

Translating your Research Experience into Jobs or Graduate School

Gather Needed Information:

The who, what, where, when, and how

Experiences, dates, locations, faculty names, Project title, activities, type of project (Own project vs. professor's research vs. classroom (CURE)), Awards, Scholarships/Fellowships, Presentation & Publications list.

Reflect on the experience for learning gains.

Differentiate between content, skills, and experience
Skills (examples not exhaustive)

Professional Skills

Communication
Collaboration
Mentorship
Writing
Application to real world
Problem-solving
Creativity
Applying knowledge
Ethics and integrity
Using feedback

Technical Skills

Data collection
Fieldwork
Data analysis
Lab/Studio Skills
Compliance
Safety
Software usage
Instrument use
Portfolio development
Language skills

Writing Personal Statements that include Research Experience

- Reflect on specific and overarching skills. Reflect on learning outcomes. Discuss your peer mentoring experiences through research
- Use [Bloom's taxonomy](#) action verbs as you talk about your experiences.
- Connect your experiences to what you are hoping to achieve in this position/role (e.g. Research in x led to a desire to pursue a PhD in Y because... How did your research experience reinforce your career/education choice?)

Preparing to Discuss your Research Experience in Interviews

- Practice your elevator pitch for each experience. Distill the important information down into 2 mins or less each.
- Focus on how these experiences can be applied to the new position.
- Identify 1-3 ways you would use your experience (skills are important) in the job/career and how it connects to your motivation.
- Don't talk negatively about experiences instead focus on the positives. (e.g. instilled confidence to pursue X over Y).

Formatting your Research Experiences for a CV or Resume

Determine the goal for preparing the CV or Resume. A resume is generally a less detailed 1-2 pages. Descriptions only have a title and name of experience, year. You should focus on skills for the position. On a CV, it is a historical biography of your education and employment history. Use a consistent citation style for your discipline.

How to include specific details about undergraduate research experiences:

- Include the key details for each experience.
 - Where did you do the research? For how long? Who was your supervisor? What was the title of the project?
- Don't overstate classroom research experience.
 - There is no doubt that classroom undergraduate research experiences are valuable and impactful, but be clear whether your research experience was independent or part of a class. Focus on skills and outcomes for classroom experiences and list the course code/number.
- Include all public presentations
 - Follow a common citation format and include public presentations about your project on campus and off.
 - You should distinguish formal (conferences, performances, exhibits, etc) and informal (in class or outside but includes audience members outside of your professor and your classmates).
- Teaching and Mentoring Experience
 - Did you work collaboratively or independently? Were you responsible for helping to train and mentor a younger student? These are important details to include and round out your benefits gained from your undergraduate research experiences.
- Awards and Grants
 - Funding based on a proposal you wrote, conference presentation, or travel awards.
 - Internal AND external are important, but list source.
 - Honor societies that recognize research (e.g. Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi).
 - Some scholarships may be relevant (only important ones based on merit or research).
- Additional Relevant Skills
 - Sometimes it is easier or better to separate out specific competencies in non-standard software, instrumentation, language fluency, etc. if these will be part of the job you are seeking.