

Optimal Resume Survey

The survey was sent to students who had registered with OptimalResume in the Fall 2005 Semester. It was sent via email on November 20, 2005. Surveys were sent to 796 students. 81 students responded for a response rate of 10%.

The survey used a 5-point Likert scale with 5 being Strongly Agree and 1 being Strongly Disagree.

| Statement | Mean |
|--|------|
| 1. OptimalResume was effective in helping me create a high quality resume. | 4.4 |
| 2. The instructions on how to access OptimalResume were clear. | 4.6 |
| 3. Once I logged into OptimalResume, the program was easy to navigate. | 4.4 |
| 4. There is adequate on-line help provided for OptimalResume. | 4.2 |
| 5. I would recommend OptimalResume to other students. | 4.6 |

6. How did you hear about OptimalResume? (Check all that apply.)

Career Center Staff (n=32)
Career Center Website (n=27)
U101 (n=27)
Faculty (n=12)
Friend (n=10)
USC CareerLink Announcement (n=7)
Postcard (n=4)
College Listserv (n=2)
Campus Organization (n=2)
Gamecock (n=1)
Parents (n=0)

7. What did you like most about Optimal Resume? (unedited responses)

Its easily updatable

Its set up for you...all you have to do is fill in the information. It is much better than creating an entirely new resume.

It made it simple to get everything together and walked me through the process of organizing all of it.

It was so easy to use, especially for someone who has never created a resume before.

This is a great program! It is fast and very easy to use! I love how my resume looks!

I liked the step by step process that allowed making a resume easy and fast.

The ease of entry

Very easy and professional and great examples

It is very easy to navigate through the system.

how it gives you examples of what to put if you're not sure

Easy to use - just plug information in

the samples, and telling you possible categories

The formats were all built in. It felt like fill in the blank, and it gave you good ideas on what to add, which were sometimes things I would have never thought of putting in my resume.

It was very easy to use. I was able to provide my information and the format, which is the hardest part to me, was taken care of. Also it didn't need to be printed, you could just set up a webpage. That was cool. the flash design of the resumes

how simple it made writing a resume

It was helpful in creating my first resume.

Its easy to use and creates a professional document.

I like the examples it gives for each field.

Creates attractive resume. Offers form help immediately

its easy to design a resume

It was good for outlining and figuring out the information to include.

The professional appearance of the finished resume and the helpful hints.

Its easy to use and helps you on what to put in your resume.

The options of resume appearance formats.

The great help that was offered.

The vast amount of options.

It was easy to use and extraordinarily simple

its so easy to use.

It makes creating a well organized, position specific, resume easy and hassle free by providing plenty of examples of what each category is intended to represent.

I like the virtual aspect of it. The ability for a prospective employer to look at my information online is very pleasing. It also eased and preformatted an essay that is easy to read and is good in appearance.

Resumes can be updated easily.

It was very easy. It told me exactly what to do. I also liked the examples it gave me under each category.

It helps make a decent resume

I love it sets up and aligns everything for you so you are not spending hours trying to make sure everything is 1 inch from the margin and 5 spaces from the top and so on.

Its so easy to use.

ease of use

It is technologically up to date.

I liked that it had set-ups that were already made for you that you just had to fill in your information. It made the process much easier and faster.

The format of the program is easy to understand and work with.

though I've had many resume types presented to me, if this particular program is recommended by a collegiate staff to use, then I will.

I like that it suggests action words to use in the resume.

It has great examples of how to write in good phrases that you can elaborate on in the interview.

IT really helps with the format and that is one of the most important things. Also it helps with affective words to use.

Easy to use and understand

I enjoy the fact that students have the opportunity create high quality resumes that are more impressive than most resumes used today.

It was easy to figure out what to do next. It was an easy step by step process.

ease-of-use

That it was interactive

I really like the online version of my resume. It makes it look very professional. I have given the link to

many professors who say it is a very nice program to be used.

The part I found most helpful was being able to go into the Career Center and have someone review my resume and give me ideas to make it stronger. I really benefited from their advice.

I like the fact that it gives you another way of presenting your resume to employers. My own personal webpage is real eye catching.

Web link

8. What change(s) would you recommend making to OptimalResume? (unedited responses)

cover letter guide should be included also

Explaining that it needs to be made live or active.

For some reason when I would edit a particular section I would X out of the box instead of clicking done and whatever I had changed was Xed out and never saved so I had to continue redoing changes that I have made.

formats just dont fit all resume types

I couldnt figure out how to print a decent looking resume. It said "export to word document," but all I got was a rich text format document that looked very unprofessional.

I do not think I would make any changes.

I dont think that I would change anything about it honestly.

I have not been able to send the resume to anyone using the actual program.

I think it should give more options. There should be a variety of templates that you can use.

I would make different layouts

If you exit out of the help window instead of hitting the back button, it exites you out of your whole resume. Id like it if it would just return you to your resume when you clicked the x button.

Include a section on cover letters.

It is really hard to edit a resumes format (font style, bold headings, bulleted lists, etc...).

It would be nice to have more detailed instructions and info available about how to use the other features of Optimal Resume besides just creating it. For example, how to make it live as a web address. I basically stumbled across this feature.

Make it easier to navigate

Make sure its compliable to the U101 standards.

Making it easier to print off your resume and make it look professional and neat

Making the explaniations a little easier. Some things I did not understand.

making the style on the flash resumes printable, not plain like the regular printable one.

more examples of other resumes

more formatting options. Its almost impossible to format each section

NONE (11 Responses)

perhaps clearer differences between internship vs job resumes

perhaps have specific resumes according to major

setting it up is a bit difficult.

since i dont know any other resume websites, i cant make an informed decision

The given examples are nice. More would be helpful.

The quickest way for me to get to the website is through my email. If I go through the career center there are like 5 different clicks to get to the log in page.

There needs to be a way to easily print the resume in proper format.

There were a lot of limitations to what you could do with the program. There should also be additional templates (or ways to create your own)

9. What feedback have you received from employers/faculty/others about OptimalResume? your (unedited responses)

Faculty and others liked my old resume much better.

havent gone that far

I got an "ok" response back from my U101 teacher.

I had to turn in a resume for my University 101 class and my instructor was impressed with the format. I have been it was impressive, professional, and pleasing to the eye.
I have been told it is good for a "first resume."
I have heard only positive things about the optimal resume selection.
I have received feedback that I need to make all my verb tenses in the past.
I have yet to finish it.
I turned mine in for a graded assignment and my teacher thought it was well done.
I was told a "wisard" is not good for a resume.
it was approved by Career Center staff
Its not very impressive.
Looks neat, easy to read
my peers seem impressed by the way it looks
My professors say it looks very professional online.
My teacher really thought that my resume was of fine quality.
My teacher thought it was impressive.
None or Nothing (12 responses)
That is was concise, yet included all needed info.
that it was a well-written resume
The career center staff recognized immediately that my resume was created using the program so it has too much of a template look.
The resume is very impressive.
They feel that my resume was above and beyond their expectations.
They liked the format that I used.
They liked the way it looked, and to keep it all to one page.
they say it looks professional
This is the first thing I have recieved.
Well I made my resume for a grade in my Careers in Retailing class and I got an A so i guess i have gottena positive feedback from my professor

10. Please provide us any additional comments/suggestions. (unedited responses)

Again, I just wanted to emphasize how much help it was to have someone review my resume. I felt that the changed made really took my resume to the next professional level.

Great Job!

I think this should be plugged to the University 101 classes, as many incorporate writing a resume into the course

It was great and I will continue to use it.

Its a really good tool!

Let more people know about it

NONE

none. good program

Thanks.

There needs to be resume help available other than in the afternoons, especially if its going to require more than one visit to the Center to have your resume posted and enjoy all the online features.

There should be some nice looking printable(Word/pdf) formats to choose from, since it is the printed copy employers usually see first. I had to cut and paste the info from the rtf doc. into a "real" resume format.

yeah it would be helpful to have the flash a printable, and savable file to have.

You answered my questions quickly and this surprised me. I was over all very pleased.

You may want to send schoolwide e-mails periodically letting students know about this wonderful program.