

Eastern Michigan U - DivComm | Career Corner Podcast - S4 - EP10

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This is Eastern Michigan University's Career Corner, hosted by the career coaches of the University Advising and Career Development Center. And welcome to season 4, career FAQ.

Welcome back to the *Career Corner Podcast*. My name is Brad Minton, and I'm a career coach here at Eastern Michigan University in the University Advising and Career Development Center and the host of this episode in our series devoted to our frequently asked questions.

Today's episode is all about a common concern and the common question that we get. Specifically, it regards the length of a resume. Is it true that your resume can only be one page?

Well, if there's a common misconception out there that the career coaches and corporate relations managers see and hear constantly on a weekly basis, it's all about this rumor that has been going around for years and years about how long your resume should be or shouldn't be. Hopefully, today I can put this to rest for many of you once and for all.

The question of how long your resume should be is answered on an individual basis and is not an overarching rule of thumb. The quick answer on length is that one page can and should be accomplished for most undergraduate students and that going on two pages is perfectly acceptable for graduate students and alumni whose experience warrants a second page.

So let me provide just a little bit of context on that. If you are a current, traditional EMU student, undergraduate, then under most circumstances, you probably should keep your resume to the one page only. Generally speaking, most undergraduates will have their education section, work experience to date, and possibly a section devoting to activities, and volunteer, and extracurriculars, and things of that nature. Therefore, with appropriate formatting, using an entire full page and eliminating any irrelevant content, like our high school, hobbies, most students can actually keep their resume to a page, and it's very, very easy to do so.

Another question is, can I have a two page resume? The answer is, absolutely yes. However, two rules of resumes still apply.

Number one, make it relevant, and number two, make it concise. So filling two pages of a resume with just fluff and irrelevant information is not really going to help you get hired, nor will using 15 words when you can keep it to 10. If your resume is two full pages of quality content that speaks to why you're a great candidate for a very specific position, then yes, it's worth doing so.

For students who are farther along in their education and maybe have been doing things outside of the classroom relevant to their career path-- let's say they've been doing some study abroad, doing research with a faculty member, presenting at conferences, partaking in practicums, internships-- realistically, it's very likely that they will need two pages, as there's just more relevant information. So the key here and the big takeaway is making sure that all of your information is relevant to the position that you're applying for, and if it warrants a second page, then go to a second page.

I hope this information was helpful and insightful for you today. Stay tuned for our next incredible episode. Until then, remember, we're here for you, and we support your goals.

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