

The atsresume class

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1 What it's for

Many employers run resumes through an applicant tracking system (ATS). The system takes the text out of your PDF and sorts it into fields: name, email, each job with its dates, each school. If the text comes out in the wrong order, with words broken in two or letters swapped for odd characters, the fields can come out wrong or empty, and a recruiter searching for a skill you have might not find your resume.

atsresume is a class for a one-page resume that keeps its text in reading order, with ligatures and hyphenation turned off. The layout is the Classic template from ReadableResume (<https://readableresume.com>), where the same design is available for Google Docs and Word: a single column, your name centered at the top, section headings in capitals over a thin rule, and places and dates on the right margin. Figure 1 shows the example that comes with the class.

2 Getting started

Copy `atsresume-example.tex`, replace the details with yours and compile it with `pdflatex`, `lualatex` or `xelatex`. Or start from this:

```
\documentclass{atsresume}
\name{Your Name}
\contact{City, ST}
\contact{(555) 555-0100}
\contact{\email{you@example.com}}
\contact{\weblink{linkedin.com/in/yourname}}

\begin{document}
\makeheader

\section{Experience}
\experience{Company}{City, ST}{Job Title}{Jun 2024 - Present}
\begin{itemize}
  \item What you did, with a number if you have one
\end{itemize}
```

Olivia Bennett Providence, RI (401) 555-0132 olivia.bennett@example.com linkedin.com/in/oliviabennett	
EDUCATION	
Halden College <i>Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Minor in Statistics</i> - GPA: 3.8/4.0, Economics Department Honors Program - Relevant Coursework: Econometrics, Corporate Finance, Game Theory, Financial Accounting, Data Analysis in Python	Providence, RI Sep 2022 – May 2026
EXPERIENCE	
Harlan Quay Capital Partners <i>Investment Banking Analyst Intern</i> - Built three-statement models for two consumer retail clients and updated comparable company sets each week - Drafted 20 pages of a sell-side pitch book, including the industry overview and buyer list - Checked a 40-tab merger model line by line before it went to the client and found a circular reference in debt schedules	New York, NY Jun 2025 – Aug 2025
Halden College Department of Economics <i>Research Assistant</i> - Cleaned and merged 15 years of county wage data in Stata for a professor's study on minimum wage spillovers - Wrote summary tables and charts that appeared in a working paper presented at two conferences	Providence, RI Jan 2024 – May 2025
Halden College Writing Center <i>Peer Tutor</i> - Met with about eight students a week to work on essays, lab reports and cover letters - Led two workshops on writing clear policy memos for first-year economics students	Providence, RI Sep 2023 – Dec 2024
PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	
Halden Investment Club <i>Vice President</i> - Run weekly stock pitch meetings for 45 members and manage a \$25,000 student portfolio with four sector heads - Started a mentoring program that paired 18 first-year members with alumni working in finance	Sep 2023 – Present
Halden Habitat Builders <i>Volunteer Coordinator</i> Organized monthly build days for about 30 volunteers and kept the sign-up and safety records	Sep 2022 – May 2024
SKILLS	
Technical: Excel, PowerPoint, Python (pandas), Stata, Capital IQ Certifications: Bloomberg Market Concepts, Wall Street Prep Financial Modeling Languages: French (fluent), Spanish (basic)	

Figure 1: atsresume-example.tex, compiled on US Letter paper.

```

\section{Education}
\education{University}{City, ST}{Bachelor of Science in Biology}{May 2024}

\section{Skills}
\skill{Technical}{Excel, SQL, Python}
\skill{Languages}{Spanish (fluent)}
\end{document}

```

The class reads UTF-8, so you can type an en dash in a date range as – or as --.

3 Commands

The header

`\name{Your Name}` Your name, centered at the top. Put it in the preamble. It also becomes the PDF's author and, followed by "Resume", its title.

`\contact{item}` One item of the contact line. Use it once per item, in the order you want them; they're joined with vertical bars. An item never breaks across two lines; if the line is too long it wraps between items.

`\email{address}` An email address, as a link. Type it as it is: characters such as `_` need no backslash, and one typed out of habit is dropped, so `first\_last@example.com` and `first_last@example.com` give the same address. The one exception is `%`, which has to be typed `\%` because TeX reads a bare `%` as the start of a comment. The same goes for `\weblink`.

`\weblink{address}` A web address, as a link. It's shown as you type it. If you leave out `https://`, the link gets it anyway, so `\weblink{linkedin.com/in/you}` shows the short form and still opens the page.

`\makeheader` Prints the name and the contact line. Put it right after `\begin{document}`.

Sections

`\section{Title}` A section heading, centered, in capitals, over a rule. Type the title in any case. Sections aren't numbered, and `\section*` does the same thing.

Entries

Each entry command prints the lines of one job, school or activity. A list of bullet points, in an ordinary `itemize` environment, can follow it. Leave an argument empty to skip it:

`\experience{Company}{Job Title}` prints no place and no dates.

`\education{School}{Place}{Degree}{Dates}` The school in bold with the place on the right, then the degree and the dates in italics.

`\experience{Company}{Place}{Job title}{Dates}` The company in bold with the place on the right, then the job title in italics with the dates on the right.

`\activity{Name}{Role}{Dates}` One line: the name in bold, a vertical bar, the role in italics, and the dates on the right. Use it for clubs, volunteering, projects or certifications.

`\skill{Label}{Text}` One line with a bold label, such as
`\skill{Languages}{French (fluent)}`.

When the left part of a line is too long for the place or the dates to fit beside it, they move to the next line, still on the right margin.

Plain paragraphs work anywhere, for example a short summary under a `\section{Summary}`.

4 Paper size

The default is US Letter with 0.6 in margins. For A4 with 15 mm margins, use `\documentclass[a4paper]{atsresume}`. These are the margins of the original template. To change them, use `\geometry` in the preamble, for example `\geometry{margin=0.75in}`.

The text is 10.5 pt, the name 20 pt and the section headings 11 pt, the sizes of the original. The 10pt, 11pt and 12pt options of the standard classes have no effect.

5 Fonts

The text is set in TeX Gyre Pagella: the Type 1 version with pdfLaTeX, the OpenType version with LuaLaTeX and XeLaTeX, so the page looks the same with each engine. Pagella is part of TeX Live, and on Debian and Ubuntu it comes in the `tex-gyre` and `fonts-texgyre` packages. Its letters are about as wide as those of Georgia, the font of the original template, so lines break in nearly the same places.

To use another font, load it after the class. With pdfLaTeX, load its package:

```
\documentclass{atsresume}  
\usepackage{gelasio}
```

With LuaLaTeX or XeLaTeX, use `\setmainfont` and keep `Ligatures={TeX,NoCommon}`, which turns off the ligatures for the new font too (see the next section):

```
\setmainfont{Gelasio}[Extension=.otf, UprightFont=*-Regular,  
  BoldFont=*-Bold, ItalicFont=*-Italic, BoldItalicFont=*-BoldItalic,  
  Ligatures={TeX,NoCommon}]
```

Gelasio, a free font drawn to the same measurements as Georgia, is in TeX Live's full installation.

6 What the class does for parsers

- **One column, stored in reading order.** Places and dates are pushed to the right margin with glue on the same line as the company or title, not set in a table, a second column or a box at a fixed position. The PDF stores each line left to right, top to bottom, so a parser reads "Halden College Providence, RI" rather than a column of places after a column of names.
- **No ligatures.** Fonts normally join letters such as f and i into one glyph. Some readers turn that glyph into a single character (Unicode U+FB01) that doesn't match "fi" when an ATS searches for "finance". The class turns these ligatures off; -- and ' ' still give an en dash and a quotation mark.
- **No hyphenation.** A word split across two lines can reach a parser as two fragments, so hyphenation is off.

- **Real characters.** Bullets are the text font’s bullet, Unicode U+2022, which parsers recognize. With pdfLaTeX every glyph also gets a Unicode mapping (`\pdfgentounicode`), so copied text matches what you typed.
- **Page breaks.** A section heading, or the first lines of an entry, never sit alone at the bottom of a page, and a bullet point never splits across two pages.
- **Links and metadata.** Email and web addresses are links, and the PDF’s title and author are set from `\name`.

What the class can’t stop is text added outside these commands: icons instead of words, two minipages side by side, text in a table or in a picture. Many parsers have trouble with them. If you add any, check the extracted text as described in the next section.

7 Checking your PDF

Open the PDF, select all the text, copy it and paste it into a plain text editor. You should get every word, in the order you read the page, with each place and date right after the line it belongs to.

On the command line, poppler’s `pdftotext` does the same:

```
pdftotext -layout resume.pdf -
```

Without `-layout`, `pdftotext` tries to find columns on the page. When an entry’s bullet points are short, it can take the place and dates for a column of their own and print them after that entry’s bullets. The PDF still stores them in order, and `pdftotext` does the same with right-aligned dates from a word processor.

The example that comes with the class was compiled with pdfLaTeX, LuaLaTeX and XeLaTeX, on US Letter and on A4. In each of the six PDFs, `pdftotext -layout` gave back the text word for word and in reading order, and OpenResume, an open-source resume parser, returned every value it reads exactly as written: the name and contact details, each job, school and project with its dates, and every bullet point and skills line. How well a particular ATS fills in its own fields still depends on that system.

8 License

Copyright 2026 Super Lede. This work may be distributed and/or modified under the conditions of the LaTeX Project Public License, version 1.3c or later. It has the LPPL maintenance status “maintained”; the current maintainer is Super Lede. The work consists of `atsresume.cls`, `atsresume-example.tex` and `atsresume-doc.tex`.

The person, schools and companies in the example are made up.

Questions and bug reports are welcome at templates@readableresume.com.