MSU Career, Internship & Student Employment Services Resume & Cover Letter Writing Guide

The following information will assist you in writing effective resumes and cover letters. A prospective employer should be able to quickly and easily view your education, work experience, and other essential elements that help you stand out as a candidate. **Resume and cover letter writing is not a one-size-fits-all approach**. Meet with a Career Education Coach to receive feedback on your materials. To schedule an appointment, visit the AYCSS website, call 406-994-4353, or stop by the Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success, located in Strand Union Building 177.

See the end of this guide for resume, cover letter, and references page examples.

Preparing Your Materials

Prospective employers and search committees will look at your documents through the lens of their organization and position for which you are applying. Your resume and cover letter will be compared to other individuals who are applying for the same position. Your goal is to create the most competitive application package that demonstrates your qualifications, knowledge of the organization and position, and why you would be a good fit. Therefore, it is important you know who and what you are addressing with these documents.

Organization Research & Job Descriptions

Research of an organization is a crucial step in tailoring your documents. Some points to consider as you prepare:

- How does this position contribute to achieving the mission or goals of the organization?
- What commonalities exist between the position/organization with your current or past work experience?
- What specifically do you like about the organization?
- How does the organization's work and the position align with your career goals?
- How do your experience, skills, and abilities align with the required qualifications?

Study the position description to determine which skills and qualifications you need to address. This includes selecting "keywords" from the position description to incorporate into your documents. Including keywords is also important as some organizations use applicant tracking systems (see below) to determine which resumes proceed to the next level. If you know someone within the organization, conduct an informational interview, as they may be able to share details about the organization that you may not find online or through other sources. Researching the organization in this manner will also help you determine if the position is a good fit.

Applicant Tracking Systems

An applicant tracking system (ATS) is software used by organizations to help manage applications during their hiring process. They are used to evaluate candidate applications and prioritize which ones will be reviewed first. These systems scan your resume and cover letter before an organization representative sees your document. As every online job postings use ATS, it is important that you create your documents with the understanding that a computer will likely read it first. While you may be qualified for a given position, the way you write and format your documents can play a major role in determining whether you are further considered for the job after applying. To ensure your resume is ATS-ready, follow these steps:

- Create your resume and cover letter in a blank word processing document. Avoid templates.
- Include keywords and phrases from the job description wherever you are able. DO NOT simply pull
 words from the position description and put them in your documents. Integrate them thoughtfully and
 strategically with context.
- Format your documents without columns, tables, headers, and footers.
- Use a professional, readable font (e.g. Arial, Times New Roman).
- Do not use images and graphics.
- Upload your resume and cover letter in an acceptable format (e.g., doc, .docx, etc.) *PDF may not be the best format.* Follow the instructions listed by the employer to determine the format.
- If you met a recruiter at an event such as a career fair, let them know you are applying. This human point of reference can help the recruiter identify your application during the screening process.



Application Instructions

Follow the directions completely and accurately. Missing a step or not submitting your materials in the manner requested will exclude you from the candidate pool in most instances.

Many organizations are requiring electronic submissions for their hiring processes. Meeting a recruiter in person does not exclude you from this process as organizations have established practices for filling a position and need you to follow the same methodology.

Applying for jobs with the federal government: The federal application process through USAJOBS (https://www.usajobs.gov/) requires you to pay attention to detail. Federal resumes are typically longer (2 or more pages) and include additional information, like salary information, that is not usually included on a standard, private sector resume. USAJOBS provides instructions on their website about how to build a resume and what to include (https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/how-to/account/documents/resume/build/).

Resume Basics & Types

Your resume provides information about your education, employment history, technical and soft skills, community involvement and service, professional affiliations, and more. However, your resume should not consist of only a list of these items, but does not necessarily include everything you have ever done. The resume consists of the most relevant experiences and tells the reader a tailored career story specific to the job, internship, graduate program, scholarship, or other application. There are a few resume types. Use the format that will best represent your skills for the position.

Reverse Chronological

Reverse chronological resumes are the most common resume type. In this format, experiences are listed by date, with the most recent experiences listed first. Bullet points under experiences, such as jobs and internships, provide the reader with descriptions of your skills, abilities, and accomplishments associated with that experience.

Functional

A functional resume categorizes skills and abilities first and does not associate those with experiences (jobs, internships, etc.) like a reverse chronological resume. Following descriptions of these skills and abilities, sections including employment history, education, and other experiences are listed.

Combination

Similar to the reverse chronological formatted resume, a combination resume includes your experiences listed in reverse chronological order and may include bulleted descriptions with those experiences. However, the combination resume places more emphasis on skills, abilities, and qualities, with less detail associated with specific jobs and internships. Combination resumes are most useful for individuals reentering the workforce after a sustained period away and for people making career transitions from one industry or field to another.

Resume Formatting

There are many ways to format your resume. Ultimately, the document needs to be neat, professional, and easy to read. Be consistent and format your document in a way that allows the reader to quickly identify all relevant information.

Avoid Resume Templates

Create your own document from a blank word processing document. By using a template, your resume might look very similar to another candidate's. In addition, templates can be challenging to edit and might not be readable by applicant tracking systems.

Margins

Use consistent margin sizes on all sides (0.5 to 1.0 inches). Avoid borders that go around the page – they take up space and can make the resume look cluttered.

Font

Consistently utilize one font style that is easily read. Recommended professional font styles include Arial, Times New Roman, Calibri, Constantia, Book Antiqua, Garamond, Tahoma, and Veranda. Font sizing will depend on the font style, as some font styles are larger than others. We recommend using 11-12 point font for body text and larger font sizes for your name and section headings. You can also use bolding where appropriate for significant information.

Length

The length of your resume is dependent upon your education, experience, and the position for which you are applying. Resumes are either one page or two complete pages (except federal resumes, which can be longer). If you choose to make a two-page resume, be sure all information is relevant to the position, and include a page number on the top of the second page.

Color, Images, & Graphics

If you choose to use color, we recommend using it sparingly. Avoid especially bright and fluorescent colors. Do not include images and graphics on your resume, including a picture of yourself. Images and graphics may hinder your document's readability by applicant tracking systems.

Note: In certain career fields, like graphic design, more creativity and color may be more acceptable. When writing your resume, use your knowledge of the standards and norms of the industry or career field to determine what you will and will not include. ePortfolios are not resumes, so not all of these same guidelines apply.

Resume Sections

A Note About "Experience"

To tailor your resume, prioritize the information that best demonstrates your qualities, skills, and abilities relevant to the position. While this will include directly relevant work and internship experiences – it might also include relevant coursework and projects, community service and volunteering, participation in student groups or professional associations, and/or other employment that is not directly related. When choosing which content to include and prioritize, consider the *transferrable skills* (e.g. communication, problem solving, time-management, collaboration, etc.) you have demonstrated and acquired throughout all your experiences. Your resume must include words specific to the job title and/or any keywords related to the position.

Section Titles

Once you know which experiences you want to include, consider how you want that information organized. Sections provide the reader an easy way to identify information. Be intentional about naming these and make them uniform in formatting (bolding/capping/justification, etc.). Prioritize sections by relevance or importance to the position you are seeking. Within all sections, list information in reverse chronological order, listing the most recent first. Below are typical resume section titles. Your resume may not include all of these, and you may customize the naming relevant to the job or your experience.

- Masthead/Heading
- Professional Profile
- Education
- Technical Skills
- Relevant Experience
- Relevant Coursework/Projects
- Research (related to major or potential employment)
- Military Service (can be listed separately or under another relevant section)
- Additional Experience
- Professional Affiliations
- Leadership Experience
- Community Service/Volunteering
- Honors/Awards

Masthead/Heading

This section of the resume should include your name, phone number, email address, and current city and state of residence.

- Use the same masthead/heading for your resume, cover letter, and references page. This will allow a professional presentation of uniform documents.
- Your name should stand out and be larger than the rest of the text, yet not disproportionately large.
- Provide your primary phone number remember to set-up a professional voicemail greeting and make sure your voice mailbox isn't full!
- Provide a <u>professional</u> email address. A version of your first and last name or initials is best. Avoid complicated combinations of letters, periods, numbers, etc. Popular email services like Gmail and Outlook are recommended.
- You may also include links to your LinkedIn account and/or personal website in your masthead.

Professional Profiles

Instead of providing an objective statement, use this space to summarize your qualities, qualifications, skills, and notable accomplishments relevant to the position. <u>Context is key.</u> Avoid general statements (e.g. hard worker, motivated) without providing context. Avoid using pronouns.

Example WITHOUT context and specific skills: Mechanical engineering student seeking professional role where I can grow my skills. Problem solver with strong communication skills. Hardworking, dependable, and punctual. Experience leading teams and working with others to complete projects.

Example WITH context and specific skills: Highly motivated Mechanical Engineering student with experience applying problem solving and interpersonal skills in a corporate professional setting. Skilled in using SolidWorks, MatLab, MathCAD, AutoCAD, Pro-E CREO, LabVIEW, ANSYS, and NI modules. Demonstrated ability to delegate work, lead teams, and oversee projects.

Note: Professional Profiles are not required. For instance, if you are submitting a cover letter, you may choose to omit the profile section and use the space for other content.

Bullet Points & Descriptions

How to Write Bullet Points

Bullet points on your resume provide the reader with concise, yet detailed, descriptions of your experience. Tailor the bullets to each job or internship, including keywords and phrases from the job descriptions.

- Start each bullet with a strong action verb or qualifier (see "Descriptive Words & Phrases" on pages 7– 10 of this guide).
- Provide concrete examples of relevant experiences.
- Use present tense verbs when describing functions in current jobs. Use past tense verbs when you no longer hold the position.
- Use numbers to show your accomplishments. Numbers are indicators of impacts, and they can show that you are results oriented. They show legitimate achievement and job seekers who use numbers in their resumes see a 40% boost over their competition.

Example:

Needs Improvement

- Oversaw work of landscape crew to complete work on time
 - Bullet lacks strong, descriptive action verbs, omits context of work, and misses an opportunity to quantify work and level of responsibility.

Strong Bullet

- Supervised and delegated daily assignments to 7-10 landscape crew members to ensure safety of all workers and timely completion of work
 - Bullet uses strong action verbs to indicate to the reader the nature of work and skills demonstrated. Additionally, it includes context to show nature of work and shows the level of responsibility held by the person.

Cover Letter Basics & Types

Cover letters provide an opportunity to entice the hiring authority to review your resume with interest. They are not written to restate the resume but to elaborate upon and provide context for experience listed in your resume. Avoid describing experiences adequately addressed in your resume. Cover letters must be well crafted and specific to each position and organization to which you apply. Effective cover letters:

- tell your unique story,
- set you apart from the competition,
- demonstrate that you have researched the company and understand their mission and values,
- describe why you would be a good fit for the organization and the contributions you will make.

Letter of Application

This type of cover letter is written to accompany a resume for a known position. You are writing to the hiring authority regarding the position posted, explaining why you are a good fit for the organization. You should integrate information, including keywords from the position description, as well as your own research about the organization. Doing so will reflect your understanding of the position and organization.

Letter of Inquiry

This type of cover letter generally accompanies a resume sent to an organization for which there is no known opening. This type of letter can also be used when someone refers you to an organization, recommending you apply for a position that may not be advertised. In certain situations, you may submit this inquiry within the body of an email with your resume attached.

Cover Letter Formatting & Content

Masthead/Heading

This section of the cover letter should include your name, phone number, email address, and current city and state of residence.

- Use the same masthead/heading for your resume, cover letter, and references page. This will allow a professional presentation of uniform documents.
- Your name should stand out and be larger than the rest of the text.
- Provide your primary phone number remember to set-up a professional voicemail greeting and make sure your voice mailbox isn't full!
- Provide a <u>professional</u> email address. A version of your first and last name or initials is best. Avoid complicated combinations of letters, periods, numbers, etc. Popular email services like Gmail and Outlook are recommended.
- You may also include links to your LinkedIn account and/or personal websites in your masthead.

Date

Include the date you are submitting your application after your masthead.

Employer/Organization Information

Address your letter to the hiring authority, using correct name, official title, and business address. If no name is listed, contact the organization's human resources office to inquire about who you should address on your cover letter. You may also address the letter to the "Search Committee," "Hiring Committee," "Hiring Manager," or similar title.

Salutation

A salutation is the phrase you use to greet the reader before beginning your introduction. When writing your salutation, confirm and properly write the correct spelling of the person's name and how the individual prefers to be addressed (Dr., Ms., Mr., etc.).

Introduction

The goal of the introduction is to connect with the reader, and to persuade them to continue reading.

- Begin by indicating why you are writing.
- Integrate your research of the organization, topics of commonality between you and the reader/organization, and how you will make a positive contribution to the organization.
- State clearly the specific position or type of work you seek.
- Indicate if someone referred you, as networks are important!

Body

Describe your qualifications for the position, tying in keywords used in the position description. Make the reader aware you have completed your research and highlight how your experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities meet or exceed their requirements for the position. Expand on the most relevant skills from your resume, <u>but do not simply repeat your resume</u>. Emphasize skills on which other employers or professors have commended you. Describe one or two brief examples where you have added value to an organization, team, or group project.

Conclusion

Close with a brief paragraph that expresses your appreciation for their consideration, makes clear that you look forward to hearing from them, and reiterates your enthusiasm and interest.

References Page Basics

For most jobs, internships, graduate schools, and professional programs, references will be required. Cultivate at least four (4) references that you can use when applying for employment, internships, graduate school, grants, or scholarships. Usually three references are requested, but follow the instructions as written. The best references will be from those who have supervised your work or learning. These will ideally be university instructors/professors, internship supervisors, and current or former employers. In addition, character references from volunteer or community service organizations or long-time acquaintances can be useful if you do not have professional references.

List the most relevant references for the position to which you are applying. That is, different references might be able to speak more to a certain set of skills or qualities than others. **Important:** Always ask your references *in advance* if they can provide you with a strong reference for *each position* to which you apply. Also, provide your resume and job descriptions to your references. This will help prepare them to speak about your experience, skills, and fit for the role.

References Page Formatting and Submittal

References Page

References should be listed on a separate document. Use the same masthead from your cover letter and resume, in addition to formatting the page using the same margins, font size and style, and spacing.

Listing References

List your strongest reference first as employers may only contact one or two of your references. Include their full name, job title, full mailing address, and preferred phone number and email address.

Submitting References

While references may not be requested as part of your initial application, always have them prepared. If you are unsure about whether to submit your references as part of your application because they are not requested in the instructions, contact the organization's human resources office. Submit the reference list with your resume and cover letter (assuming your conversation with the human resources office supports this approach). Yield to an employer's preference: If the human resources department indicates it is best to wait, do not send references.

Finalizing Your Documents

Ensuring your resume and cover letter are error free and well written is a crucial step in the application process. More than 70% of hiring managers will filter candidates out of a search if they find an *(one)* error in grammar or spelling (Business New Daily, 2019).

- Perform *your own* spell check! Remember that automatic spell check does not always catch errors.
- Save and submit in an acceptable format (e.g., .doc, .docx, etc.) to ensure the reader will be able to open your documents.
- Have your resume "critiqued" by a Career Education Coach.

Descriptive Words & Phrases

Below are words and phrases that you can use when writing your documents. Select words that best describe what you have accomplished or plan to accomplish.

Action Verbs

accelerated balance consolidate accommodated began construct accompanied boosted consult accomplished bought contain achieved briefed continued acquainted brought contract acquired budget contrived adapt built control addressed calculate convert adjust canceled conveyed administer coordinate catalogue advanced caused corrected advise chaired correlate advocate changed correspond aid clarified corroborated allocate classified counsel cleared alter counted analyze closed create credited answer coach appeared collect critique combined curtailed apply appointed command cut appraise commended dealt approve commented decided arrange communicate decreased assemble compared define assess compile delegate assian compose deliver assist compute demonstrate assume computerized describe assure conceived desian detailed attached conceptualized concluded attained determine audit condense develop conduct augmented devise authored confer diagnose authorize conserve direct automated considered discharged

consign

awarded

lease

Action Verbs

discontinued discovered discussed dispatch dispense display disseminate distinguished distribute diversified document donated doubled draft earned economized

edit
educate
eliminated
employ
emulate
enable
enact
encourage
endorsed
engineered
enlarge
enlist
ensure
enter
entrusted

established

estimate

examine

evaluate

exchanged

execute
exhibit
expanded
expedited
experienced
experimented
explain
explore
expressed
extend
extract
fabricate
facilitate
familiarize

fashion

finalize

finance

file

filled

focused forecast formalize formed formulate rounded gather generate governed grade graduated

graduated granted grossed grouped guaranteed guide halved handled headed (up) help honed identify illustrate implement improved

improvise

increased

incorporate

indexed induce influenced informed initiate innovate inspect inspire install instruct insure integrate intensify interpret interview introduced invented inventory

invest

issue

ioined

justify

keep

keynoted

launched

learned

investigate

involved

lecture led licensed listed locate log make maintain manage manufacture market mastered matched maximized measure mediate merge met minimize modified moderated modernize modified monitor motivate moved named netted notify observe obtain officiate opened operate ordered

negotiate nominated organize originated outsold overcame overhauled oversee participate perceived perfected perform persuaded piloted pioneered placed plan played prepare prescribe

Action Verbs

present preside prioritize process procure produce programmed prohibited projected promote propose proved provide publicize purchase pursue qualified quantified questioned ran

rank rate received recommend reconcile record recruit redeemed reduce reference regulate rehabilitate related remodel removed renewed

reorganize repair replaced replied reported represented research resolve responded restore restructure retain retrained retrieved revamped reversed review revised revitalized

satisfied saved scheduled schooled screened secured select serve serviced set shaped simplified skilled sold

solidified

solve

sort sought sparked spearheaded specified spoke sponsored stabilized started stimulated streamlined strengthened structured studied submitted substitute succeeded suggest summarize supervise supplement supply surpassed survey synthesize systemized tabulate tackled targeted taught teach terminated test toured

track

train

translate

transfer

transform

transmit

transport traveled treated trebled trim turned uncovered unified update upgrade used utilize validate valued verified vetoed visited widened won work wrote wrought

Qualifiers

ably actively adeptly

advantageously aggressively ambitiously appropriately artfully authoritatively

avidly beneficially capably competently

conclusively consistently continually continuously conveniently cooperatively decisively diligently easily effectively effectually efficiently

effortlessly expertly faultlessly favorably functionally gainfully handily

Qualifiers

influentially instructively masterfully meaningfully notably practically principally professionally proficiently profitably progressively rapidly readily relentlessly resourcefully responsibly responsively routinely satisfactorily securely serviceably significantly skillfullv strategically substantially tactfully uniformly

Skills/Skill Areas

usefully

account management administration advertising advocacy analysis audio-visual presentation bookkeeping budgeting business communications business management career development case management classroom management client services communications

community organizing community relations computer programming computer skills

contracts and agreements

coordination

corporate administration

cost analysis counseling creativity

curriculum development customer relations customer service data processing decorating

decision-making

display drafting editing

employee relations environmental planning equipment maintenance

evaluation

expense reduction family counseling field research film and video financial planning food preparation forecasting

fund raising grant writing

graphic design and layout

group benefits human service skills

inspection and maintenance

interviewing inventory control investigation/research laboratory/field skills labor relations

language interpreting

leadership

management analysis

market research marketing math modeling

media mediation merchandising modeling negotiation

office management operations research organizational skills

outreach

performing arts personnel training photography policy making presentation printing

product development

production program design project development promotion and publicity public relations

public service public speaking publishina purchasing quality control qualitative skills quantitative skills real estate

records management

recruiting reporting report writing

resource development

retailing sales

statistical analysis supervision systems analysis

teaching

technical skills technical writing telecommunications

testing training visual aids word processing

Sample 1: Mechanical Engineering Undergraduate Cover Letter

John D. Smith

Bozeman, MT 59717 | 406.555.2323 | john.d.smith@email.com | linkedin.com/in/john-smith-25

September 18, 2022

Donald Johnson Human Resources Director Gray & Postell Inc. 6600 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd. NE Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Dear Mr. Johnson.

I write to apply for the Mechanical Design position with your Atlanta area office. In December 2023, I will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Montana State University. The opportunities your firm offers for a career in the design and consulting industry, as well as Gray and Postell's reputation for strong continued growth, are two of the reasons I am applying for this position.

My internship experience at Boeing provided excellent exposure to the project phases of an HVAC system, including inventory, evaluation, design, and layout. Many times, I was given autonomy to complete these assigned tasks and did so successfully without supervision. At the same time, I successfully coordinated my work with a design team and other interns to troubleshoot problems. At Boeing, I embraced and relished the opportunity to work on challenging projects. These projects allowed me to demonstrate my self-starting work ethic, which I believe will be an asset at Gray and Postell.

As a Job Site Foreman for Sparrow's Nursery and Landscaping in Bozeman, Montana, I successfully supervised the work of 10-12 employees at one time. This included coordinating crew schedules with multiple job site contractors to ensure safety of all workers and timely completion of landscaping work. In addition, I successfully planned project installations and solved problems within the limits of a budget. I look forward to applying and further developing my leadership and project management skills at Gray and Postell.

I am confident I will make a positive contribution at Gray and Postell as I work alongside some of the best professionals in the field on my path to attaining my Professional Engineer licensure. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to discussing this opportunity with you further.

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John D. Smith

Sample 1: Mechanical Engineering Undergraduate

Resume

John D. Smith

Bozeman, MT 59717 | 406.555.2323 | john.d.smith@email.com | linkedin.com/in/john-smith-25

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Highly motivated Senior Mechanical Engineering student with experience applying problem solving and interpersonal skills in professional and team-oriented settings. Skilled in using SolidWorks, MatLab, MathCAD, AutoCAD, Pro-E CREO, LabVIEW, ANSYS, and NI modules. Demonstrated ability to delegate work, lead teams, and oversee projects.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering (GPA: 3.65) Montana State University (MSU)

FE Exam for Mechanical Engineers, passed May 2021

Expected: December 2023 Bozeman, MT

August 2022 - May 2023

Bozeman, MT

Bozeman, MT

RELEVANT PROJECTS

Senior Capstone Project - Optical Table Moving Device

Client: Quantel USA, Inc.

- Designed and constructed a device to move heavy optical tables efficiently and safely
- Generated and coordinated the drawing package using SolidWorks for team and client
- Collaborated with students from the electrical engineering and physics departments

Junior Design Project - Remote Control Car

January - May 2022

Course Title: Multidisciplinary Design

- Utilized AutoCad and SolidWorks to design car
- Cooperated with engineers from various disciplines to complete project
- Participated in successful demonstration of remote car through obstacle course

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Mechanical Engineering Intern

The Boeing Company

May - August 2022 Renton, WA

- Worked in the Shared Services Group with an emphasis on building systems
- Participated with numerous projects requiring: small mechanical design, HVAC systems, and AutoCAD design and documentation
- Operated in a cross-functional design team to troubleshoot design issues

CAD Lab/ME Design Lab Assistant

September 2021 - May 2022

Montana State University Mechanical Engineering Department

Bozeman, MT

- Recorded and analyzed data for kinematic project
- Revised SolidWorks drawings to evaluate limb performance

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

MSU Chapter of Engineers Without Borders

August 2019 - Present

Kenya Summer Project Member, June - July 2019

MSU Chapter of Society of Automotive Engineers

August 2019 - Present

Co-Chair - Toys for Tots Drive, December 2019

MSU Chapter of American Society of Mechanical Engineers

December 2019 - Present

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Foreman, Sparrow's Nursery & Landscaping, Bozeman, MT

May 2020 - August 2023 (Summers)

Sample 1: Mechanical Engineering Undergraduate References

John D. Smith

Bozeman, MT 59717 | 406.555.2323 | john.d.smith@email.com | linkedin.com/in/john-smith-25

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Vincent P. Newman, Ph.D., PE

Professor of Mechanical Engineering Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717-3800 406-994-6060 vnewman@montana.edu

Mr. John P. Jones, PE

Mechanical & Structural Engineering Manager The Boeing Company Dallas, TX 75247 214-630-1526 john.p.johnes@boeing.com

Dr. Annabel Lewis, Ph.D., PE

Professor of Mechanical Engineering Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717-3800 406-994-6268 alewis@montanta.com

Mr. Chris Sparrow

Owner / Former Employer Sparrow's Nursery Bozeman, MT 59718 406-587-3508 chris@sparrownursery.com

Sample 2: Elementary Education Undergraduate Cover Letter

Monica Jackson

Bozeman, MT 59715 406.555.9595 monica.jackson@email.com

November 29, 2022

Dr. Jacob Francom Superintendent & Elementary Principal Troy Public Schools 501 East Kalispell Ave Troy, MT 59935

Dear Dr. Francom,

I am excited to apply for the Elementary Teacher position at Troy Public Schools. As an energetic, detail-oriented, and outgoing individual who thrives on problem solving, I have a passion for helping students achieve excellence. In December 2021, I will graduate from Montana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education K-8. I am eager to join Troy's school community which prioritizes compassion and understanding for each and every student while requiring academic excellence.

My student teaching and teaching practicum with 1st through 6th grade students provided me valuable experience working with many different age groups. As you will see from my resume, I demonstrated my commitment to addressing the Common Core State Standards rigorously and building caring relationships in my classroom while making learning relevant and engaging. I utilized multiple strategies including the infusion of the arts and technology. Outside of the traditional classroom setting, I worked with students in kindergarten through 8th grade, including those with special needs when I served as an instructor at The Dance Center in Bozeman. Montana.

I believe I am an exceptional match for the Elementary Teacher position at Troy Public Schools. With my boundless energy, enthusiasm, love for children, the arts, and commitment to the academic success of my students, I will make a positive contribution to the students, Troy Public Schools, and the community. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Sincere	ιv

Monica Jackson

Sample 2: Elementary Education Undergraduate

Resume - Page 1

Monica Jackson

Bozeman, MT 59715 406.555.9595 monica.jackson@email.com

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education K-8 (GPA: 3.9)

Expected: December 2021

Montana State University (MSU), Bozeman, MT

LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION

Montana Class 2 - Standard Education License: Elementary K-8 First Aid and CPR Certification, American Heart Association

Expected: January 2022 Expires: April 2022

Teaching Experience

Student Teacher

August 2021 - Present

Longfellow Elementary (5th grade), Bozeman, MT

- Incorporated Common Core Standards when creating a science unit, which brought live animals into the classroom to teach taxonomy, care for animals, and nutrition
- Serve on school committee focused on curriculum development and textbook review
- Teach general education students as well as students with IEPs in a mainstreamed inclusive classroom
- Use progress monitoring assessment data in reading and math to guide planning and instruction
- Integrate one-to-one technology through the use of educational software, smartboard activities, iPads, and laptop computers
- Assisted in student-led parent/teacher fall conferences

Practicum II March - April 2021

Belgrade Elementary School (1st - 4th grade), Belgrade, MT

- Aided in development of lesson plans and received feedback on delivery
- Collaborated with SPED and ELL teachers to meet student needs
- Conducted Fast Tracks Phonics assessment to monitor student growth

Practicum I September - November 2020

Chief Joseph Middle School (6th grade), Bozeman, MT

- Observed lessons and how to effectively engage students in learning
- Cooperated with classroom management and helped students struggling with reading and science skills

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Montana Teachers' Association (student member)January 2021 - Present November 2019 - Present

Sample 2: Elementary Education Undergraduate

Resume - Page 2

Monica Jackson • Page 2

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Math Tutor February - August 2021

Private Residence, Bozeman, MT

- Formulated daily math problems relating to homework for 3rd and 4th grade students
- Demonstrated new concepts using real world examples
- Communicated regularly with parents about student progress and behavior

Dance Instructor March 2019 - August 2021

The Dance Center, Bozeman, MT

- Instructed K-8th grade students in hip-hop and creative/modern dance
- Taught basic choreography to health instructors from community schools

Wetlands Bird Identification Instructor

March - November 2019

Project WET, Bozeman, MT

- Instructed 1st grade students in wetland bird identification
- Guided students in nature journaling

VOLUNTEER / COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dance Workshop Presenter

April - May 2021

Girls for A Change, Bozeman, MT

Mentor for Middle School Student with Special Needs

Child Advancement Program (CAP), Bozeman, MT

January - June 2020

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Office Aide September 2018 - May 2019

Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success (MSU), Bozeman, MT

- Welcomed students in pleasant, professional manner and provided information about Center resources and services
- Assisted students with scheduling appointments with advisors and coaches

Front Desk Clerk September 2017 - May 2018

Residence Life (MSU), Bozeman, MT

- Greeted residents and answered questions about residence hall events and campus resources
- Monitored building entry from the front desk and promptly notified the on-call Resident Assistant to address questions, resident conduct, and safety concerns when necessary

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dr. William A. Johnstone Excellence in Education Scholarship Lynn Johnstone Early Childhood Education ScholarshipFall 2020 - Spring 2021
Fall 2019 - Spring 2020

Sample 2: Elementary Education Undergraduate References

Monica Jackson

Bozeman, MT 59715 406.555.9595 monica.jackson@email.com

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Mr. David Davison

5th Grade Teacher Cooperating Teacher Longfellow Elementary School 516 South Tracy Bozeman, MT 59715 406-522-6150 david.davison@bozemanschools.gov

Dr. Anna Littleton, Ed.D.

Principal
Bozeman School District
P.O. Box 38001
Bozeman, MT 59764
406-821-7626
anna.littleton@bozemanschools.gov

Dr. Ingrid Newhouse, Ed.D.

Professor of Education Montana State University P.O. Box 172400 Bozeman, MT 59717-2400 406-994-6060 inewhouse@montana.edu

*Reference letters available

Sample 3: Bachelor of Science in Nursing Cover Letter

ERICA JORDAN

Bozeman, MT 59715 • ejordan23@email.com • (555) 555-5555 • linkedin.com/in/erica-jordan-23

November 10, 2021

Ms. Emma Payne Director of Human Resources Barrett Senior Residential Community 600 Hwy 91 South Burlington, VT 05402

Dear Ms. Payne:

Please accept my application for the Registered Nurse position at Barrett Senior Residential Community. Having grown up in Burlington, I am very aware of your reputation for excellence and would be honored to join your team and serve the residents of my home community. I chose nursing as my profession based on seeing first-hand the importance of knowledgeable, patient-focused care and a desire to give back to my community and serve Vermont.

My pursuit of a career as a geriatric care registered nurse began with my work as a CNA. While serving in this role at Spring Creek Inn Memory Care in Bozeman, Montana, I admired the service excellence and delivery of care demonstrated by the entire staff. The opportunity to improve the quality of life for residents as a member of that staff inspired me to further my education and continue the same level of unparalleled service as a registered nurse.

As you can see from my resume, I will complete my Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Montana State University in December 2021. During one of my clinical rotations at Highgate Senior Living, I was recognized for providing quality patient care to over 50 residents, possessing strong communication skills, and exceptional work ethic. During this rotation, I had the opportunity to provide education to individual patients and families regarding the holistic approach to dementia and Alzheimer's care. In addition to reinforcing my eagerness to work with this population, serving at Highgate Senior Living allowed me to practice clinical skills necessary to better the lives of people living in senior residential communities.

I welcome the opportunity to work as a Registered Nurse at Barrett Senior Residential Community. I am confident that if hired, you would look back on the decision as the right one for the Burlington community, the senior residential community, and most importantly, for the residents you serve. Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincere	

Erica Jordan

Sample 3: Bachelor of Science in Nursing Resume

ERICA JORDAN

Bozeman, MT 59715 • ejordan23@email.com • (555) 555-5555 • linkedin.com/in/erica-jordan-23

PROFILE

Self-motivated, compassionate BSN candidate with clinical experience in geriatric care, acute/primary care, and mental health. Proven ability to ensure excellent patient care and safety in high stress situations. Passionate patient advocate with experience providing patient and family education in a memory care setting.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Nursing (GPA 3.87) Montana State University Expected: December 2021 Bozeman, MT

Expected: Winter 2022

CERTIFICATION & LICENSURE

Registered Nurse License, Montana Board of Nursing

• Sitting for NCLEX Exam, January 2022

Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers, American Heart Association Expires: April 2023

Certified Nurse Aide, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Expires: October 2022

WORK EXPERIENCE

Certified Nurse Aide

October 2018 – August 2020 Bozeman, MT

Spring Creek Inn Memory Care

- Provided emotional/behavioral support for residents with Dementia and Alzheimer's
- Assisted patients with activities of daily living including feeding and mobility, medication distribution, and hygiene
- Coordinated care plans with supervising nurses

Server/Hostess

January – August 2017

Burlington, VT

Luenig's Bistro & Café

- Greeted guests in a welcoming, friendly manner
- Managed time to efficiently serve multiple tables with as many as 25 guests at one time
- Professionally addressed customer complaints and concerns, implementing solutions to resolve issues and restore optimal dining conditions

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of NursingJanuary 2020 – PresentAmerican Geriatrics SocietyJanuary 2020 – PresentNational Student Nurses' AssociationOctober 2017 – Present

VOLUNTEERING/COMMUNITY SERVICE

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic, Montana State University, Bozeman, MTMarch 2021Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter, Bozeman, MTAugust 2019 – PresentHighgate Assisted Living, Bozeman, MTAugust 2019 – Present

Sample 3: Bachelor of Science in Nursing References

ERICA JORDAN

Bozeman, MT 59715 • ejordan23@email.com • (555) 555-5555 • linkedin.com/in/erica-jordan-23

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Denise Johnson

Registered Nurse (Clinical Preceptor) Highgate Senior Living 2219 W Oak St Bozeman, MT 59718 406-555-5555 d_johnson@email.com

Janet Smith, RN, BSN

Clinical Instructor Montana State University P.O. Box 173560 Bozeman, MT 59717-3560 406-555-5555 janetsmith@montana.edu

Lorraine Smith, RN, BSN

Director of Nursing Spring Creek Inn Memory Care 1641 Hunters Way Bozeman, MT 59718 406-555-5555 1 smith@email.com

Sample 4: Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary Studies Undergraduate Resume

Aiyana Spotted Eagle

(406) 555-5555 • aiyana2400@email.com • Bozeman, Montana 59715

Education

Bachelor of Science in Animal Science – Equine Science (GPA: 3.89)

Expected: May 2023

Montana State University - Bozeman, MT

Work Experience

Veterinary Assistant

August 2021 - Present

Anderson Veterinary Clinic - Bozeman, MT

- Assist veterinarians in daily appointments with treatment of wounds, exams, and diagnosis
- Collect tissue, blood, feces, and urine samples for analysis
- Diligently care for boarded horses, including feeding, watering, stall cleaning, and treatments
- Maintain records, record inventory, and assist in front office work
- Provide excellent customer service and compassionate support to clients and customers

Ranch Hand (Intermittent/Seasonal)

May 2012 - Present

Triple B Ranch - Wolf Point, MT

- Assist in dryland farming and cow-calf operation
- Wean calves using low stress weaning methods
- Build and repair fencing including electrical, wire, and iron fences
- Clean stalls and perform general maintenance and repairs

Sales Associate/Cashier

May 2018 - August 2019

Western Montana Supply and Materials - Bozeman, MT

- Maintained orderly check-out station and efficiently served customers paying for items
- Ensured customers found the right products for their specific livestock and pet needs

Professional Affiliations & Leadership

Vice President & Member, Pre-Veterinary Club, Montana State University

August 2019 - Present

- Elected Vice-President for 2021-2022 school year
- Organize events and activities to promote pre-veterinary education and provide opportunities for members to learn from community practitioners
- Developed new marketing strategies to grow the organization, increasing Facebook page visits by 35% during fall 2021 semester

Collegiate Stockgrowers, Montana State University

September 2019 - May 2020

• Developed comprehensive knowledge of the Montana beef industry

Volunteering & Community Service

Cat Care Handler, Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter, Bozeman, MT **Meal Server,** Human Resource Development Council, Bozeman, MT

September 2020 - Present March - April 2021

Sample 5: Business Marketing Undergraduate

Resume - Page 1

Kadeem Javonte Roberts

Kalispell, MT 59901 406.555.5555 kjroberts2400@email.com

Professional Summary

Innovative and creative marketing professional with experience implementing strategies yielding measurable results. Demonstrated ability to effectively leverage major social media platforms to market products and services, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Experience with brand awareness development, focus groups, data analysis, and market research.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Business, Marketing Option (GPA 3.79)

May 2022

Montana State University (MSU), Bozeman, MT

Marketing Experience

Senior Capstone Project

January - May 2022

"Shop Local" Campaign - Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

- Studied the marketing needs of three local businesses through interviews and online research
- Facilitated a focus group that surveyed Bozeman residents to gather data about shopping habits and preferences
- Implemented social media and music streaming marketing strategy that corresponded with a 25% increase in online traffic and 10% increase in online purchases among the three businesses over a 2-month period

American Marketing Association Collegiate Case Competition (3rd place) August – December 2021 ABC Recreation Company

- Collaborated with fellow Montana State University students in a national competition to develop a marketing strategy addressing market disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Developed a comprehensive brand awareness campaign to attract customer base for the emerging ABC Recreation outfitting operation
- Created a marketing presentation that can be tailored for specific retailers and customer bases to showcase innovative product line

Business Consultant Intern

May - August 2021

Montana Marketing Consultants, Bozeman, MT

- Supported local business clients with branding, advertising, and marketing initiatives
- Completed market research for several clients and prepared comprehensive reports of findings
- Performed value proposition prototyping alongside Business Consultants and clients

Sample 5: Business Marketing Undergraduate

Resume - Page 2

Kadeem Javonte Roberts - Page 2

Additional Work Experience

Server/Host September 2018 – May 2022

Montana Ale Works, Bozeman, MT

- Welcomed guests in a welcoming, friendly manner
- Managed time to efficiently serve multiple tables and as many as 25 guests at one time
- Professionally addressed customer complaints and concerns, implementing solutions to resolve issues and restore optimal dining conditions

Barista May – September 2018

Ghost Town Coffee Roasters, Bozeman, MT

- Provided quality customer service in a locally owned coffee shop
- Managed inventory and monthly ordering of coffee roasting supplies

Office Aide September 2017 – May 2018

Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success (MSU), Bozeman, MT

- Pleasantly greeted students and provided information about Center resources and services
- Assisted students with scheduling appointments with advisors and coaches

Professional Affiliations & Leadership

American Marketing Association – Montana State University

December 2018 - May 2022

Director of Member Relations (2021-2022)

- Answered questions from current and prospective members about membership benefits and process for joining organization
- Coordinated communications with the Marketing team to promote community service and professional networking opportunities

Associated Students of Montana State University

August 2020 – May 2022

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court (2021-2022)

- Exercised professional judgment, communication skills, and rule-interpretation of codes, governing documents, and state laws
- Provided rulings and guidance in relation to Senate action, elections, student appeals, and other complaints

Senator (2020-2021)

• Served as representative for Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship

Community Service

Bozeman Color Me Fun 5K, Bozeman, MT

October 2020

• Coordinated participant registration and course set-up

Child Advancement Program (CAP), Bozeman, MT

August 2019 - May 2020

 Provided social skills development support, tutoring, and assistance with engagement in extracurricular activities for an elementary school student with special needs

Sample 6: Graduate School Application/Research Focus

Resume - Page 1

Aleida Benson

Bozeman, Montana 406-555-5555 ajbenson@email.com

Education

Bachelor of Science, Psychology

Montana State University (MSU), Bozeman, MT

Cumulative GPA: 3.84

December 2021

Research Experience

Senior Capstone Project

January - December 2021

Thesis: Perceptions of Active Listening and Relationships

- Performed literature review on active listening and interpersonal relationships
- Planned and executed qualitative study that involved interviewing people about their implementation of active listening skills and their perceptions of its effects on their relationships with friends and family

Undergraduate Research Assistant

August 2020 - June 2021

Research, Education and Culture in Health (REACH) Lab

Bozeman, MT

Department of Psychology – MSU

- Designed and completed research study examining alcohol and drug use harm-reduction practices among 110 college students
- Completed interviews and data analysis of questionnaires to examine factors affecting implementation of alcohol and drug use harm-reduction practices
- Presented findings at MSU Student Research Celebration

Related Work Experience

Home VisitorEarly Head Start

January 2022 - Present

Bozeman, MT

- Provide education for at-risk pregnant women to improve health outcomes
- Guide families to achieve goals via assessment, action planning, and evaluation
- Link families to community resources to promote family wellness

Career Peer Mentor

September 2018 - May 2021

Career, Internship & Student Employment Services – MSU

Bozeman, MT

- Promoted career education and development opportunities by engaging students at tabling events and classroom presentations
- Assisted students with resume and cover letter writing, interviewing skills, and job searching strategies in one-on-one and group settings
- Shadowed a Career Education Coach for 15 hours each semester to learn career coaching and guidance techniques
- Assessed student needs and provided students with referrals to campus resources

Sample 6: Graduate School Application/Research Focus Resume – Page 2

Aleida Benson Page 2

Related Work Experience Continued

Summer Camp Counselor

May - August 2020

Big Sky, MT

Big Sky Summer Camp

- Developed engaging curricula for students ages 7-15
- Taught coping skills to four young campers to address behavior problems
- Led a friendship group for students struggling with social skills
- Assisted in implementing treatment plans for students with anxiety and homesickness

Leadership & Community Service

Active Minds – MSU Chapter

October 2019 - December 2021

• Assisted with planning events, such as "Send Silence Packing" and "Bowling to Strike Out Stigma," to educate students about mental health and promote campus resources

Psi Chi Honor Society - MSU Chapter

October 2019 - December 2021

Networked with professors and local practitioners to learn about careers in psychology

Child Advancement Program (CAP), Bozeman, MT

August 2019 - May 2020

- Served as a mentor for a student with special needs
- Incorporated social skills and development support, tutoring, and assistance with engagement in extracurricular activities

Honors & Awards

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award Lea Miller Memorial Psychology Scholarship May 2021

2020 - 2021

Additional Work Experience

Owner and House Painter

May 2013 - August 2018

Aleida's Painting

Bozeman, MT

- Provided residential and commercial painting services throughout the Gallatin Valley
- Managed all aspects of self-owned business, including marketing, job estimates, and billing
- Supervised and delegated work to 2-3 painters during the busy summer months, ensuring timely project completion and employee safety

Front Desk Clerk

September 2017 - May 2018

Residence Life (MSU)

Bozeman, MT

- Greeted residents and answered questions about residence hall events and campus resources
- Monitored building entry from the front desk and promptly notified the on-call Resident Assistant to address questions, resident conduct, and safety concerns when necessary

Sample 7: New Student/Student Employment Resume

Mateo Garcia

Bozeman, MT

mgarcia1001@email.com

303.303.3333

EDUCATION

University Studies - Major: Undeclared

Expected: May 2025

Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

High School Diploma

June 2021

Springwood High School, Golden, CO

WORK EXPERIENCE

Ranch Hand/Laborer

2014 - 2021

2018 - 2021

Garcia Family Farm, Golden, CO

- Performed various duties ranging from large animal care and feeding to assisting with machinery repair and upkeep
- Assisted with the showing and marketing of Angus and Hereford cattle

Child Caregiver

Private Residences, Golden, CO

- Provided dependable child care for relatives and neighbors, including transportation to and from sports practices and music lessons
- Coordinated schedules with parents and adjusted when needed to ensure children were picked up on time and supervised at all times

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Co-Captain, Springwood High School Wrestling Team	2020 - 2021
Yearbook Staff, Springwood High School	2018 - 2021

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

4H of Golden, Colorado	2018 - 2021
Church Youth Group	2015 - 2021

VOLUNTEERING / COMMUNITY SERVICE

Holiday Food Bank, Golden, CO Church Service Trip, Tijuana, Mexico December 2019 and 2020 April 2019

• Work with a team to paint an orphanage