

Statement of Purpose, Objective, and Professional Summary

Generally an “objective” or “statement of purpose” on a resume is not helpful to the employer or recruiter. The resume should contain specific and objective information about your skills, education, training, and past work experience. A cover letter tailored to each position or application is a more appropriate and effective way to articulate your motivations, interests, career goals, etc. if they are relevant to the position in question. Today’s market doesn’t support candidates leading off the resume with a wish list of what they want from an employer anyway.

Do not include an objective that is obvious or trivial, such as:

“Seeking a clinical Medical Physics position in Radiation Oncology.”

This is implied whenever you apply for such a job, and can limit you if you decide to broaden your search (for example, by applying for a position with more research-oriented responsibilities). At best, it consumes valuable real estate on your resume; at worst, it makes you look like you don’t understand what the employer values.

Consider the following objective from the perspective of an employer evaluating a candidate:

“Seeking a position where I can grow my skills and knowledge while making a significant contribution to a unique organization in a dynamic environment. I am a great team player with outstanding interpersonal and communication skills.”

There is nothing specific, actionable, or interesting in this kind of statement.

As a better alternative, try a “Professional Summary” that ties together the elements that make you most attractive to a recruiter and highlights the things from your resume that you feel are most important to know about you:

“Clinical medical physicist with eight years of experience in radiation oncology and radiology gained in both solo and group settings. Competent to independently perform treatment planning and treatment delivery duties. Good understanding of quality assurance for linear accelerators and basic experience in diagnostic radiology QA.”

This statement gives the recruiter an excellent summary of what the candidate has to offer. If you generally sound like a fit, then they will pay more attention to the details in the rest of the resume to figure out how well the candidate fits their specific needs.