Advanced), Photoshop (Novice) | | |



| Teo Tiger | | (210) | 987-6543 t2@princeton.edu |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| | <i>aceton, NJ</i> Certificates in Spanish & Latin (npaigns & Elections, American I | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | September 2019-May 2023 |
| Local Community College Introductory Coursework in | <i>Upstate, NY</i> n Statistics, Literature, and Com | puter Science (GPA 3.92) | September 2018-May 2019 |
| SKILLS Crisis Management Publicity | Political Analysis Opinion Polling | Speechwriting Fundraising | Campaign Relations Teambuilding |
| The White House Washing Curated hundreds of ne Reviewed and summar | FFICE OF POLITICAL STRATE gton, D.C. ews clippings from major media ized analysis of foreign governm buse tours daily, averaging 25 Ar | outlets to compile global nent policies and practices | for OPSO Director. |
| Directed winning camp Managed all aspects of Raised \$5,000 in camp donations. | each program, including email, | recruitment, budgeting, and apetition), by planning even | |
| • Commit 20+ hours we | IENTS <i>Crew Team</i> <i>Princeton Universi</i> ekly to practices and competition y League Champions 2018. | - | 2019-Present |
| CAPTAIN (2016-2017)<i>Local High School Varsity</i>Honored as 3-time stat | <i>Crew Team Mytown, NY</i> e rowing champion, Varsity 8 bo | pat, 2013-2015. | 2013-2017 |
| | on University ly in intensive physical and tacti 2019 Cadet Troop Leader Trainin | - | 2019-Present |



| | Tammy Tiger | |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Phone: 609-609-6 | 096 www.linkedin.com/in/tammytiger | tammyti@princeton.edu |
| EDUCATION | Princeton University, Princeton, NJ BSE, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Certificate in Engi Cumulative GPA: 3.30 Departmental GPA: 3.65 Self-financed 100% of college education | 06/2021 ineering and Management Systems |
| SKILLS | Technology: Proficient in Java, Python, MATLAB, Mathematica, Languages: Swedish (Native); German (Fluent); Hebrew (Conver | |
| ACADEMIC PROJECTS | AutoCAD 2020 Essentials Self-Study, LinkedIn Learning • Enrolled in 10-session virtual course to learn new design techn • Completed weekly assignments and drafted prototype ergond | • |
| | World Geography Card Game Team Member Collaborated with 3 classmates in creating tool to engage mid Pilot-tested game with 100 local students and presented final | |
| ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE | Process Improvement Intern 06/2019 Manufacturing Corp., Miami, FL 06/2019 • Designed mechanical products and systems by developing and testing specifications and 06/2019 • Evaluated product ideas, models, and requirements and provided suggestions for improve 06/2019 • Collaborated in cross-functional project team of mechanical, electrical, and system engine 06/2019 • Developed an understanding of the life cycle of product design. 06/2019 | |
| | Team Leader Engineers Without Borders, Chimbote, Peru Led 5 students in developing an infrastructure plan to improve Researched technologies and local resources and design infrast Conducted fundraising efforts and successfully covered team's | structure for water lines. |
| | Research Assistant Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Department, Princeton Ur • Performed computational fluid dynamics to assist Ph.D. candic • Conducted design validation testing of prototypes and presen | date with dissertation. |
| CAMPUS ACTIVITIES | Vice President, Princeton Autonomous Vehicle Engineering Tea Trip Leader, Princeton Outdoor Action Wilderness Trek Leader Choreographer, Princeton Bhangra Staff Writer, Daily Princetonian | am (PAVE) |



ty-ti@princeton.edu, 896-118-1746

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

A.B. in Molecular Biology, Certificate in Neuroscience **GPA:** 3.89

Select Coursework: Genetics, Biochemistry, Biological Dynamics, Biostatistics, Microbiology, Genome Integrity and Human Disease

RESEARCH AND LAB EXPERIENCE

"Revising Phylogenetic Reassignment of O. trifallax"

- Engaged in independent research to revise the phylogeny of O. trifallax using several conserved gene sequences
- Compiled study procedures and findings in an extensive written paper with intent to submit for journal publication
- Supported doctoral candidate by compiling sources for their literature review

Research Assistant, Sussex Lab, Windsor University, England

- Reported directly to Principal Investigator and lab manager •
- Performed purification of protein using gel electrophoresis
- Conducted analytic experiment on gene expression to determine factor levels ٠

Lab Technician, Biology Department, West Coast University, CA

- Analyzed and recorded test data using charts, graphs and narratives
- Collaborated with 3 other lab techs to detect abnormalities in cell lines •
- Set up, adjusted, maintained and cleaned laboratory equipment daily

PRESENTATIONS

Virtual Workshop, Community Engagement Program

Science Experiments Using Common Household Products

Crafted and presented sessions on Zoom for children in grades K-2 whose studies were impacted by • COVID-19

Princeton Research Day, Princeton University

Poster, "Revising the Phylogenetic Reassignment of Oxytricha trifallax"

- Shared findings during poster session attended by 200+ students and faculty •
- Earned Silver Medal for effectively communicating research to a non-specialist audience

Spring 2020

Spring 2019

Summer 2019

June 2021

www.myportfolio.com/tyler

Fall 2017

Spring 2018

| PRESENTATIONS, cont. | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Statewide Secondary Education Science Symposium Presenter, "Healing Garden: Medicinal Plants Native to North Jersey" Selected from field of 100 applicants to represent school at statewide event Created PowerPoint and written report to share findings with other students | Summer 2016 |
| HONORS | |
| BioTech Aspiring Scientist Award Awarded to juniors from populations underrepresented in science | Fall 2019 |
| Biology Society Scholarship For high academic achievement in the biological sciences | Spring 2019 |
| S. Gerald Cowan Economics of Science Award Wrote paper, The Cost of Care: Medical systems around the globe | Fall 2018 |
| QuestBridge Scholar Mentorship program for talented, determined, and self-motivated youth from low | Spring 2017 -income backgrounds |
| Technology and Science Charter School High Honors Scored in Top 5% of AP Biology test takers | 2014-2017 |
| SKILLS | |
| Laboratory: cell proliferation assays, tissue cultures, lymphocyte isolation Data Analytics: C, Java, R, LaTeX, Excel Bilingual: English and Spanish | |
| INTERESTS | |
| Historical Fiction, World Travel, Independent Films, South American Cuisine | |
| | |



Tyler Tiger

Page 2

HELPFUL HEADERS

If you are in the early stages of resume writing, stick with standard headers like Education, Experience, and Activities. As your skillset grows and experience deepens, consider broadening and reframing the headers to draw the reader's attention to key sections of your resume.

EDUCATION

Academic Background Educational Background Education and Training Related Coursework Select Coursework Senior Thesis Study Abroad

EXPERIENCE

Academic Projects Corporate Experience Course Projects Global Experience Independent Research Industry Experience Internship Experience Military Background Professional Experience Related Experience Related Projects Work Experience

ACTIVITIES

Affiliations Associations Athletic Achievements Civic Activities Community Involvement Extracurricular Activities Leadership Experience Professional Activities Professional Associations Professional Development Professional Memberships Volunteer Work/Volunteerism

HONORS

Academic Honors Accolades Achievements Awards Commendations Distinctions Fellowships Scholarships

SPECIAL SKILLS/TRAINING

Certifications Language Competencies Licenses Professional Certifications Software/Hardware Special Training Technical Skills

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Presentations Current Research Interests Exhibits Papers Presentations Professional Presentations Research Projects Senior Thesis

ADDITIONAL SECTIONS

Interests Portfolio Relocation

