

Honesty in Your Resume

by Grant Cooper, CRW

CareerPro of New Orleans

yww@gs.net

Every so often, one can read a news article about a particular person, usually a professional, who has been fired due to misrepresentation on their original application or resume. Usually, this is in connection with some other impropriety or misconduct on the part of the person, and their past record becomes an object of attention. Needless to say, dishonesty in a resume is grounds for termination. For example, stating that you possess a degree that you never completed, stating that you worked at a company you didn't, stating that you worked there for a longer period of time, stating that you held a different title or level, stating that you belonged to organizations or associations you didn't, or any other material misrepresentations of fact.

Exaggeration, although not advisable, is in a different category, but should also be avoided. Employers are not looking for unrealistic qualifications, but they are looking for honesty. After all, if you cannot be trusted to provide accurate information about your past, how can you be trusted with their business, money, or customers? There are no hard and fast guidelines as to the many gray areas that go into making a job-winning resume, but a combination of honesty and assertiveness will work the best. Your resume is in fact a marketing tool, not a dossier. You can consider that your resume is similar in some ways to job ads, in which employers extol the virtues of working with their companies. They will likely tout the excellent benefits, great working conditions, competitive salary, etc., etc. Of course, they don't tell you anything even slightly negative.