



# WRITING AN EFFECTIVE FEDERAL RESUME

Your resume should provide details of your job-related skills, be results driven and demonstrate your ability to perform well in the target position.

A guide to understanding and writing an effective Federal resume. Your resume is your marketing tool in which to describe why you may be the best candidate for the position for which you are applying.

When writing your resume, you should consider your accomplishments, making your resume is results-driven. It is best to break your resume down into major sections, outlining personal information, education, experience and other qualifying information. The Job Opportunity Announcement (JOA) may specify information that must be included on your resume, so please read it carefully. Using the *Resume Builder* in USAJOBS helps ensure that you include this essential information. The following information is *required* when applying for Federal positions. Omitting this information could result in your being determined unqualified for the position.

The following sections are required when applying for Federal positions. Omitting this information could result in your being determined unqualified for the position. Particularly important are the dates of employment, as well as the number of hours worked per week in each position.

### Personal Information

Full Name  
Mailing Address  
Email Address  
Phone Number  
Citizenship  
Military Status

### Education

School Name, Country, City/State Zip Code  
Degree Attained or Pursuing/Major  
Completion Date or Expected Date of Completion  
Major - GPA\* *required if stated in JOA*  
Total Credits (if not completed)\*  
Honors\*  
Job-Related Coursework\*

*\*This information is optional, but recommended.*

### Also Include the Following Information (if applicable)

- Selective Service Registration Status (Males)
- Eligibility for Derived Veterans Preference (information can be found at [www.OPM.gov](http://www.OPM.gov) or [www.Fedshirevets.gov](http://www.Fedshirevets.gov) )
- Federal Employee Status (Current Federal civilian employee, former Federal employee [with or without] reinstatement eligibility)
- Any Hiring Paths for which you may be eligible

### Example of Work Experience

Employer Name and Full Address or City and State

Job Title, Grade (if Federal), Rank (if Military)

Salary\*

Employment Dates (month/year – month/year) – *critical in determining amount of experience*

Number of Hours Worked Per Week – *critical in determining amount of experience*

Supervisor's Name and Phone Number

May we contact your current supervisor?\*

**Duties and Accomplishments** - You must show how your skills and experiences meet the qualifications and other requirements listed in the JOA to be considered for the job. Also, consider the level of your experience. For instance, did you serve as a team *lead* or a team *member*? Also, include examples of relevant experiences and accomplishments that prove you can perform the duties of the position, at the level required for the job.

Use numbers, percentages or dollars to quantify your accomplishments. Include examples of how you saved time, money, managed money, improved a process, etc. *Examples: Improved*

*customer service ratings by 15%; presented with the Director's Award for implementing process improvements for incoming contracts.*

Tailor your resume to the job of interest. Be sure to address the job-related competencies that are detailed in the announcement and emphasize your strengths. Hiring agencies will look for specific terms in your resume to make sure you have the necessary experience they're seeking. For example, if the qualifications section says you need to conduct "data analysis", your resume should include the term "data analysis" and how you used the skill.

Make your resume easy to read. In other words, use plain language and a basic 12 font print. Consider breaking your experience up into sections related to each major duty. Once you decide on the major duties, list them. You can then describe the specific tasks related to each major duty. *Example:*

### ***Project Analysis***

- Conduct quantitative and qualitative analyses and evaluations on the effectiveness of operations within headquarters as well as in the field, meeting established goals and objectives.
- Coordinate the receipt and oversee processing of over 15,000 grant applications. Routinely exceed processing deadlines by a minimum of 18%.

### ***Data Management***

- Developed an office tracking system for managing an increased number of audit report requirements. The new system improved workflow, file management, and communication methods, which resulted in meeting reporting deadlines for the first time in 5 years.
- Collect and maintain program financial, evaluation, and outcome data for over 30 projects operating within the organization. Analyze data quarterly and brief organization leadership.

### **Translating Military Experience**

Do not overuse military jargon and acronyms to describe your experience. If your resume is filled with military terms, you may confuse the employer, which could lead to your disqualification. Think of how you would explain your military job during a conversation. What terminology would you use to be understood? Also, consider translating your military job title to one comparable in the civilian workforce. Below are examples of how to translate military experience, titles and general terms to civilian terminology.

### ***Example of translating military experience to civilian:***

- **Military Job** - Led an infantry platoon in combat operations, providing tactical and technical guidance to subordinates and professional support to both officers and subordinates. Led, supervised, and trained subordinate personnel in areas of logistics, defense and maintenance of military equipment.

- **Translation** - Supervised and trained 150 personnel in the areas of weapons, military vehicles operations and maintenance, and provided guidance to ensure their safety and survival while in combat situations. Advised upper management on matters related to overall company operations, which included supply levels and status, human resources and budget matters. Evaluated and counseled staff on performance and conduct matters. Oversaw inventory of over 2,000 line items and material assets, valued at over \$50M.

This person may apply for Logistics and Management positions based on skills used in the military position.

***Examples of military job titles to civilian titles:***

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ➤ Medic/Corpsman               | Health Care Specialist   |
| ➤ Commanding Officer/Commander | Senior Manager/Director  |
| ➤ Resource Advisor             | Budget Analyst           |
| ➤ Senior NCO                   | Supervisor               |
| ➤ Executive Officer            | Deputy Director          |
| ➤ Supply Sergeant              | Supply/Logistics Manager |

***Examples of general military terms to civilian:***

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ Troops                       | Staff or Employees           |
| ➤ Medal                        | Award                        |
| ➤ Squad/Platoon                | Section or Team              |
| ➤ Subordinates/Service Members | Employees                    |
| ➤ S3                           | Training and Operations      |
| ➤ Reconnaissance               | Data Collection and Analysis |

***Examples of transferable skills:***

- Leadership – indicate whether you supervised or led staff
- Technical – stress specific skills such as computer programming or contracting
- Negotiation – show how you can convince someone to do something or to accept your ideas
- Problem Solving – describe situations where you had to resolve a conflict or work issue
- Communication – stress your ability to write effectively and to communicate verbally

*For additional information on how to translate your military experience to a civilian resume, consider going to [www.military.com](http://www.military.com) and use the Skills Translator.*

**Skills/Certifications**

You may include any related skills and certifications. This information is only *required* when stated in the job opportunity announcement.

**Volunteer Work**

You should include unpaid experiences if they are related to the target position. Volunteer experience may be included in a separate section or listed with other work experience. Please note however, that the same information is required as with regular work experience, as outlined above.

# SAMPLE RESUME TEMPLATE

## Jane A. Jones

123 College Street, Cincinnati, OH 45231

Home: 513-123-4567

Email: [Janea@email.com](mailto:Janea@email.com)

U.S. Citizen

Federal Status (e.g. Career, Career Conditional)

Veterans' Preference (if any)

Selective Service Registration Status (Males only)

### **TECHNICAL SKILLS or SUMMARY OF SKILLS**

*This is not a requirement, however you can highlight specific skills you possess that are related to the position. Example:*

- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- Pre-audit analysis
- Skilled in tax examinations

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

#### **Internal Revenue Service**

1234 Work Street, Covington, KY 41011

*Internal Revenue Agency*

Supervisor: Ms. Jackie Smith (859) 555-1111

(May Contact)

December 2017-Current

40 hours per week

GS-0512-7

- Examine and audit individual, business and corporate tax returns to determine correct federal tax liabilities
- Conduct field examinations and discuss findings with the taxpayer or their representative
- Perform package audits to ensure compliance, and determine need for multiple year examinations based on findings
- Conduct pre-audit analysis of assigned cases, researching any available background materials, and formulating a plan for the audit
- Received public recognition and time-off award for consistently completing a minimum of 20 additional analyses per year

#### **Ace Financial**

1234 Work Street, Cincinnati, OH 41073

*Accounting Assistant (Internship)*

Supervisor: Ms. Jackie Smith (513) 555-1111

(May Contact)

August 2015-April 2017

20 hours per week

\$21,000 per year

- Developed monthly statements
- Researched and resolved invoice discrepancies

- Entered accounts payable and accounts receivable into accounting system
- Processed payments and organized client billing folders
- Assisted with daily cash balancing
- Reconciled bank statements and ledger accounts

## **EDUCATION**

*If the position requires education or certification to qualify, consider creating a section that details the information. Below is an example of how you can communicate your education. You can also include other job-related training and certifications.*

### **Type of Degree/Certification**

Completion or Expected Completion Date

Institution, City and State

GPA (if required)

### **Relevant Coursework**

*You may list some of the completed coursework if it is related to the job, especially if you haven't completed your degree or certification. This is not a requirement.*

### **Examples:**

#### ***Bachelor's of Science Information Systems***

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Completion date: 12/2018

GPA: 3.6

#### ***Certification in Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)***

Completion date: 8/2019

*Volunteer experience is just as important as paid experience. Include the same employment information as you would for paid work.*

## **VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

### **Your Taxes Done Right (non-profit)**

123 Tax Drive, Covington, KY 41016

Tax Preparer

Supervisor: Jack Johnson, (859) 555-0000

March 2017 - Current

15 Hours Per Week

- Assist more than 250 individuals each year with filing their taxes
- Stay abreast of new tax laws and advise peers of changes
- Interpret tax laws for colleagues and clients to ensure accurate submission of information

## **AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

*You can list awards, recognitions and achievements in this section. Consider those that are recent and related to the position and include them as well. If you have little to no work experience, you may include other awards. See the examples below.*

- Sustained Outstanding Performance Ratings 2014 – 2019
- Director's Award - 2018
- Member of the National Honors Society – 2017

\*\*\*\*\* **OPTIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY INCLUDE (SAMPLES)** \*\*\*\*\*

**Job-related training**

- Calculating Taxes for Individuals - 2018
- Itemizing Federal Taxes – 2018 and 2019
- Exemption Laws for Tax Preparers – 2019

**Language Skills**

- Fluent in speaking and writing Spanish
- Skilled in conversational French

**Professional Affiliations (Particularly those that are job related)**

- Lifetime member of the National Association of Tax Professionals

**References** – *not required on uploaded resume – we recommend you take a list of references to interview*

- In addition to providing the names of your current supervisor, you may want to list professional references who can vouch for your skills, character, work ethic and dependability.