

RESUMES COVER LETTERS INTERVIEWS

GUIDELINES, TIPS AND EXAMPLES

RESUMES

Definition: A brief account of one's experience and qualifications for the purpose of securing an interview for employment.

RESUME ESSENTIALS

- **Focus**

The resume must be able to stand alone without a cover letter. The reader must be able to immediately recognize the purpose of the resume.

- **Qualifications must match the job**

Identify skills, core attributes, experiences, etc. that show your value to the reader – tell the employer what you can do for them.

- **Action Verb + Skill + Task = Result**

Use this formula for writing bulleted phrases that define your work experience.

- **Balance**

Document must look aesthetically appealing

1-2 pages, only if second page is full

Font size: 10-12 pt. Font styles: Calibri, Times New Roman, Arial

Must be scanned in 15 seconds or less

Avoid using templates such as Microsoft Word - they are difficult to edit

References on a separate page

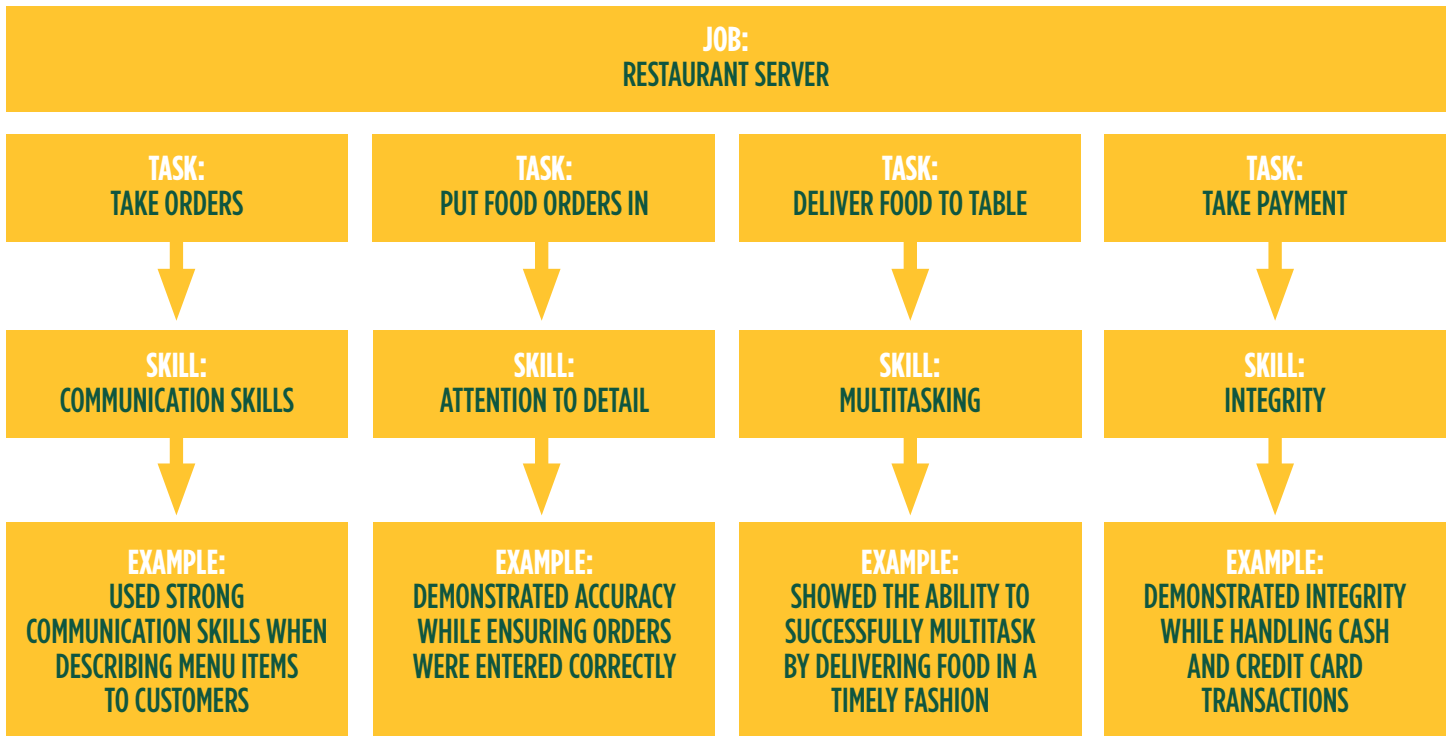
- **Error free – no exceptions**

DEVELOPING STRONG BULLET POINTS

Map it out

Do not think about a job or experience based solely on what you did, but also what you gained and learned. Employers will be evaluating you based on what you can do for his/her company; your past experiences are meant to determine whether or not your contribution will be positive.

Select the skills you have that will be the most meaningful for the job you are investigating. Do not get trapped into simply explaining your qualifications by what you did for your past employer.



RESUME TIPS

- Focus on relevant skills and experiences, as well as transferable skills
- Tailor each resume for the position you are applying for and match language used in a position description
- Less is more – avoid using lots of bold, underlined words and/or fancy fonts
- Use white space to indicate when each topic ends
- Margins between .5” narrow and 1” wide
- Be concise
- Use PDF format when uploading or emailing documents to employers
- Follow the application instructions
- Be honest
- Remember your social media or online digital image is part of your resume, many employers check Facebook and other social media sites
- **Course Work**
If you have taken a class or classes that help you meet the minimum employment qualifications, which can't be met otherwise, then list those classes on your resume.
- **Class Projects**
Only include class projects that help satisfy minimum employment qualifications for an internship or full-time job - be selective.
- **High School Activities and Honors**
After freshman year in college, high school activities and honors are no longer relevant.

ACTION VERBS AND ADVERBS

Quick reference for writing bulleted statements

- **Action Verb + Skill + Task = Result**
(Quantify when possible)

Example: Effectively demonstrated (AV) communication skills (S) by taking customer orders (T), resulting in 98% accuracy (R)

TASK ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR JOB/EXPERIENCE	SKILL(S) PERTAINING TO TASK	EXAMPLE: ACTION VERB + SKILL + TASK = RESULT

ACTION VERBS

Accomplish
Achieve
Administer
Apply
Assist
Attain
Calculate

Coordinate
Communicate
Construct
Contribute
Create
Delegate
Demonstrate
Design

Develop
Display
Document
Enhance
Execute
Facilitate
Formulate
Gain

Generate
Hone
Illustrate
Implement
Initiate
Improve
Lead
Leverage

Maintain
Manage
Master
Operate
Optimize
Organize
Perform
Present

Produce
Provide
Select
Supervise
Utilize
Upgrade
Work
Write

ADVERBS

Accurately
Creatively
Effectively
Efficiently
Successfully

Note: Make sure when using action verbs in your bullet points you are using the correct verb tense.

TOP 10 SKILLS FOR JOB CANDIDATES

1. Verbally communicate with people inside and outside the organization.
2. Work in a team structure.
3. Make decisions and solve problems.
4. Plan, organize and prioritize work.
5. Obtain and process information.
6. Analyze quantitative data.
7. Show technical knowledge related to the job.
8. Demonstrate proficiency with computer software programs.
9. Create and/or edit written reports.
10. Sell or influence others.

Source :
NACE Job Outlook 2013

Bill E. Bison

Current Address • City, State, Zip • 701.555.1212 • first.last@ndsu.edu

OBJECTIVE

To obtain a part-time job with the NDSU Bookstore for the fall 20XX semester.

EDUCATION

North Dakota State University

Fargo, N.D.

Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences, Minor: English

Anticipated Graduation May 20XX

GPA: 3.3/4.0, Dean's List (one semester)

EXPERIENCE

Two Stones Bison Ranch

Thompson, N.D.

Farm Hand/Laborer

March 20XX – Present

- Enhance leadership skills by planning annual branding and vaccination weekend meals and activities for 100 participants
- Utilize organizational skills to maintain ranch ledger and assist with payments and accounts receivable, thus ensuring all payments are made on time
- Demonstrate adaptability by assisting with various daily tasks on a family ranch, including: feeding of herd, branding, tagging and general upkeep of facilities and machinery

Employer Name

City, State

Position Title

Month 20XX – Month 20XX

- List three to five bullet points following the format: Action Verb + Skill + Task = Result (*Result is optional)

LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT

Residence Hall Government, North Dakota State University

Fargo, N.D.

Floor Representative

August 20XX – Present

- Develop presentation and verbal communication skills by facilitating floor meetings and educational workshops to ensure all constituents' voices are heard at hall-wide meetings
- Gained a better understanding of personal leadership style by attending the President's Student Leadership Camp in October 20XX

Nokomis Childcare Center

Fargo, N.D.

- Volunteer to read to toddlers for two hours per week during the academic year

August 20XX – Present

Red River High School Student Council

Grand Forks, N.D.

Senior Class President

May 20XX – May 20XX

- Utilized leadership skills to represent 300+ students to high school administrators and the Grand Forks School Board
- Demonstrated organizational skills by facilitating a 13-member Prom Planning Committee
- Selected by peers as Red River High Student of the Year

RECOGNITION AND HONORS

- Grand Forks Kiwanis Book Scholarship

May 20XX

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel

Bill E. Bison

Current Address • City, State, Zip • 701.555.1212 • first.last@ndsu.edu

OBJECTIVE

To obtain a Research Assistant I position with NDSU Research Lab

EDUCATION

North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D.

Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences, Minor: English

May 20XX

GPA: 3.6/4.0, Dean's List (six semesters)

RELATED COURSEWORK

- Microbiology I and Lab
- Chemistry I and II and Labs
- Biology I and II and labs

INTERNSHIP

Employer Name, City, State

Month 20XX – Month 20XX

Position Title

- Highlight a co-op/internship separately to illustrate its importance and relevance
- List three to five bullet points following the format: Action Verb + Skill + Task = Result (*Result is optional)

WORK EXPERIENCE

NDSU Pharmacology Lab, Fargo, N.D.

June 20XX – Present

Research Assistant

- Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability by assisting graduate students with the day-to-day operations of their individual research
- Hone ability to work in a fast-paced, changing workplace while being responsible for up to five projects at one time
- Display attention to detail by accurately documenting progress and measurable changes on projects
- Develop technical skills by utilizing basic and advanced lab equipment, technology, protocol and vernacular on a daily basis

NDSU Bookstore, Fargo, N.D.

August 20XX – May 20XX

Shift Supervisor

January 20XX – May 20XX

- Promoted to Shift Supervisor after six months of employment for demonstrating strong leadership and a commitment to customer service
- Demonstrated attention to detail and integrity by ensuring accurate cash count and daily register balances

Cashier

August 20XX – January 20XX

- Listened to and provided excellent service to diverse customers, thus resulting in higher customer satisfaction scores
- Worked individually, as well as part of a team to meet the goals established by the group or management

LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT

Fraternity/Sorority, NDSU

August 20XX – Present

Vice President for Risk Management

January 20XX – Present

- Develop leadership skills by assisting chapter with meeting facilitation and enforcing chapter bylaws

Philanthropy Chair

January 20XX – December 20XX

- Documented event goals and outcomes to submit to the Alumni Board for review, thus enhancing written communication skills

Nokomis Childcare Center, Fargo, N.D.

August 20XX – May 20XX

- Volunteered to read to toddlers for two hours per week during the academic year

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint

EXAMPLES OF CORE COMPETENCIES

Interpersonal competence

The ability to convey poise, self-assurance and professionalism; to build positive and long-term relationships and partnerships with coworkers and clients; and to demonstrate awareness and consideration of others' opinions, concerns and needs.

Problem analysis, decision making

The ability to identify, integrate and grasp critical elements of problem situations and to use logical and sound judgment. It also includes the ability to handle complexity, recognize subtle interrelationships, draw conclusions and make sound and timely decisions.

Administrative/organization skills

Included are setting and adjusting priorities, creating and implementing both short- and long-term plans, following through on responsibilities, handling paperwork effectively and efficiently, and structuring and allocating one's own time and resources productively.

Leadership

The ability to supervise, direct and guide individuals and groups in the completion of tasks and fulfillment of goals. This includes initiating new ideas, delegating responsibility and managing conflict.

Strong work ethic/integrity

Includes showing up on time, looking for ways to stay busy, being willing to accept challenges and sticking to a task until complete. It also means having a strong desire to complete a job well and taking responsibilities seriously.

Influencing others

The ability to use personal influence and persuasion to bring others to one's point of view, to project a "take charge" attitude and to bring about effective action through direction or collaboration.

Adaptability/flexibility

The ability to cope with the demands of work. Factors such as confidence, coping with stress and pressure, responding to new challenges and changing expectations, and maintaining flexibility and resilience through adversity are included.

Motivation

Includes initiative, commitment to high internal standards of excellence, achievement and ability to consistently meet or exceed performance expectations related to organizational goals and objectives.

Communication skills

Includes listening, conveying genuine interest in what others are saying, clarity and fluency in oral communication and the ability to ask probing and substantive questions.

Teamwork skills

The ability to form teams, build team effectiveness and trust, knowledge of the stages of team development and team process skills and conflict management. Team members put forth a cooperative effort for a common cause.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Employers expect you to apply different skills you have gained through various experiences to the work environment. Identify abilities on your resume that can be applied in several different professional settings. Transferable skills are your most marketable assets.

Example: Demonstrated organizational skills by effectively managing a 15-credit class schedule, three extracurricular activities and an off-campus work schedule of 25 hours per week while maintaining a 3.8 GPA.

Speak effectively	Promote change	Solve problems	Provide support	Facilitate group	Delegate
Describe feedback	Implement	Analyze	Identify problems	discussions	responsibility
Organize	decisions	Attend to details	Gather information	Provide appropriate	Manage conflict
Develop rapport	Manage time	Teach	Extract important	feedback	Enlist help
Motivate	Write concisely	Sell	information	Perceive nonverbal	Set/meet deadlines
Perceive feelings	Report	Cooperate	Enforce policies	messages	Accept
Forecast, predict	Interview	Listen attentively	Coach	Cooperate	responsibility
Identify resources	Assert	Negotiate	Make decisions	Imagine alternatives	
Define needs	Share credit	Persuade	Be punctual	Set goals	
Initiate new ideas	Represent others	Convey feelings	Meet goals	Develop evaluation	
Manage groups	Generate ideas	Counsel		strategies	

OPTIONAL RESUME SECTIONS

Resume sections should be relevant and tailored to the position you are applying for. For example, if you are applying for a teaching position, use **teaching experience** or **related experience** instead of work experience. This allows you to set the tone and focus of the resume and make it clear what relevant and related experiences you have.

Academic Achievements	Computer Languages	Licenses	Related Experience
Academic History	Computer Skills	Memberships	Related Field Work
Accomplishments	Cooperative Education	Military Experience	Research Experience
Activities	Dissertations	Military Service	Seminars
Associations	Education	Military Training	Skills and Attributes
Athletic Involvement	Educational Background	Objective	Special Awards and Recognitions
Awards	Employment History	Occupational History	Strengths
Awards and Distinctions	Exhibitions and Awards	Other Skills	Student Teaching Experience
Background and Interests	Extracurricular Involvement	Overseas Experience	Teaching Experience
Career Goal	Graduate School	Practicum Experience	Thesis
Career Highlights	Honors, Activities and Organizations	Professional Affiliations	Volunteer Experience
Career-Related Training	Internship Experience	Professional Experience	Work Experience
Career Skills and Experience	Job History	Professional Objectives	Work History
Certifications	Languages	Published Works	
Class Projects	Leadership Roles	Qualifications	
Coaching Experience		Related Course Work	

COVER LETTERS

Definition: A professional letter introducing another document. A letter of application summarizes qualifications for employment and introduces a resume.

COVER LETTER ESSENTIALS

- **Focus**
Well-written professional document created for a specific company and addressed to a specific person/department/company
- **Balance**
Document must look good on a page
1 page - Font size: 10-12 pt.
Font styles: Calibri, New Times Roman, Arial
- **Error-free – no exceptions**
- **Address position requirements or minimum qualifications**
Identify skills, core attributes, experiences, etc., that show your value to the reader – what you can do for the employer.
- **Strong closing**
Express an interest in participating in an interview to discuss your qualifications in greater detail.

COVER LETTER GUIDELINES

Use the same heading as your resume or:

Street Address

City, State

Month, Day, Year

Name of Recruiter

Title of Recruiter

Employer's Name

Employer's Street Address

City, State, Zip

SALUTATION

Dear Dr./Mr./Ms. (recruiter's last name followed with a colon):

OPENING PARAGRAPH (why you are writing)

- Identify the position for which you are applying, how you learned of the opening and/or the intent of your letter. If you are not targeting a specific position, but have an interest in the company and its mission then include that in this paragraph.
- Use a transitional sentence to introduce the second paragraph.

MIDDLE PARAGRAPH(S) (qualifications)

- Identify two or three ways you could successfully contribute to the overall functioning or growth of the company.
- Mention why you are excited about the position and the organization.
- Explain how your academic background makes you a qualified candidate for the position.
- If you have some practical experience, point out specific achievements or unique qualifications that evolved from it.
- Illustrate relevant knowledge and qualifications by providing at least one example of a time you used the specific knowledge or skill.
- Include a summary statement about your interest in the company and your ability to transfer your academic knowledge/work experience into a professional position.

CLOSING PARAGRAPH (wrap-up/action)

- Express an interest in participating in an interview to discuss your qualifications in greater detail.
- Provide your contact information.
- If applicable, make a statement that will encourage a response. For example, you can say you will be in town on a certain date and would like to schedule an appointment or you will call on a certain date.
- Thank the person for his/her time and consideration.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE

- Examples may include: Sincerely or Respectfully (always followed by a comma)
- Your name would appear typed four spaces below the complimentary close and your signature would appear between these two items.
- Note: The word "enclosure(s)" should appear beneath your name if you are sending any additional information (resume, etc.)

Bill E. Bison

Current Address • City, State, Zip • 701.555.1212 • first.last@ndsu.edu

Marcy 14, 201X

Ms. Carolyn Johnson
Human Resource Director
Employer name
1234 Street NW
City, State, Zip

Dear Ms. Johnson:

I am applying for the position of Project Engineer advertised in The Forum on Sunday, March 13. The skills I developed during my Cooperative Education assignment and throughout my academic work give me confidence in my qualifications for this position.

The Project Engineer position requires a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering, which I will have upon graduation this May from North Dakota State University. My course work has given me a broad spectrum of technical theory and applications. For the past two summers, I have worked as an Electrical Engineering Co-Op for (insert company name) in Alexandria, Minnesota. My work included designing and installing equipment to improve electrical generation efficiency and plant safety. Consulting with engineers and technicians when developing designs and modifications allowed me to learn new techniques, test new theories and improve my presentation skills.

This position requires similar skills that I developed working as a Co-Op, giving me confidence in my abilities to meet and exceed your expectations. Enclosed is a copy of my resume for your consideration and I look forward to an opportunity to discuss them with you in person. Please contact me at 701-555-1212 or first.last@ndsu.edu to schedule an interview.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

Typed name

Enclosure

-
- *Alternate formatting note:* When addressing job qualifications in a cover letter, you can use a bulleted list in place of the “middle paragraph.” However, if you choose to use a bulleted list, be sure your punctuation is correct. If you have questions about format, please contact the Career Center and we’re happy to assist you.

INTERVIEWS

Definition: A professional meeting to evaluate the qualifications of a prospective employee.

INTERVIEWING ESSENTIALS

- **Be professional**
Dress appropriately and arrive 10-15 minutes early.
Remember the interview starts the moment you arrive.
Come prepared with extra resumes and questions to ask the employer.
- **Research the company**
Take the time to research the company before your interview. Also, be able to tell the recruiter why you want the particular job or how you fit the job description.
- **Use the star method**
Use specific examples when responding, using Situation/Task, Action, Result.
- **Make eye contact**
Establish eye contact with each member of the interview panel.
- **Be sure to follow-up**
Send a thank-you note to every member of the interview panel within 24 hours.

BEHAVIOR-BASED INTERVIEW

Behavior-based interviewing is the most popular format among HR professionals. This style of interview focuses on past behavior to determine how an applicant will respond to similar situations in the future. Most questions are designed to elicit specific responses and detailed descriptions. Behavior-based interview questions will challenge the applicant to recall in detail what they did and how they felt. By doing this, the interviewer is able to see the big picture – the applicant’s thought process, decision-making abilities, communication skills and the results he or she achieved.

Applicants should answer behavior-based interview questions using the following format: Situation/Task; Action; Result (STAR)

Situation/Task

- Describe the situation you were in or the task you needed to accomplish. (Describe a specific event or situation, not a generalized description of what you have done in the past.)
- Be sure to give enough detail for the interviewer to fully understand the situation/task.

Action

- Keep the focus on you even if you are discussing a group project or effort.
- Describe what your role was – not the efforts of the team.
- Don’t tell what you might do, tell what you did.

Result

- Finish your answer by telling the interviewer what happened, how the event ended and/or what you accomplished.

SUCCESSFUL PHONE INTERVIEWING

- Treat the phone interview with as much preparation as you would an on-site interview.
- Stand and look into a mirror when answering their questions – this will remind you to smile.
- Ensure you are in a private location and will not be interrupted or disturbed.
- Have important documents (resume, portfolio), a note pad and several pens/pencils nearby.
- Dress up – it may be easier for you to think and sound more professional if you are dressed professionally.
- Keep the pace of your speech slow, as rapid speech is magnified over the phone.
- Be sure to enunciate your words very carefully.
- Do not use a cell phone, unless necessary.
- Record the names of each interviewer for a thank-you letter.
- Thank the interviewer. Let them know they can contact you with further questions.
- Make sure your outgoing voicemail message is professional.

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Common interview Q and A: Always finish your answer with the result/outcome.

Tell me about yourself.

- Almost always the first question an interviewer will ask.
- Companies are not looking for family history, hometown or hobbies.
- Keep your response related to the job you are applying for.
- Discuss education, work experience and skills, but do not ramble.

Tell me about a difficult decision you have made.

- Employers are looking for the process you used to make a decision.

Describe a time when you worked as part of a team.

- Draw on examples from past work experiences, class projects or athletics.
- Emphasize your role and how you contributed to the team.

Do you have any questions for me?

- Always have five questions prepared, ask three.
- Ensure they are not questions you can find the answers to on your own.
- Have questions written in a pad-folio notebook, and refer to that during your interview when appropriate.
- Never initiate questions about salary, vacation, break time or benefits during first/screening interview.

Questions you can ask:

- How would you describe a typical day on the job?
- How will this position be evaluated?
- What do you enjoy about working at XYZ company? (Gives insight into company culture)
- When are you planning to make your decision? (Always ask)

ADDITIONAL SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Give me an example of a time when you motivated others.
- Tell me about a time when you were forced to make an unpopular decision.
- When working within a group, what role do you typically take?
- Why do you want to work here?
- Assuming all candidates are similar on paper, why should we hire you?
- What experience do you have working with a diverse group of people?
- Give me an example of a time when you set a goal and were able to meet or achieve it.
- Tell me about a time when you had to use your presentation skills to influence someone's opinion.
- Tell me about a time when you had to go above and beyond the call of duty to get a job done.
- Tell me about a time when you had too many things to do and you were required to prioritize your tasks.
- Give me an example of a time when you had to make a split-second decision.
- Tell me about a difficult decision you've made in the last year.
- Give me an example of a time when you tried to accomplish something and failed.
- Give me an example of when you showed initiative and took the lead.

THANK-YOU ETIQUETTE

The thank-you letter will remind the interviewer how interested you are in the position and show appreciation for the interview. Here are some tips:

- Send a thank-you note to every person in your interview.
- Mail as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours.
- Note should be professional and brief
- Handwritten on a business professional note card (similar to graduate thank-you card)

If time is of essence, it is appropriate to send a thank-you email.

EMPLOYER EXPECTATIONS OF YOUR JOB SEARCH

- Present yourself well in writing on resumes, cover letters and thank-you notes/letters.
- Articulate your career goals.
- Define your motivation.
- Display maturity – good manners.
- Take seriously your transition from student to professional.
- Know your uniqueness, strengths and areas for improvement.
- Understand what talents you have to offer an employer.
- Present yourself well verbally.
- Project a professional image.

REFERENCES

References should be people who can critique your performance in past employment, education or community activities, such as supervisors, professors, volunteer coordinators, advisers or coaches. Unless specified, three to five contacts are typical for a reference sheet.

Tips:

- References should be professional or academic references – do not use parents or close personal friends.
- Ask for permission before using someone as a reference, ask them what they might say to a potential employer about you.
- Only submit references to employers when they are requested.
- Let your references know you are in a job search so they can be prepared if they are contacted.

First M. Last

Current address • City, State, Zip • 701.555.1212 • first.last@ndsu.edu

REFERENCES

Dr. John Scott

Adviser/Professor

Communication Department
North Dakota State University

1234 Bison Dr.

City, State, Zip

701.231.0000

john.scott@emailaddress.edu

Jane Reynolds

Owner

ABC, Inc.

1111 Some Street

City, State, Zip

701.555.2222

jane.reynolds@abc.com

Alice Haney

Executive Director

Helping Homes, Inc.

3433 ABC Street S.

City, State, Zip

701.555.1111

alice.haney@helpinghomes.com

COMMUNICATING WITH PURPOSE

Much of your communication with potential employers and other professionals will occur through email. It is important to remain professional in your correspondence since this form of communication will play a key role in how employers and professionals perceive you. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Be sure to have a professional email address. First.Last@email.com is great. Superstar82@gmail.com or fargocrazychic@yahoo.com are not appropriate for professional communication.
- Know with whom you are communicating. Always try to find a person to directly communicate with, if possible, rather than “To Whom It May Concern.”
- “Hello Mr. Bison” and “Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening Ms. Bison” are great ways to start your email. “Hey William” or “Howdy Kristine” are informal and unprofessional greetings.
- Remain relevant and concise in the information you provide in an email.
 - Introduce yourself.
 - Who referred you or how did you get their contact information?
 - Why are you contacting this person?
 - Thank them for their time.

SAMPLE APPLICATION EMAIL

Good Morning Mr. Johnson:

Attached you will find my cover letter and resume for the Marketing Internship position currently open with Marketing Company XYZ. I look forward to a personal interview with you. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Billy Bison

SAMPLE NETWORKING EMAIL

Good Morning Mr. Johnson:

My name is Billy Bison and I am a senior studying agronomy at North Dakota State University. My adviser, Dr. Thompson, encouraged me to contact you as I explore career options based on my experience, interest and academic achievement.

Dr. Thompson informed me that you also are a graduate of NDSU and was recently promoted to a regional director position with Ag Company XYZ after five years of agronomy sales experience. Your career sounds exciting and I am curious if you would be willing to meet with me in the next couple of weeks. In addition to sharing my goals and aspirations with you, I would like to learn more about your professional experiences and hear what advice you have for a new professional like myself.

I would be happy to meet for coffee or lunch. I am flexible during the next two weeks, so whatever time-frame works best for you. You can reach me at billy.bison@ndsu.edu or 701-555-5555.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Billy Bison

LINKEDIN

LINKEDIN ESSENTIALS

Complete your profile

- Create a strong professional summary. List qualifications and goals concisely and confidently, and complete the sections specific to college students, including: majors, minors, courses, projects, honors, awards and GPA.
- Describe experiences (can be Action Verb + Skill + Task = Result), including keywords and accomplishments.
- Incorporate related/industry keywords and phrases throughout profile (everything is searchable).
- Be strategic with your section layouts – put relevant information higher on your profile.
- Watch for spelling or grammatical errors.

Claim your unique URL

When you create an account, LinkedIn gives you a generic, random link to your page; follow the editing process to make your profile URL unique to you.

Participate in groups

- Update your profile regularly related to desired work.
- Collect recommendations from professionals you have worked with – the best profiles show diverse recommendations.
- Research and join university-affiliated and industry-related groups.

Use the alumni tool

Gain insight into a career path and network with NDSU alumni with similar majors and skills.

Actively update your profile

Remember, you are responsible for what you put out there for people to see.

For more information, visit: <http://students.linkedin.com>

PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE ESSENTIALS

MEN

Suit: Conservative, two-piece suit in black, dark gray or navy

Shirt: Long-sleeved white or light blue tailored shirt to pair with suit

Tie: Conservative with stripes or small pattern

Shoes: Polished dress shoes, over-the-calf dress socks and a belt to match shoes

Accessories: Keep at a minimum

Grooming: Hairstyle should be well-groomed and fingernails should be clean

WOMEN

Suit/Dress: Conservative style in black, dark gray or navy. Skirt at knee length

Shirt: White or light color blouse to pair with suit, nice sweater or shell

Shoes and Hosiery: Shoes should match suit and be low-heeled or a closed-toe pump. Hosiery plain or neutral

Accessories: Maximum of seven pieces

Grooming: Hairstyle should be well-groomed. Make-up should be minimal and natural-looking.

Fingernails should be clean with light or no polish

NDSU

CAREER CENTER

www.ndsu.edu/career

306 Ceres Hall • 701-231-7111

Call 701-231-7111 for an appointment

Services offered:

- Resume and cover letter critiques
- Interview preparation
- CAREERlink electronic job boards
- Cooperative education and internship programs
- Career fairs
- On-campus interviews
- Graduate school preparation
- Career Spots, job search videos
- Alumni services

9/14

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or status as a U.S. veteran. Direct inquiries to the Vice President for Equity, Diversity, and Global Outreach, 102 Putnam Hall, (701) 231-7708.