

Homework Assignment #10, Resumes and Statements of Purpose/Cover Letters

This assignment will give you practice in creating professional resumes and writing statements of purpose suitable for internship or graduate-school applications. If you are not planning to apply to graduate school, you may substitute a cover letter suitable for a job application.

The assignment consists of three parts:

1. Create a one-page **resume** that highlights your education and professional experience.
2. Find the statement-of-purpose instructions for graduate admission to a department that you are considering. For example, see the [instructions for UC Berkeley](#). Cut and paste the instructions into your preferred word processor.
3. In the same file, start a new page and write your statement of purpose. Follow the structure and use the same words that are given in the instructions for section headings. Start with an engaging lede and emphasize why you are particularly well suited to succeed in that department. Describe experiences that have shaped your interest in physics and that have prepared you for research. Tune your statement to the research emphases, faculty, and special facilities offered by that department. Unless the instructions give you a specific length limit, restrict your statement to no more than 1.5 pages, single-spaced.
- 3.a Instead of a statement of purpose, you may submit a cover letter. Go to www.indeed.com and enter <physics bachelors> in the search field. Select a relevant job and cut and paste the “Job Description and Responsibilities” into your preferred word processor. In the same file, start a new page and write a cover letter applying for the position. Tune your letter to the specific job duties and emphasize your special qualifications for the job. Limit your letter to one page. Be sure to include all [elements of a standard business letter](#). Note that you may not use University of Illinois letterhead for your private business. It is also considered a major *faux pas* to use your existing employer’s letterhead to apply for a new job. Make up your own letterhead by centering your name and contact information at the top of your letter.

Submit the three parts of the assignment, in a single file, by the deadline.

Due: **Friday, April 24, 9:00 p.m.** Email copies to phys496@physics.illinois.edu. Assignments submitted after the deadline will have points deducted and will be ineligible for rewrite points.

Total—100 points (25 points for your resume and 75 points for your statement of purpose or cover letter)