

# FAQ: New Graduate Resumes

## How are resumes for new graduates different?

New graduate resumes can follow the same general format (*insert link*) with the addition of a special section outlining the clinical rotations you did while you were in school.

## What do I call this section?

Call it “Clinical Rotations” or “Student Experience”.

## Why do I need this section?

Because you have no formal work experience yet as an NP or PA so what you did in school is relevant and is the only way you can promote your skills and accomplishments.

## Where does this section belong?

Put in a separate section and place it before your work history. Do NOT merge it with your work history.

## What information should I include in this section?

Here are 5 critical pieces of information you should include in this section.

1. Name of clinic or hospital and description. Don't assume the reader is familiar with every clinic, include clinic location, size, specialty and patient demographics. This is especially true if you are in a larger city or applying for jobs in another city or state. **Do NOT list your preceptor's name.** If they are willing to be a reference put them in your reference list.
2. Focus or population. Was the purpose or focus of the rotation? Was it ortho, derm, geriatrics, women's health or some other special population? Make that clear to the reader.
3. Number of clinical hours. This is very helpful information because the number of hours in each rotation can vary from program to program so don't leave the reader wondering how many hours you actually spent at each site. Dates are not helpful because it doesn't convey whether you were there one day or 5 days a week.
4. Number of patients you saw daily. The rationale for this information is much the same as for including the number of hours.
5. Level of independence. Did you see patients on your own by the end of the rotation? Did you become proficient at specific procedures such as pap smears, I+D, biopsy. Avoid laundry lists of the obvious, such as “obtaining history and physical exam”.

## What about my other work history?

ONLY current and previous jobs that are medically related should be on your resume. Listing non-medically related jobs will not help you and may even hurt you. Executive positions or military service are exceptions and are OK to mention.

*Good luck and happy job searching!*  
~Renee