## **General Resume Guidelines**

## DO'S



- ◆ Lead with your strongest statements that are related to the job or goal.
- Emphasize your skills.
- ♦ Keep it brief (1-2 pages).
- ♦ Use 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
- Correct all typographical, grammatical, and spelling errors.
- ◆ Include your employment-related accomplishments.
- ♦ Target your qualifications.
- Clearly communicate your purpose and value to employers.
- ♦ Maintain eye-appealing visual appearance.
- Use the best format to showcase your skills.
- ♦ Appear neat, well organized, and professional.
- ♦ Be creative and relevant to job.
- Always include a cover letter when mailing your resume.
- To enhance your qualifications, use measurable outcomes, values, and percentages.

## **DON'TS**



- ◆ Do not use abbreviations (exceptions include middle initial and directions such as N for North).
- ♦ Do not use "I" to refer to yourself.
- Avoid any mention of salary expectations or wage history.
- Do not print on a dot matrix printer.
- ◆ Do not use fancy typeset, binders, or exotic paper.
- ♦ Do not send a photograph of yourself.
- ♦ Avoid statements that you cannot prove.
- ◆ Do not include personal information (age, height, weight, family status, picture, or religious or political affiliation unless you are applying for a job with one of these organizations).
- ◆ Do not change the tense of verbs or use the passive voice.
- ♦ It is not necessary to use the title "resume."
- ◆ Do not include references on the resume. Make a separate reference sheet.
- ◆ Do not include hobbies or social interests unless they contribute to your objective.
- ♦ Do not staple or fold your resume.