

# FIND YOUR NEXT, BETTER JOB! A JOB SEARCH WORKBOOK



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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is committed to helping you find your next, better job. This guide will help you be more successful in your job search. It will help you learn how to think outside the box, make a good first impression, find jobs that might not be advertised online, write a resume, fill out a job application and put your best foot forward during an interview.

You also will learn how to use **OhioMeansJobs.com**, Ohio's online career and employment center. **OhioMeansJobs.com** lists more than 100,000 job openings and has many other resources that can help you. You can use it to explore careers, write a resume, take online tutorials, practice interviewing and learn about apprenticeship opportunities. You also can learn about in-demand jobs in your area and find out about local training programs where you can get the skills you'll need to pursue those jobs.

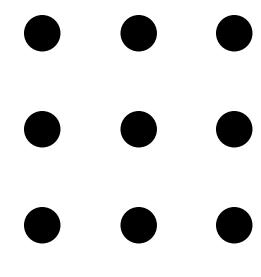
Of course, if you need face-to-face help, you can get it at your local OhioMeansJobs Center.





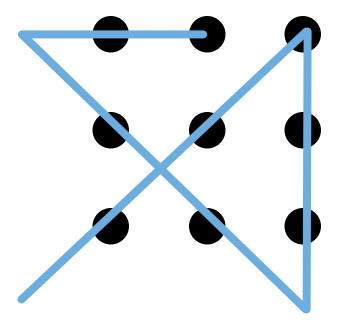
### A NEW WAY OF THINKING

Often, people use the same job-search strategies over and over again, regardless of the results. If your job search strategy hasn't been successful, maybe it's time to approach it in a new way. The exercise on the right is an example of a seemingly simple problem that requires a new way of thinking. As you can see, nine dots are arranged in a square. Can you draw four straight lines through all nine dots without lifting your pencil from the paper?



### **FIRST IMPRESSIONS**

The puzzle shows that the answer to a problem may not always be straightforward. As with the puzzle, your job search may require you to think outside the box. Searching for a job is a job in itself, and expanding your job search will greatly increase your chances of finding work.



### **IMAGE MATTERS**

You never get a second chance to make a first impression, so make it count.

Let's test your first impression skills.

What occupation do you think this man has?



### **FIRST IMPRESSIONS**

What about this one?

What influenced your answer?

When you're looking for a job, you never know who you might run into who could hold the key to your next position. Dress appropriately for events with family or friends, when you're meeting new people or even when you're just running errands. Make sure you're neat, clean and that you project a positive attitude.





### **EMAIL ADDRESS**

Keep your email simple and professional. An easy way to remember your email address is to use your name. This also will help employers find your resume, cover letter and any material you have sent to them.

### For example:

Janet R. Williams – janetrwilliams@email.com
Jeannie Mays – Jeannie.Mays@email.com
John P. Smith – johnpsmith@email.com

Avoid email addresses that may give a negative first impression. The email addresses below may be fine for family and friends who know you, but they could hurt your chances of being called for an interview.

### For example:

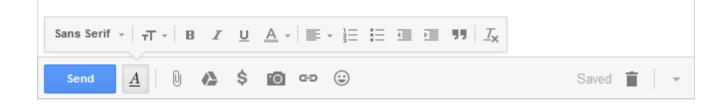
Old\_man\_05@email.com Sugarplum.granny@email.com redhot.mama@email.com fatheroftimkatetomandbilly@email.com

Also avoid letters and symbols that are hard to distinguish because they could make it difficult for an employer to contact you.

For example, the lowercase L, capital I, lowercase and capital O, and the numbers 1 and 0 can sometimes be confusing, as in "Lilly10G0@email.com."

Underscores are not visible if the text is underlined. For example, **John\_Smith@email.com** will display as **John Smith@email.com**.

Do not use your birth year or high school or college graduation year in your email address.



### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social media can be a great tool to market your skills and network for potential job opportunities. Let your friends and family know that you are searching for work by announcing it on social media.

### LinkedIn



LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network. It gives you access to people, jobs, news, updates and insights to help you be great at what you do.

### **Facebook**



Facebook is a personal network that allows you to connect with friends, family and other people you know.

### **Twitter**



Twitter is a social network that allows you to post short messages called "tweets."



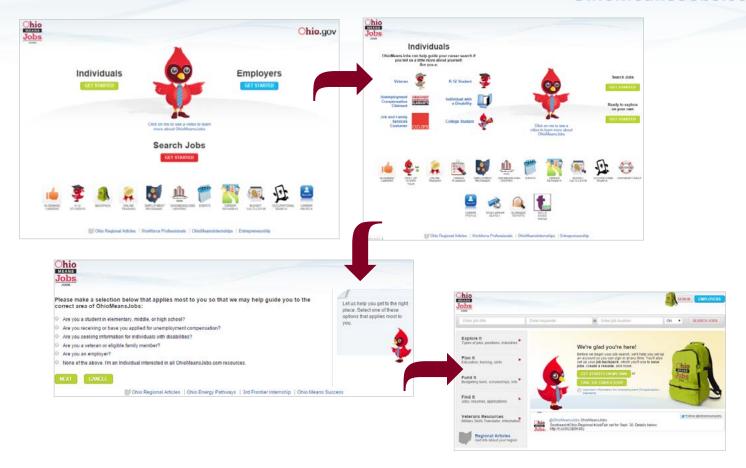
TIP: Visit omj.ohio.gov/collegiate for more social media advice.

### **General Social Media Tips**

- Your profile photo is the first thing an employer will see so select an appropriate picture (see below).
- Use the same profile photo for all of your social media accounts so employers can recognize you.
- Make sure your online presence is both professional and presentable.
- Be aware of privacy settings and make sure you always display a positive image on social media.
- Delete any unprofessional pictures, posts or tweets.
- Ask friends and family not to "tag" you in photos without your permission, or change your privacy settings so that you can approve or reject all "tags" before they become public.
- 37 percent of employers surveyed said they used social media to screen job candidates.
- 34 percent of hiring managers surveyed said information on a candidate's social profile made them decide not to hire that person.

### Source:

affordablecollegesonline.org



### **GETTING STARTED**

Go to **OhioMeansJobs.com**. Select the green "Get Started" box to access resources for job seekers.



The "Individuals" page has links to services and resources for job seekers.

Select the green "Get Started" box under "Ready to explore on your own."

Ready to explore on your own

Answer the questions so you can be directed to the parts of the website that will be most helpful to you.

TIP: The information you provide during your registration may help you get your next job. Criteria used in employer resume searches will be pulled from your registration and can set you apart from other candidates.

Select the green "Get Started On My Own" box to continue registering for an account.

GET STARTED ON MY OWN

OR

Select the green "Take the Guided Tour" box if you are unsure where to start and want to make the most of what **OhioMeansJobs.com** has to offer.

**GUIDED TOUR** 

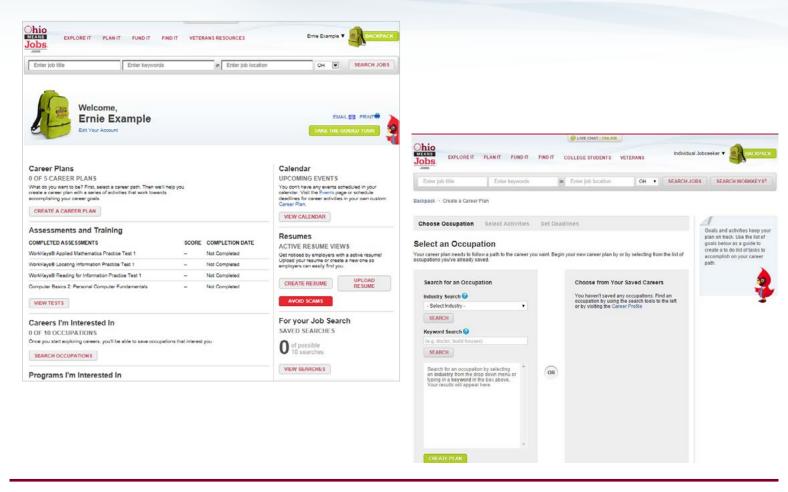
.com

TIP: The OhioMeansJobs.com icon will take you to the home page from any screen on the site.

Jobs



### OhioMeansJobs.com



### **BACKPACK**

After you create an account, everything that you do on **OhioMeansJobs.com** can be saved, printed and emailed from your virtual Backpack.



### RESUMES

You can upload or create up to five resumes, but you can post only one "active" resume for employers to see.



Employers will be able to see the title of your "active" resume, so keep it professional and to the point. Be sure your resume's title also is professional and to the point. This will give the employer an idea of what type of work you are searching for.

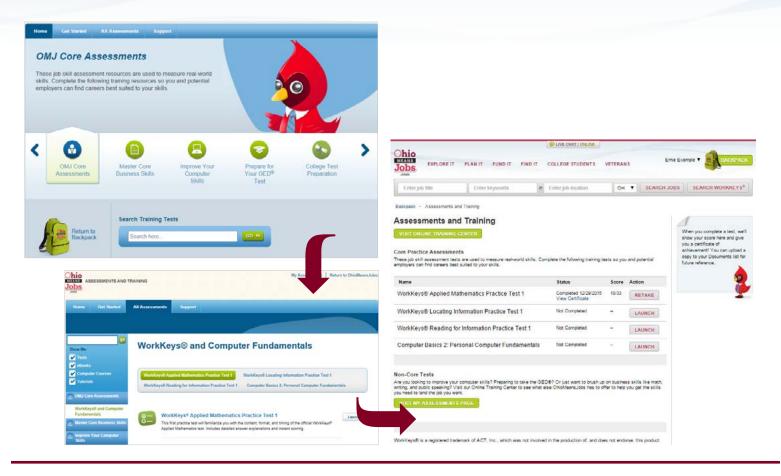
### **CAREER PLANS**



If you are interested in pursuing a new career, you can create a Career

Plan. You can save up to five career plans. With each, you can select activities that will help you pursue that career. You can schedule due dates for your activities, add notes to them and save them to your calendar. After an activity is complete, you can change its status to complete.

TIP: Remember to log in to your account to save activities and resources to your Backpack. If you are not logged in, nothing you complete will be saved.





## ASSESSMENTS AND TRAINING



OhioMeansJobs.com is committed to helping job seekers find new careers, jobs or training.

The Assessments and Training section has practice tests, tutorials and tips to help you achieve your goals.

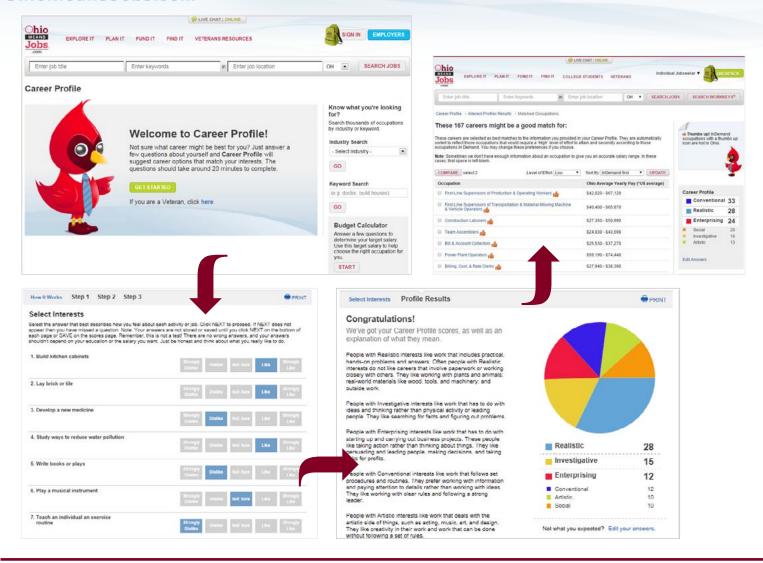
You can take practice tests and "core assessments" to measure real-world skills such as math, reading and locating information. **OhioMeansJobs.com** uses the certified WorkKeys® practice tests for these assessments. Some companies search for candidates who are WorkKeys® certified when they hire for open positions.

Afterward, you will receive a score and recommendations based on how you did. You may be given links to tutorials and tips to improve your score.

The "Improve Your Computer Skills" section has tips for using Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more. You can take basic, intermediate or advanced courses.

You can use your WorkKeys® assessment scores to search for jobs that match your abilities. This can give you an idea of what careers might suit you.

### OhioMeansJobs.com



### **CAREER PROFILE**



The Career Profile can help you find the types of jobs that would best suit your interests.

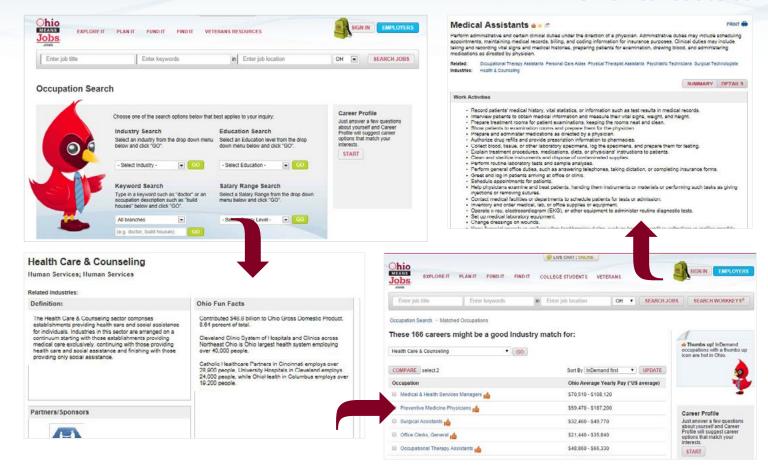
This is especially helpful if you are unsure what you would like to do for your next job. The 60-question survey will assess your likes and dislikes and recommend occupations that match your interests.

After you have completed the assessment, you'll be taken to a page that shows the types of jobs that would suit you best, with your highest matches listed first. Click on "View Occupations" to find occupations in your high-scoring categories. In-demand careers are listed at the top and have a thumbs-up icon next to them to show they are in a growing field.

For more information about an occupation highlighted in your Career Profile, click on the job title to bring up a description, related job titles, industry details, common work activities and skill requirements. From there, you can search for jobs, create a career plan, and search for education and training opportunities.

TIP: You can save the results of your occupation search to your Backpack and review them later.

### OhioMeansJobs.com



### **OCCUPATION SEARCH**



Through the OhioMeansJobs.com "Occupation Search" page, you can find

information about Ohio industries and occupations and search for occupations based on keyword, what they pay or the level of education they require.

To learn more about an industry, just select it from the drop-down menu. You'll find a definition of the industry and "fun facts" about it.

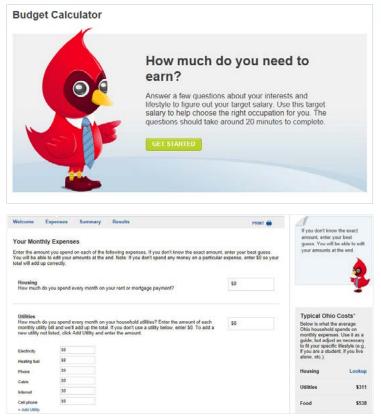
TIP: After you select an occupation, remember to save it to your Backpack!

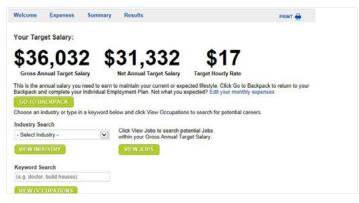
If you click on the blue "here" link in the "Labor Market Information" section, you'll be taken to a page showing a variety of information about that industry, including recent employment trends, average annual pay, how much education is required and other data.

If you click on the blue "here" link in the "Snapshot Reports" section, you'll be taken to a page showing the number of job openings posted online for that industry in a given month. The top employers for that industry will be listed, as well as the top occupations and other information.

If you click on the blue "here" link in the "Industry Careers" section, you'll be taken to a list of occupations in that industry, with the most in-demand occupations listed first. Ohio identifies in-demand occupations based on wages and the projected number of openings. Occupations with a "thumbs up" icon next to them are in demand.

If you select an occupation from the list, you'll see a description of work activities for that occupation, skills and education required, average salary, and even personality types best suited to that occupation, along with a great deal of other useful information. If you click on the "Education and Training Opportunities" button at the bottom, you can learn about nearby training opportunities for that occupation.





### **BUDGET CALCULATOR**



Whether you are changing careers or finding your next,

better job, the Budget Calculator can help in just a few quick steps.

First, the calculator will ask you questions about your monthly expenses, including housing, utilities, transportation, personal care, loans and savings. If you aren't sure, it can show the typical costs in Ohio for many of these things. You also can add expenses that aren't already listed.

Next, the Budget Calculator will estimate the target annual or hourly wage you'll need to cover your expenses and maintain your lifestyle. If the number isn't what you were expecting, you can go back and adjust your expenses as needed.

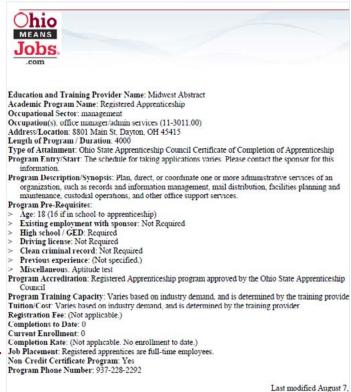
Once you have your target wage information, you can use it to search for in-demand occupations and job openings that meet your income needs. You can search by industry, keyword or just view all openings that pay the salary you want. This is especially helpful if you are just starting your career or if you're considering a career change.

With the Budget Calculator, you can:

- Estimate housing costs in various areas of Ohio.
- Trim your expenses in some categories to allow more flexibility in others.
- Plan for your future lifestyle.

TIP: Save your budget to your Backpack for future reference and job searches.





### **APPRENTICESHIPS**

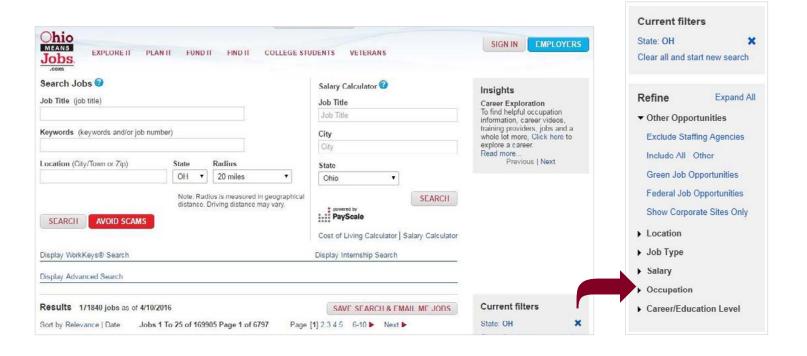
Registered Apprenticeship programs allow you to earn money while you learn the skills you need to build a rewarding career in almost any industry.

Ohio has more than 1,100 Registered Apprenticeship programs in fields as diverse as aerospace, construction, energy, health care, manufacturing and utilities. Each program includes at least 2,000 hours of full-time, structured on-the-job training and 144 annual hours of classroom instruction.

Every apprenticeship program is sponsored by an employer, an employer association or a labor-management committee. To learn more about a specific program, you must contact the sponsor directly. For a list of occupations that offer Registered Apprenticeship programs in Ohio, visit omj.ohio.gov/program.

Apprentices must be at least 18 (16 for some industries) and fit to work in the occupation. Most programs require a high school or vocational school diploma or GED, and most conduct skill testing for applicants.

Every program provides a wage increase at the end of each training segment. In addition, if you complete a Registered Apprenticeship program, you will receive a credential that is recognized nationally and even internationally.



### **JOB SEARCH**



This page allows you to search for job openings by job title, keyword,

location or radius. If you click on "Display Advanced Search," you also can search for jobs by company name, education level and occupation.

If you click on "Display WorkKeys® Search," you can search for jobs based on your WorkKeys® scores.

OhioMeansJobs.com has core assessments that use WorkKeys® tests to measure real-world skills that relate to your abilities. Each job is auto-scored to give you an idea of the skills needed for each position.

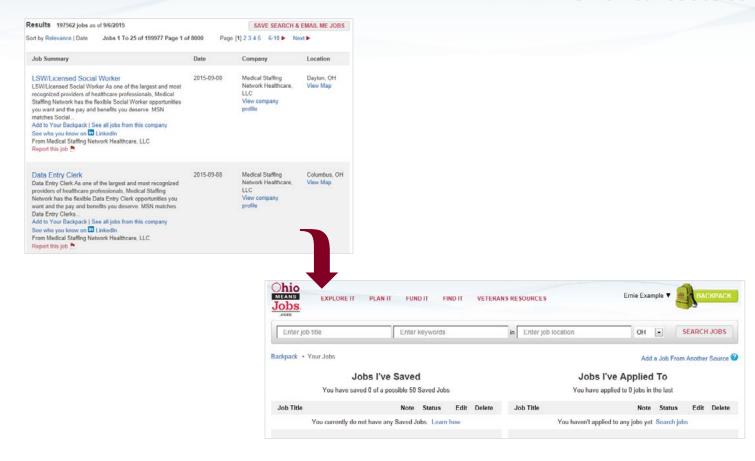
If you click on "Display Internship Search," you can search for internships in your area that can help you gain real-world experience in the field you are interested in.

If you click on "Display Advanced Search," you can filter your job search by company, required education level and occupation. The right side of the page displays the filters you chose. If you would like to narrow your search further, you can add more filters here.

If you click on "Salary Calculator," you can see what you could earn in the occupations you are researching. The "Save Search & Email Me Jobs" button lets you save a set of search criteria to your Backpack. You can save up to 10 searches and receive daily, weekly, biweekly or monthly email updates with new postings.

You can use your search results to enhance your job search. If you click on "View company profile," you'll be taken to a page where you can access the company's website or view all the jobs that company has posted. If you click on "See who you know on LinkedIn," you can see if you know any employees at that company.

TIP: Watch out for scams. Learn how by clicking the "Avoid Scams" button, next to the "Search" button.



## JOBS I'VE SAVED AND JOBS I'VE APPLIED TO

If you are interested in a job but don't have time to apply for it or if you need to do more research before you apply, you can save the job to your Backpack using the "Add to Your Backpack" option. You then can update the job's status to "saved," "applied," "interviewed," "hired" or "not hired" and include any notes about the job.

After you change a job's status to "applied," the job posting will be saved under the "Jobs I've Applied To" section of your Backpack. This will help you keep track of your job search and maintain good records.

### **ONLINE SECURITY**

OhioMeansJobs.com makes every effort to protect users from misinformation and fraud by removing inappropriate job postings. However, users should be cautious and use their best judgment. Be sure to conduct additional research to learn more about an employer before applying for a job.

Be wary of online business opportunities, work-at-home promises, and sites or postings that request personal information such as your Social Security number. Most employers will conduct a personal, face-to-face interview before offering you a job.

Identity theft is a significant and potentially costly problem, and you should never provide your Social Security number, birth date, credit card or checking account information, or other private information when responding to job opportunities online. If you see a job post and are concerned that it is not valid, click on the "Report this job" link in red at the bottom of the posting description.

TIP: You can manage your progress by saving your job searches and jobs you're interested in to your Backpack.



### Customer Service Representative

Company Description: Welcome to Tailored Management, your workforce partner. Here at Tailored Management we have established a track record of building lasting relationships with clients and candidates which has resulted in unparalleled success. We...

Add to Your Backpack | See all jobs from this company

See who you know on in LinkedIn

From ZipRecruiter

Report this job

2015-06-17

Tailored Management View company profile Reynoldsburg, OH View Map

### THE HIDDEN JOB MARKET

It's always best to try a variety of approaches when looking for work. You never know where you'll find a job.

Here are some common methods:

- Networking
- Cold calls
- Mail
- OhioMeansJobs Centers
- Career fairs
- Newspaper classified ads
- Libraries

The "hidden job market" is a term used to describe jobs that are not posted online or advertised. Networking is one way to discover open positions in the hidden job market. Anyone can be a network contact, including neighbors, friends, people you know who are working in the field you're targeting and your social media connections.

In partnership with LinkedIn, OhioMeansJobs.com has taken steps to help you build a network of contacts. Just log on to LinkedIn while performing a job search and click on "See who you know on LinkedIn" to see if you know any employees at that company.

Another way to search the hidden job market is to find employers that you would want to work for and send them a resume and cover letter.

To find employers, go to the "Quick Links" section at the bottom of most **OhioMeansJobs.** com pages and click on "More..." Click the "Labor Market Information" link, then click the "Employer Locator" link under "Additional Resources." You will be able to search for employers by business name, industry or occupation and location. When you find the employer you're looking for, click its name to view contact information.

Your resume is another important part of your job search. Often, it's the first impression an employer has of you, so make it a good one. Your resume is a personal advertisement to highlight your knowledge, skills and abilities. The most common types of resumes are chronological resumes and functional resumes. We'll describe each so you can decide which fits your skills and experience best. You can find more tips on how to create a resume at **OhioMeansJobs.com**.







### **PARTS OF ALL RESUMES**

Contact Information
 Name
 Mailing address
 Phone number
 Email address

• Skills and Qualifications

Specific skills related to the job

Work Experience

Companies you worked for and the dates you were employed

The types of duties you performed at each job

Accomplishments (optional)

Anything measurable that you achieved in previous jobs, such as improved sales, volume of work produced, money savings, completing work before deadlines, etc.

Promotions, awards or commendations you have received

Professional organizations you belong to or committees you have served on

Military (optional)

Any military experience you have had, including dates, positions and accomplishments

Education

Formal education (without dates)

In-house training

### CHRONOLOGICAL RESUME

- The most popular format.
- Lists employment history over the last 10 years in reverse chronological order.

### John Smith

Anytown, OH 555-555-5555 johnsmith@email.com

### **Skills and Qualifications**

- · Microsoft Word
- · Microsoft Excel
- Forklift Operator

- Overhead Crane Operator
- Shipping/Receiving

### **Work Experience**

2009-2015 Forklift Operator Manufacturing, LLC Anytown, OH

- Moved levers and controls to lift beams with swivel hooks and hoists
- Elevated platforms to load, unload, transport and stack material
- Loaded and unloaded materials from pallets, skids, platforms, cars, lifting devices and other transport vehicles
- Positioned lifting devices under, over and around loaded pallets, skids and boxes to secure material for transport to designated areas

2007-2009 Shipping and Receiving ABC Company Anyville, OH

- Examined shipment contents and compared with records such as manifests, invoices and orders to verify accuracy
- Recorded shipment data such as weight, charges, space availability, damages and discrepancies in Microsoft Excel for reporting purposes
- Prepared documents such as work orders, bills of lading and shipping orders in Microsoft Word to route materials
- Sorted cargo before loading and unloading
- Read work orders to determine work assignments and material or equipment needs
- Stacked cargo using pallets

2005-2007 Warehouse Laborer Shipping Company Anytown, OH

- Sorted cargo before loading and unloading
- Attached identifying tags to containers or marked them with identifying information
- Read work orders to determine material or equipment needed

### Accomplishments

• Received the 2014 Employee of the Year award at Manufacturing, LLC

### **Education**

 Internal Training
 ABC Company
 Anyville, OH

 College Degree
 Northwest College
 Northwest, OH

 High School Diploma
 West High School
 West, OH

### **FUNCTIONAL RESUME**

- Categorizes work experience by skill.
- Can include skill experience gained through employment, volunteering and/or hobbies.
- Highlights your transferrable skills.

### John Smith

Anytown, OH 555-555-5555 johnsmith@email.com

### **Skills and Qualifications**

- · Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- · Forklift Operator

- Overhead Crane Operator
- · Shipping/Receiving

### **Work Experience**

### **Forklift Operator**

- Moved levers and controls to lift beams with swivel hooks and hoists
- · Elevated platforms to load, unload, transport and stack material
- Loaded and unloaded materials from pallets, skids, platforms, cars, lifting devices and other transport vehicles
- Positioned lifting devices under, over and around loaded pallets, skids and boxes to secure material for transport to designated areas

### **Shipping and Receiving**

- Examined shipment contents and compared with records such as manifests, invoices and orders to verify accuracy
- Recorded shipment data such as weight, charges, space availability, damages and discrepancies in Microsoft Excel for reporting purposes
- Prepared documents such as work orders, bills of lading and shipping orders in Microsoft Word to route materials
- · Sorted cargo before loading and unloading
- Read work orders to determine work assignments and material and equipment needs
- · Stacked cargo using pallets

### Work History

2009-2015	Forklift Operator	Manufacturing, LLC	Anytown, OH
2007-2009	Shipping/Receiving	ABC Company	Anyville, OH
2005-2007	Warehouse Laborer	Shipping Company	Anytown, OH

### **Accomplishments**

• Received the 2014 Employee of the Year award at Manufacturing, LLC

### **Education**

 Internal Training
 ABC Company
 Anyville, OH

 College Degree
 Northwest College
 Northwest, OH

 High School Diploma
 West High School
 West, OH

### CHRONOLOGICAL RESUME (MILITARY)

A military resume is similar to a civilian resume, with the addition of a "Military Experience" section. When making your resume, try to match your military skills to those found in civilian occupations.

John Smith

Anytown, OH

555-555-5555

johnsmith@email.com

### **Skills and Qualifications**

- · Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Forklift Operator
- Overhead Crane Operator
- Shipping/Receiving Advanced First Aid Training
- Hand and Power Tools

### **Work Experience**

2009-2015 Forklift Operator Manufacturing, LLC

Anytown, OH

- · Moved levers and controls to lift beams with swivel hooks and hoists · Elevated platforms to load, unload, transport and stack material
- Loaded and unloaded materials from pallets, skids, platforms, cars, lifting devices and other vehicles
- Positioned lifting devices under, over and around loaded pallets, skids and boxes to secure material for transport to designated areas

### 2007-2009 ABC company Shipping and Receiving

- · Examined shipment contents and compared with records such as manifests, invoices and orders to verify accuracy
- $Recorded\ shipment\ data-such\ as\ weight,\ charges,\ space\ availability,\ damages\ and\ discrepancies-in$ Microsoft Excel for reporting purposes
- Prepared documents such as work orders, bills of lading and shipping orders in Microsoft Word to route materials
- Sorted cargo before loading and unloading
- Read work orders to determine work assignments and material or equipment needs
- · Stacked cargo using pallets

### Warehouse Laborer Shipping Company

- Sorted cargo before loading and unloading
- · Attached identifying tags to containers or marked them with identifying information
- · Read work orders to determine material or equipment needed

### Accomplishments

• Received the 2014 Employee of the Year award at Manufacturing, LLC

### **Military Experience**

2001-2005 0311 Rifleman United States Marine Corps

- Trained in advanced first aid, risk management, and safety and occupational health programs
- · Worked with hand and power tools
- · Performed security duties for U.S. ambassadors in foreign countries

### Education

**Internal Training** ABC Company Anyville, OH College Degree Northwest College Northwest, OH **High School Diploma** West High School West, OH

## FUNCTIONAL RESUME (MILITARY)

- Use the Military Skills
  Translator, available at
  OhioMeansJobs.com, to match
  your military skills to civilian
  work activities. To find it, click
  on the "Veterans" icon at the
  bottom of the home page.
- Include any accomplishments you achieved during your military experience.

**John Smith** 555-555-5555

Anytown, OH johnsmith@email.com

### **Skills and Qualifications**

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Forklift Operator
- Risk Management

- Overhead Crane Operator
- Shipping/Receiving
- Advanced First Aid Training
- · Hand and Power Tools

### **Work Experience**

### Forklift Operator

- Moved levers and controls to lift beams with swivel hooks and hoists
- · Elevated platforms to load, unload, transport and stack material
- Loaded and unloaded materials from pallets, skids, platforms, cars, lifting devices and other transport vehicles
- Position lifting devices under, over and around loaded pallets, skids and boxes to secure material for transport to designated areas

### **Shipping and Receiving**

- Examined shipment contents and compared with records such as manifests, invoices and orders to verify accuracy
- Record shipment data such as weight, charges, space availability, damages and discrepancies in Microsoft Excel for reporting purposes
- Prepare documents such as work orders, bills of lading or shipping orders in Microsoft Word to route materials
- Sort cargo before loading and unloading
- Read work orders to determine work assignments and material or equipment needs
- Stack cargo using pallets

### **Work History**

2009-2015	Forklift Operator	Manufacturing, LLC	Anytown, OH
2007-2009	Shipping/Receiving	ABC Company	Anyville, OH
2005-2007	Warehouse Laborer	Shipping Company	Anytown, OH

### Accomplishments

• Received the 2014 Employee of the Year award at Manufacturing, LLC

### Military Experience

2001-2005 *0311 Rifleman* United States Marine Corps

### Education

 Internal Training
 ABC Company
 Anyville, OH

 College Degree
 Northwest College
 Northwest, OH

 High School Diploma
 West High School
 West, OH

### **COVER LETTERS**

A cover letter shows your interest in a position, highlights how your skills and qualifications will add value to the company, and gives the employer a better idea of who you are as a person. You should write a unique cover letter for each position you apply to.

Try to find a person's name to address the letter to. If no name is available, address it to "Hiring Manager."

### John Smith

Anytown, OH 555-555-5555 email@email.com

ABC Company 1234 Main St. Columbus, OH

Re: Shipping/Receiving Supervisor Position

Hiring Manager:

I am eager to join the ABC Company as the Shipping/Receiving Supervisor because I realize that your commitment to performing quality manufacturing creates a challenging yet rewarding work environment. In my current position as a forklift operator for Manufacturing, LLC, I seek out opportunities to improve quality of production while delivering the best of my expertise in this profession.

Through professional experiences, I have acquired skills and expertise highly relevant to the Shipping/Receiving Supervisor position for ABC Company. I have:

- Ensured safety and sanitation regulations.
- Recorded shipment data in Microsoft Excel.
- Read and interpreted orders for work assignments.
- Inspected materials, products and equipment to detect defects or malfunctions.

My resume is enclosed for your further consideration. I would like to meet with you soon to discuss employment possibilities with ABC Company. I can be reached at 555-555-5555.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Smith

Enclosure

### TIPS FOR RESUME WRITING

- Use keywords that are common in the occupation.
- Research the company you are sending your resume and cover letter to so you can tailor them to the company's needs.
- Focus on your skills, experience, achievements and education.
- Never include confidential personal information such as your Social Security number, birth date, driver's license number or financial information.
- Save your resume in a common format such as Microsoft Word or PDF.
- Use bullets instead of paragraphs.
- To find occupation keywords and other resume tips, go to the Quick Links at the bottom of **OhioMeansJobs.com** and click on "Resume & Cover Letters."

TIP: You can rate your resume on OhioMeansJobs.com to see if it needs improvements.

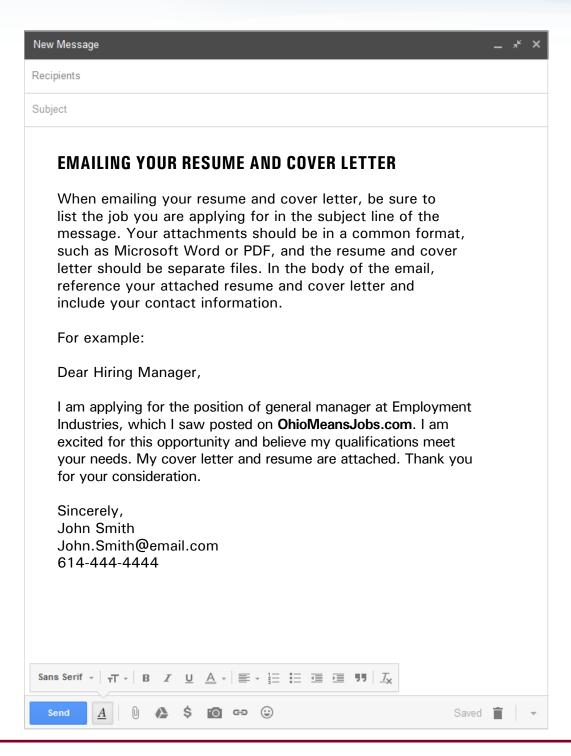
## TIPS FOR COVER LETTER WRITING

- Keep it short. Two or three paragraphs should be enough to introduce yourself and explain why you would be an asset to the company.
- Mention a few key skills that make you a great candidate for the job. You'll send your resume with your cover letter, so avoid repeating too many details from your resume.
- Close the letter by stating that you would like to meet with the reader soon, and provide your phone number. Then thank the reader for his or her time and consideration.
- Use keywords from the job post to demonstrate that you meet the job's specific qualifications.

OhioMeansJobs.com can help you manage your cover letters. You can save cover letters to your Backpack to help you write future versions. For cover letter writing tips, go to the Quick Links at the bottom of OhioMeansJobs.com and click on "Resume & Cover Letters."



TIP: Go to the "Quick Links" section at the bottom of most OhioMeansJobs.com pages and click on the "Resume & Cover Letters" link.



### **HOW TO ATTACH FILES TO AN EMAIL:**

- 1) Click the "Attach File" button on your email browser window.
- 2) Click "Browse" and navigate to where your file is saved on your computer.
- 3) Locate your file and click on it.
- 4) Click "Attach."

Many employers use job applications to more easily compare your skills and qualifications to those of other applicants. Create a good impression by fully answering all of the questions on the application, even if the information is contained in your resume. Do not write "please see resume" on any job application. When filling out an online or electronic application, you can copy and paste work descriptions from your resume.

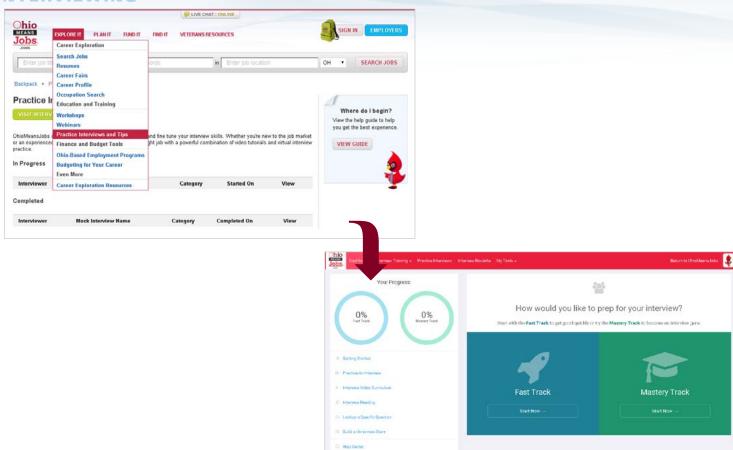
If you pick up a paper application in person, it's best to dress nicely and fill out the application on the spot to show that you're prepared. Remember to be courteous to staff. Your actions could make or break your chance for an interview.

### TIPS FOR JOB APPLICATIONS

- Read the instructions carefully before getting started and follow the instructions fully.
- If you are filling out a paper application, use a blue or black ink pen.
- Store important information, such as past employment dates and reference names and numbers, in a notebook that you can take with you when filling out applications. This will show the company that you are prepared and ready to work.
- Fill out the application neatly and accurately.
- Be clear and specific. Describe how your skills match the skills listed in the job posting. Don't make the employer try to figure it out.
- If the application asks what job you're applying for, write a specific position, not "anything" or "open."
- If the question does not apply to you, write "Does not apply" or "N/A."
- Read and check the application for completeness before turning it in to the employer.
- Remember to sign and date the application.



### INTERVIEWING



An interview is not only for the employer to get to know you; it also is your chance to learn about the company and the open position. To make the interview a success, do your research and prepare for potential questions. Many resources are available to help you with this.

### INTERVIEWING TOOL

OhioMeansJobs.com offers an interviewing tool with tutorials to help you practice interview questions. You can become comfortable with common interview questions by recording, reviewing and sharing your answers.

To access the tool, go to OhioMeansJobs.com and click on "Practice Interviews and Tips" under either the "Explore It" or "Plan It" tabs.

If you have an interview coming up in the next few days, click "Fast Track." If you have time for a more comprehensive tutorial, click "Mastery Track."

In the Fast Track section, you can practice answering the most common interview questions, such as "tell me about yourself," "why do you want to work here," and "describe your strengths and weaknesses." Each question has a video to help you better understand what the employer is looking for. Even though it looks like a lot of questions and information, each video is no longer than seven minutes.

To help you prepare for the question, it might help to write down your answer. When you're ready, you can record your answer and review it to give yourself an idea of what the interviewer will see and hear. Then you can rerecord your answer until you're satisfied.

### RESEARCH

Look at the company's website. You can learn facts about the company that aren't included in the job post. The website also can help you think of questions to ask the employer, which will show that you are interested in the company.

You also should research salary information for the position, in case the interviewer asks you what your desired pay is. Never mention wages unless the interviewer brings it up first, or you could appear to be more interested in the paycheck than the position. To find the average wage for the position you are applying for, go to the Occupation Search tool in OhioMeansJobs. com (under the "Explore It" tab). Enter the occupation into the "Keyword Search" field and click "Go."

### **ASSESSMENTS**

Some employers will ask you to take an assessment to demonstrate your skills before an interview. Take the full amount of time they give you and answer the questions to the best of your ability. Write or speak clearly and concisely.

## PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

The key to a successful interview is practice. Be sure to prepare for all of the following types of interviews:

### Phone

To narrow the number of applicants, some employers begin with a telephone interview. Practice common interview questions that focus on your experience and how it relates to the position you are applying for.

### • One-on-one

This is usually an in-depth, in-person interview to evaluate your qualifications for the position and your ability to fit in. Remember to establish a connection with everyone you meet. You never know who might have the ability to influence the decision to hire you.

### Panel

A group of people (usually three or more) will ask about your qualifications and skills. As in the one-on-one interview, establish a connection with each person on the panel to demonstrate your interest in and enthusiasm for the position.

### Behavioral

In a behavioral interview, the interviewer typically describes a work-related situation and asks how you would handle it based on your past work experience. This gives the employer more information about your behavior, personality and character. If you mention a specific event from your past, make sure it had a positive result.

### THE STAR METHOD

When answering behavioral questions in interviews, use the "STAR Method." Here's how it works:

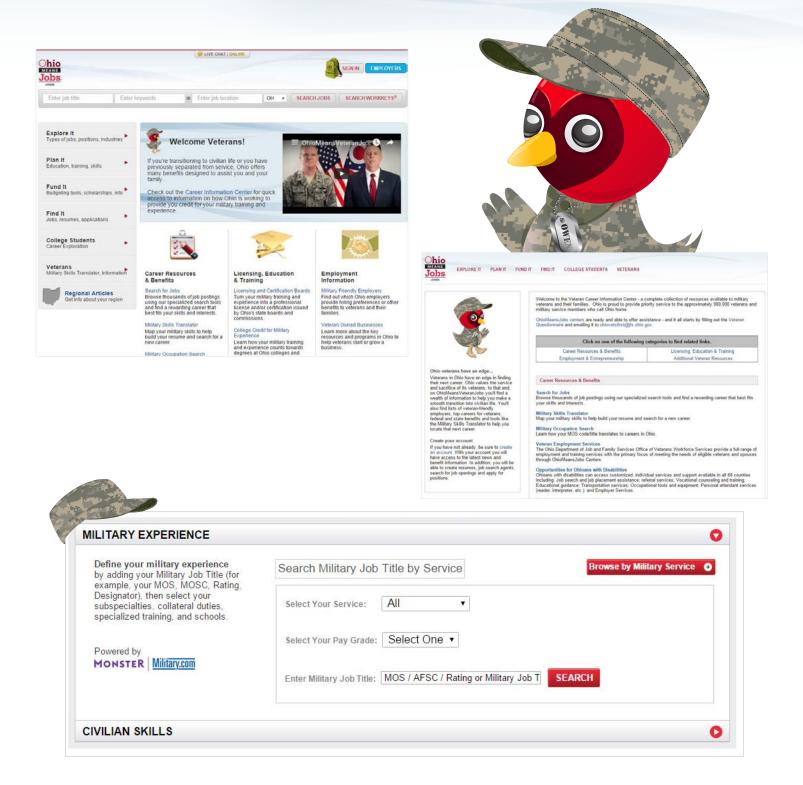
Situation — Start by describing something that happened in a previous job that was similar to the situation the interviewer described.

Task — State the goal you were working toward to resolve the problem.

**A**ction — Describe the actions you took to resolve the problem.

**R**esult — Finally, describe the positive results of your actions.





## OHIOMEANSJOBS.COM FOR VETERANS

If you are a veteran or know a veteran who is transitioning to civilian life, **OhioMeansJobs.com** has many tools that can help.

Just click on the "Veterans" icon at the bottom of the home page.

Veterans can get help translating their military job experience into civilian experience, post their resumes, and learn about possible additional federal and state benefits. The Veterans page has a list of military-friendly employers who are committed to hiring veterans in Ohio.



### **In-Demand Careers**

Look for the "thumbs up" when researching careers to find the occupations that are growing and offer good pay.



### **Events**

Interested in attending a workshop or job fair? Click the Events icon to register and attend an event in your area.



### **Career Profile**

Want to know which jobs best match your interests? Use this tool to find out.



### **Employment Programs**

Find employment programs to help you get the training, experience and connections you need to be successful in your career.



### **Budget Calculator**

This tool can help you budget and find a career that will cover your expenses.



### Backpack

Store all your career-related activities and documents in one place and access it from anywhere.



### **Veterans**

Ohio offers many resources and benefits designed to help veterans and their families transition to civilian life.



### **Occupational Search**

Use this tool to find work activities, wages, skills and videos about specific occupations.



### OhioMeansJobs Centers

OhioMeansJobs Centers offer free services to help you with your job search, including resume assistance, fax and copy machines, computers, workshops, and job leads.



### **Unemployment Insurance**

Claimants can click this icon to learn more about and complete required activities.



### **Online Training**

Check out this tool to take practice licensing, GED and college readiness tests or tutorials on Microsoft Office software.



### **Practice Interviews**

Use this tool to prepare for your next interview by learning about what employers expect and how to develop your answers.



### 1st Up! Guided Tour

This online tour will help you make the most of what OhioMeansJobs. com has to offer by walking you through key activities.



### **Career Planning**

Once you have found an occupation you are interested in, this tool can help you plan how to achieve your goal.







John R. Kasich, Governor State of Ohio

Cynthia C. Dungey, Director Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

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