

- > **USAJOBS**®, the federal government's official job search web site provides access to vacancy announcements from all federal government agencies.
- ▶ USAJOBS® is updated every business day from a database of numerous worldwide job opportunities and is available to job seekers in a format to ensure access for customers with differing physical and technological capabilities.

The Federal Job Search - A "Three - Step Process"

Step 1 - Create your Account or Log into your account......Page 5

Set up your "My Account" within USAJOBS® to:

- 1. Build or upload your résumé and post it online
- 2. Upload additional required documents
- 3. Receive customized job alerts
- 4. Apply for Federal Government jobs
- 5. Save or Email a Friend Job Opportunity Announcements

Step 2 - Searching for Jobs......Page 11

Search **USAJOBS**[®] database for thousands of available federal opportunities.

Step 3 – Applying for open positions......Page 12

Get all the information needed to obtain a position within the Federal Government. You can also check on the application status for positions that you have applied for through your **USAJOBS**[®] account.

Note:

If this is your first time using the **USAJOBS**® program <u>please allow at least 2 hours</u> to get your application information together within **USAJOBS**®. It is highly recommended to prepare an account within **USAJOBS**® prior to searching for open positions.

The following pages will assist you in navigating the process to apply for open vacancy announcements. If this is your first time using **USAJOBS**® and applying for federal positions.



Please read this guide thoroughly before attempting to apply for any open vacancy announcements.



Applying For a Federal Position

Vacancy announcements for federal jobs will describe the information needed to complete an application such as the a description of the work to be performed; minimum required qualifications; and how to submit your application and the closing date of the announcement. All vacancy announcements have the option of applying through online or fax procedures to submit your application, which may require special forms and instructions.

Important Tip: Remember, in the Federal government, a full and complete application package is to your benefit! An incomplete application package often precludes an applicant from further consideration!

The resume you use to apply for Federal jobs will differ from those in the civilian (corporate) workplace. Please review these helpful hints (listed below) when building your Federal resume:

- **1. Formats:** Federal resumes have specific formats, which differ from those in the civilian workplace. These include specific information, order, character counts, page length requirements and fields. *Review the "Duties" area of the vacancy announcement and tailor your federal resume to that position.*
- 2. **Required information:** Federal resumes require specific information such as social security numbers; job start and end month and sometimes day; employer addresses; salary information; supervisor names and phone numbers; college GPA and graduation dates; high school education; all training, including course name, date and number of hours; and other information typically not included in corporate resumes. If this information is not included, an application may be rejected.
- 2 pages in general). They require detailed descriptions of duties: repeated for each job you did them in. They also must specifically spell out how the client meets all requirements and has done most of the duties for the job they are applying for or the application could be rejected. Like corporate resumes, Federal resumes must detail accomplishments.

You should consider your resume as a proposal you are submitting in order to work for the government. Your resume should carefully match the job announcement, with serious consideration regarding your ability to perform the job. If you spend time and look at samples of federal resumes versus resumes from the private sector, you could find yourself being referred to a selecting official for consideration and an interview; and maybe even hired into the open position.

Federal Resumes within USAJOBS®

After you click on the "Create a Resume" button and register with the **USAJOBS**® Web site, you'll see that the resume-building process has five basic steps: Experience, Education, Other, References, and Preview and Finish. The next couple of pages will walk you thru the online resume process within **USAJOBS**®. As you complete the resume building process, keep an eye out for blue circles with question marks inside, as these can help explain the step you're working on with a little more detail. If you have a resume already prepared (e.g. in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format) then you can just upload that document into your profile within **USAJOBS**®.

Different Methods to Submit an Application Package

Application packages for open vacancy announcements within the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System can be submitted thru one of the below listed options. *Please ensure that you are submitting your application package only once for any applied position.* Here are the available options you can use to apply for any open vacancies:

Option 1: Online application submission

- <u>Step 1:</u> Log into your account within "USAJOBS®" and search for any open vacancy announcements.
- Step 2: Completely read and print out the vacancy announcement.
- Step 3: Click the "Apply Online" button to apply for this position.
- <u>Step 4:</u> Read and follow all the prompts to transfer your application package from "USAJOBS®" to "Application Manager".
- Step 5: Complete the online occupational questionnaire within "Application Manager".
- <u>Step 6:</u> Then please click the "Submit My Answers" button at the end of the process (within "Application Manager") to apply for the vacancy.

Option 2: Combination of online and fax application submission

- <u>Step 1:</u> Log into your account within "USAJOBS®" and search for any open vacancy announcements.
- Step 2: Completely read and print out the vacancy announcement.
- Step 3: Click the "Apply Online" button to apply for this position.
- <u>Step 4:</u> Read and follow all the prompts to transfer your resume from "USAJOBS®" to "Application Manager". Complete the online occupational questionnaire on "Application Manager".
- <u>Step 5:</u> Please click the "Submit My Answers" button at the end of the process to apply for the vacancy.
- <u>Step 6:</u> Fax all the *required documents* listed within the vacancy announcement you *did not upload* within either "USAJOBS®" or "Application Manager" to the following fax number **1-478-757-3144**.
- <u>Step 7:</u> Complete the fax cover page http://staffing.opm.gov/pdf/usascover.pdf when faxing your documents.

Option 3: Fax only application submission

- Step 1: Faxing your entire application package if you cannot apply online.
- Step 2: Open "USAJOBS®" and search for any open positions.
- Step 3: Read completely and also print out the vacancy announcement.
- <u>Step 4:</u> Please click the link "View Occupational Questionnaire" located within the "How to Apply" section and <u>print out</u> this questionnaire and then <u>print out</u> the OPM-1203FX form also located within the "How to Apply" section to provide your answers to the "View Occupational Questionnaire".
- <u>Step 5:</u> The OPM-1203 FX is the official response sheet. Viewing the "Occupational Questionnaire" lists the questions and the OPM-1203 FX is the answer sheet. If the "Occupational Questionnaire" states to list an item or questions blank then you do not need to respond to the question.
- Step 6: The OPM-1203 FX can be found at the following:
- http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdfimage/opm1203fx.pdf.
- <u>Step 7:</u> You will need to fax the OPM-1203FX and all the <u>required documents</u> listed within the vacancy announcement to the following fax number **1-478-757-3144**. Your OPM-1203FX will serve as a fax cover page for your fax transmission.

What is Required within an Application Package

To apply for any open vacancy announcement, you must provide a <u>complete</u> application package. You need to insure that all required application documents are received by <u>11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)</u>, by the closing date of any announcement, in order to be considered for any position. If you do not submit the required documents your application may not be considered for the applied position. Please review the "Required Documents" section of the vacancy announcement, if the materials apply to you then you will need to submit this material. If this material does not apply then disregard these documents.

HINT:

It is highly advised to print out the vacancy announcement and refer to it while preparing your application package.

All Applicants please include:

- 1. Complete and current resume or CV.
- 2. OF 306, "Declaration for Federal Employment. You must complete this form to determine your suitability for Federal employment. (*Please sign this form on page 2, question #17a*)
- 3. Occupational Questionnaire. (*This is located in the Application Manager program after you click the "Apply Online" button*)
- 4. Copy of Unofficial transcript. (*If required within the qualifications section of the vacancy announcement*)

Current and former Federal Employees please include:

- 1. Copy of latest performance evaluation All current and previous Federal employees must provide their most recent performance evaluation with their application package.
- 2. SF-50 "Notification of Personnel Action" All previous and current Federal employees must provide their last or most recent SF-50, "Notification of Personnel Action".

Veteran Applicants applying for preference please include:

- 1. If a veteran: Veterans Preference eligible's, including 30% or more disabled, must submit a legible copy(ies) of ALL MEMBER 4, DD-214's showing dates of service and character of service (honorable, general, ect.).
- 2. Disabled Veterans and other Veterans eligible for 10-point preference must submit an SF-15 with current proof of a service-connected disability. 10-point preference can only be given when this form is submitted.
- 3. VA Civil Service Preference Letter If applying for 10-point Veterans preference using an SF-15 (as stated in item #2 above) you must also include a copy of your VA Civil Service Preference Letter. A VA Civil Service Preference Letter can be obtained from the nearest Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office.

Veteran's Preference:

When applying for Federal Jobs, eligible Veterans should submit all documentation of past military service by submitting legible copy (copies) of <u>ALL MEMBER 4</u>, DD-214's showing dates of service and character of service (honorable, general, ect.). More than one DD-214 may be submitted to show all dates of active military service. If you are a veteran and do not know what your status would be then please review the Department of Labor's Veterans Preference website at http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vetspref.htm to determine your current status.

Step 1 - Creating an account or Logging into an existing account

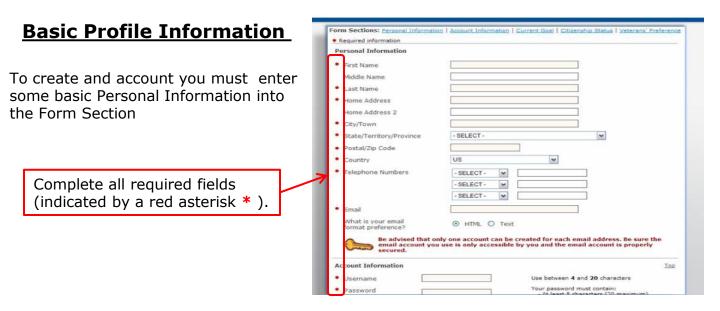
To expedite the application process, candidates should create their **USAJOBS**® account prior to beginning their applications. To do so, follow the steps listed on the next few pages.



You must have an account established before uploading resumes and applying for any open positions.

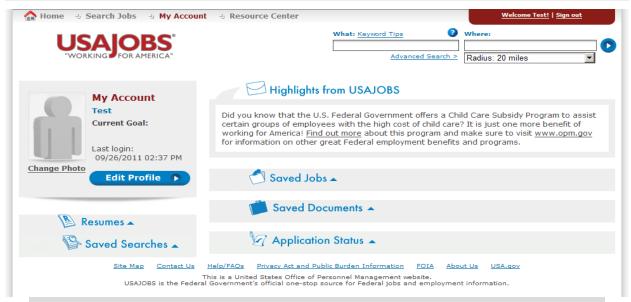
NOTE:

- ✓ You will be prompted to edit your username if it is not unique
- ✓ Your password must contain a special character, a number, and be at least 8 characters in length
- Document your Username and Password for future reference!



USAJOBS® - My Account Area

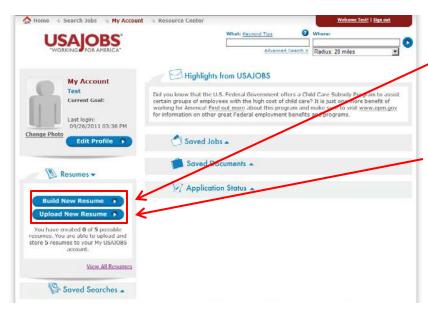
Once you've filled out the basic profile information and created your account, you can Build a New Resume <u>or</u> Upload a New Resume by selecting one of the options in the Resumes area.



In your **USAJOBS®** account you can:

- Build or Upload a new Resumes
- Upload and save **Documents** required to support your application
- Check your Application Status
- · Create Job Search Agents
- Review any Saved Jobs

From your "My Account" page, click "Resumes" to expand the view of the available options in the dropdown menu:

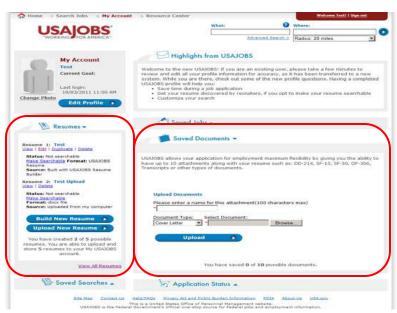


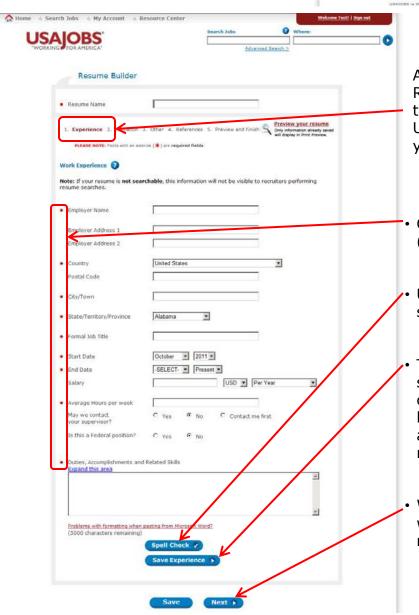
The "Build New Resume" option allows you to create or build a resume using the **USAJOBS®**Resume Builder

The "Upload New Resume" option allows you to upload your own resume(s) from your computer, flash drive, etc.

NOTE: You may store a total of 5 resumes. These 5 may be a combination of resumes you have created or built using Resume Builder, or uploaded.

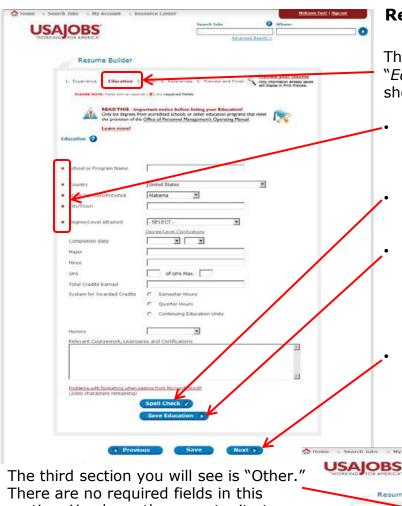
- After expanding the "Resumes" section to review any resumes that you have saved to your account.
- From your account page, you also have the option to Build or Upload a new resume.
- 3. You can build a full resume online by selecting "Build New Resume".
- 4. You also have the option to Upload new documents.
- Expand the "Saved Documents" section This section will allow you to upload and store additional documents.





After selecting to "Build New Resume", you will be redirected to the "Experience" section of the USAJOBS® Resume Builder. To build your work experience, you should:

- Complete all required fields (indicated by a red asterisk *).
- Use "Spell Check" to ensure correct spelling of information you entered.
- To add additional work experience, simply click "Save Experience" after completing all required fields. A blank "Experience" page will display and you should complete the required fields.
- When you have entered all your work experience, click "Next" to move to the next section.

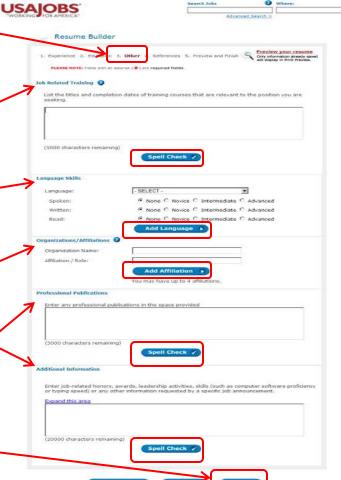


The next section you will see is "Education." To build your Education, you should:

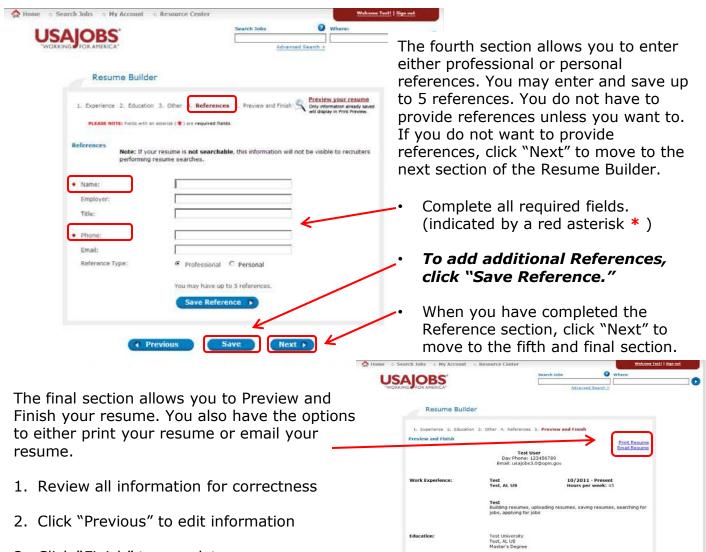
- Complete all required fields (indicated by a red asterisk *)
- Use "Spell Check" to ensure correct spelling of information you entered.
 - To add additional Education, simply click "Save Education" after completing all required fields. A blank "Education" page will display and you should complete the required fields.
- When you have entered all your Education, click "Next" to move to the next section.

section. You have the opportunity to provide information associated with:

- Any Job Related Training you have completed. Use "Spell Check" to check your entry.
- Language Skills you may have. To add additional languages, click "Add Language"
- Any Specific Organizations or Affiliations that you are a member of. To add multiple organizations or affiliations, click "Add Affiliation"
- Any Professional Publications or Additional Information that you want potential employers to be aware of. Use "Spell Check" to check your entry.
- When you have completed the Other section, click "Next" to move to the next section.



8



3. Click "Finish" to complete your resume

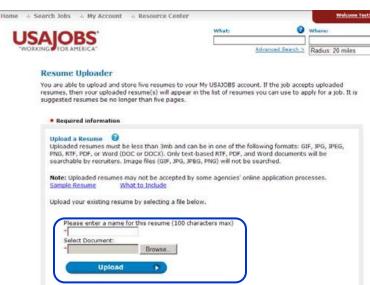


Once you have finished building your resume, you will be redirected to the Resumes page and can view, edit, duplicate, or delete previously built resumes. You can also change the status of your built resume from Not searchable to Searchable by clicking on the "Make Searchable" link. You can change your resume status back to Not searchable at any time by clicking the "Make Non-Searchable" link.

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Test Inc. 222-222-2222

To upload a saved resume, click "Upload New Resume." This option can also be used from your My Account page within the Resumes dropdown.



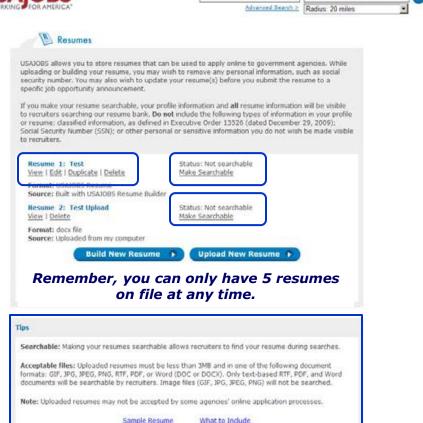
Resume Uploading within USAJOBS®

Once on the Resume Uploader page, you will see the different document formats that are acceptable for uploading (e.g. doc, docx, rtf, pdf, png, gif, jpg, jpeg). You are also able to view a "Sample Resume" and tips on "What to Include" in your resume.

1. To upload your resume, you are required to enter a name (e.g., Resume-Mine2013) for each resume that you upload.

A Home & Search Jobs & My Account & Resource Center

- 2. Use "Browse" to select the resume that you wish to upload.
- Click "Upload."



After a successful upload, you will return to the "Resumes" page where you can view or delete your uploaded resume(s).

You can also change the status of your uploaded resume(s) from Not searchable to Searchable by clicking on the "Make Searchable" link. You can change your resume status back to Not searchable at any time by clicking the "Make Non-Searchable" link.

If you need additional assistance please review the *Tips* area within the *Resumes* page. This area will provide a good example of what a resume should look like and different information to include within your resume.

The number of resumes you have created or uploaded will display. To build or upload additional resumes, simply repeat the steps described in this tutorial.

It is not time to search for current open vacancies. Please continue thru the next few pages to find open jobs.

Step 2 - Searching for Jobs (Basic Search)

From the **USAJOBS®** main web page you can perform a local search by enter "Sioux Falls, VA" in the "what" field (shown below). Follow the instruction on this page to narrow down



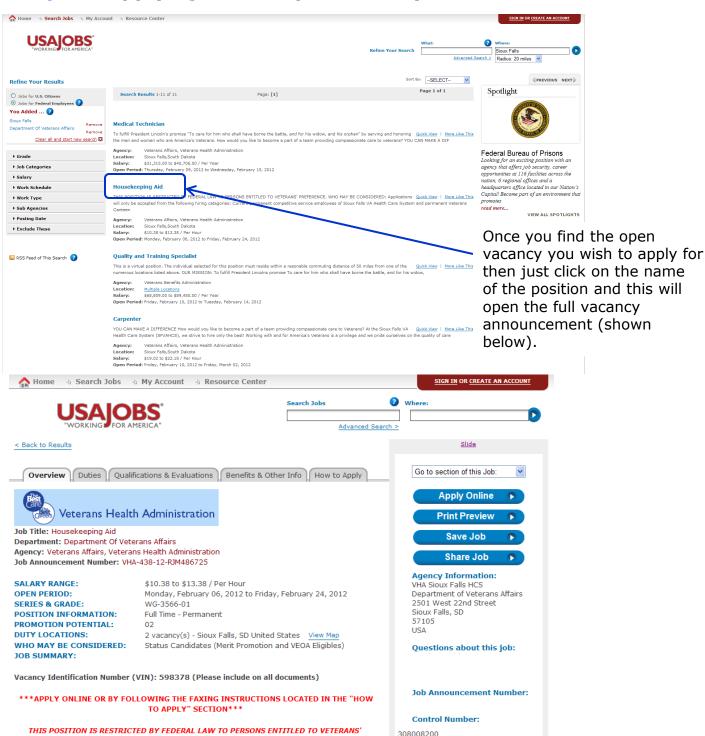


Agency: Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration
Location: Sioux Fails, South Dakota
Salary: \$0.00 to \$0.00 / Per Year
Open Periodi Tuesday, March 13, 2012 to Monday, April 02, 2012

Select the blue question marks for an explanation of that specific area.

will redo your search.

Step 3 – Applying for the open vacancy



WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Applications will only be accepted from the following hiring catagories: Current permanent competitive service employees of Sioux Falls VA Health Care System and permanent Veterans Canteen Service employees, Status eligibles - current career or career-conditional federal employees with competitive status, reinstatement eligibles, Veterans Recruitment Authority (VRA) eligibles, disabled veterans with a 30% or more disability, Veterans Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA) eligibles, certain military spouses, persons with disabilities.

PREFERENCE.

Our mission: To fulfill President Lincoln's promise – "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" – by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's Veterans.

The vacancy announcement contains all the information about the open position.

The following page will break down the vacancy announcement to give you a better understanding of the information contained within the vacancy announcement.

How to read the vacancy announcement

The most confusing part of any federal vacancy announcement is understanding the vacancy announcement. Each vacancy announcement is broken down into 5 parts;

Overview

Duties

Qualifications & Evaluations

Benefits & Other Info

How to Apply

Overview

The "Overview" area covers the general information about the agency placing the announcement, general position information, pay plan information, and the "Who May Be Considered" area. *Please pay attention to this area as it will describe who may apply for the position.*

What is meant by "Status" candidates?

A "status" candidate means the position is open to all current and former federal employees, and veterans with preference. If the announcement states "Open to all US Citizens" then everybody may apply for the vacancy position.

Duties

The "Duties" area covers the what the position will be performing. It is important to review this area carefully and apply this information into your resume. You could have a better chance of being considered if your resume relates, in some part, to the information within the "Duties" area.

Qualifications & Evaluations

The "Qualifications & Evaluations" area covers the requirements for that position. These standards are used to evaluate the minimum qualifications required for the position. Please pay special to these qualifications as the will inform you of the experience and education requirements for any position.

Benefits & Other Info

The "Benefits & Other Info" area covers general information about the benefits offered by the federal government. Federal employees can review current information about health, dental, vision and life insurance, flexible spending accounts, and long term care insurance. This information can be found at the Office of Personnel Management's web site (www.opm.gov).

How to Apply

The "How to Apply" area contains all the information needed to apply for any open vacancy. From what information is needed within the application package to how to apply (either online or by fax), this is what this area will advise you. This is the most important area to read prior to starting any application package!

Starting the Online Application Process

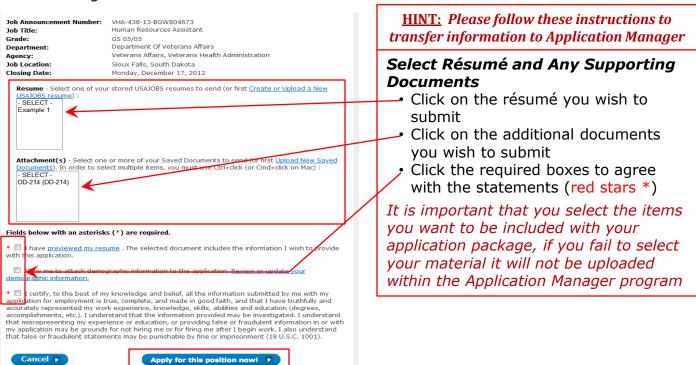
At the floating window on the right of the announcement, click "Apply Online":



Important Notice: Do not apply using someone else's account. This may lead to incorrect information being submitted with your application.

If you have an existing USAJOBS® account

- Enter your username and password
- If you have forgotten your username and password click "Forgot Password" and follow the instructions (Note: you will have to return to the vacancy announcement and click Apply Online to restart the application process)
- · Click Log In



Click the "Apply for this position now" button

Clicking on "**Apply for this position now"** will take you to Application Manager to apply for any open position.

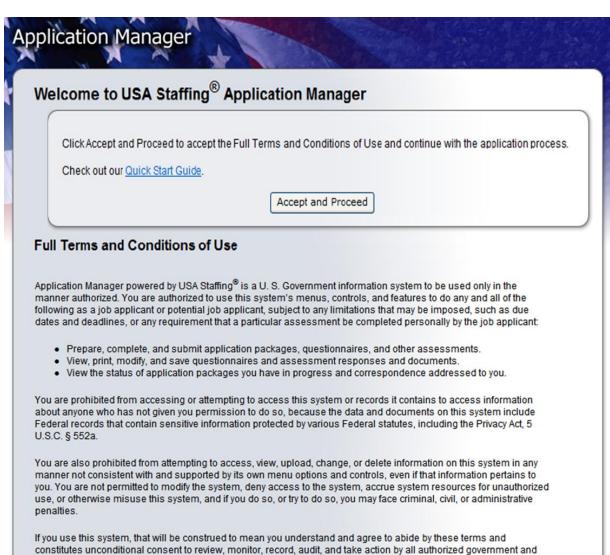
The transition from USAJOBS® to Application Manager

One moment please... We are now bringing you to the system used by the Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration to complete your application process. You will be returned to USAJOBS upon completion. If you do not return to USAJOBS, please remember to close your web browser for security. Your browser should automatically take you there in about 15 seconds, or... Take me there now

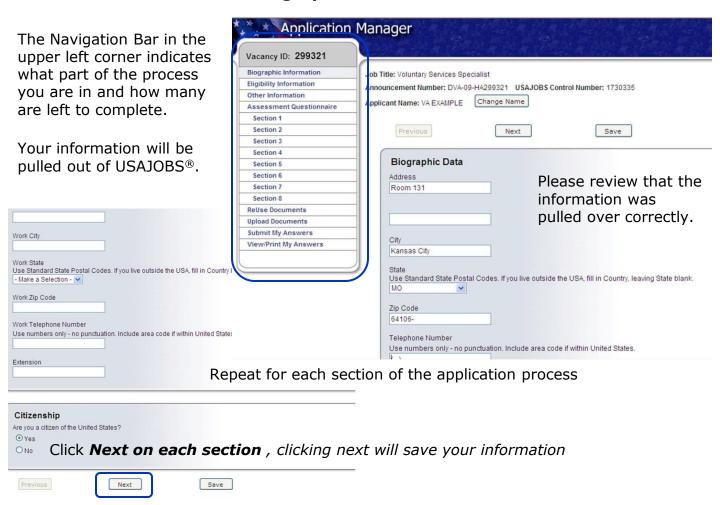
Completing Your Application in Application Manager

law enforcement personnel.

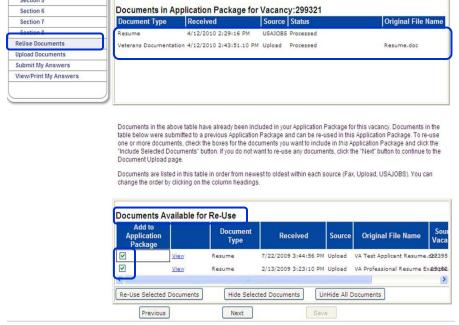
- Application Manager is used collect online application and assessment information for specific vacancy announcements.
- Where USAJOBS® is the warehouse of available jobs, Application Manager is the application process for open positions.



Biographic Information



Re-using and Uploading Documents in Application Manager



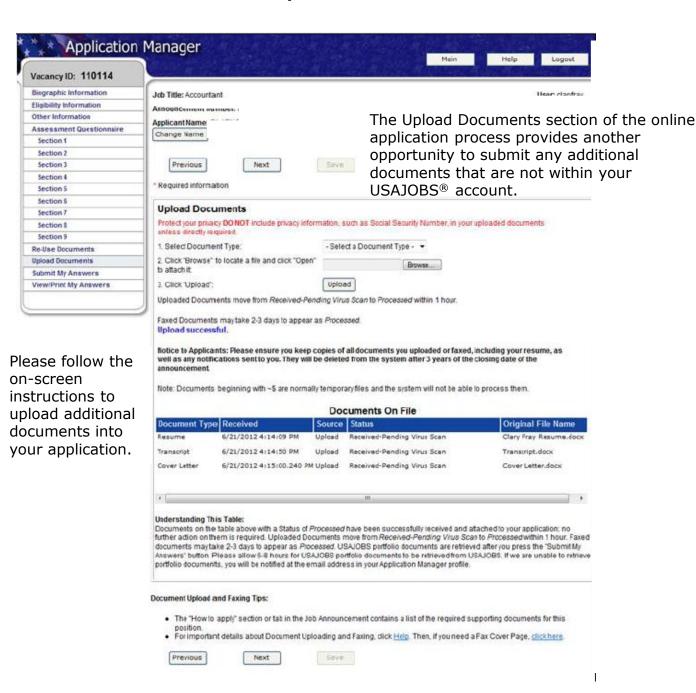
This displays the documents submitted from your profile in USAJOBS®.

These are the documents will be forwarded automatically when you click the Submit button in Application Manager

Any documents previously submitted through Application Manager will be listed under Documents Available for Re-use.

Select any documents to submit by checking the box next to them.

Upload Documents



The "Documents on File" will include all items sent from your USAJOBS® account.

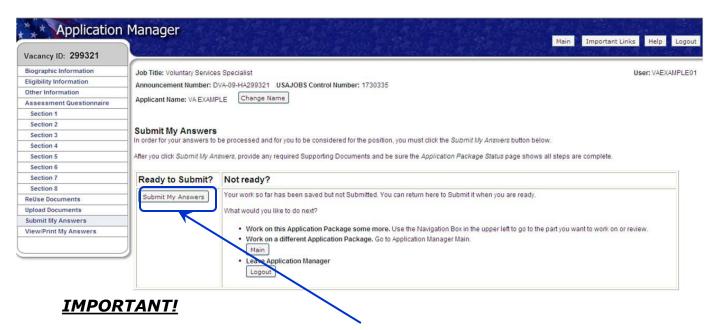
Note:

You do not have to upload documents in Application Manager if you have already uploaded the documents in your account in USAJOBS®.

Hint: Refer to the "Required Documents" area of the "How to Apply" section within the vacancy announcement for a complete list of required documents

** Failure to submit all applicable required documents may result in your application package not being considered for the open position. **

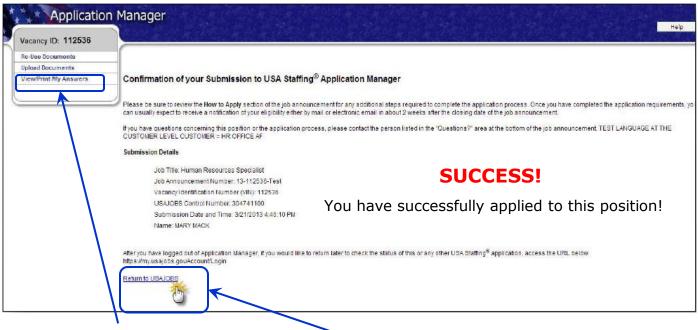
Submit Application



You must click "Submit My Answers" to apply!

Note: If you receive a warning that a section of the assessment is incomplete, return to that section using the Navigation Bar on the left and complete all required information.

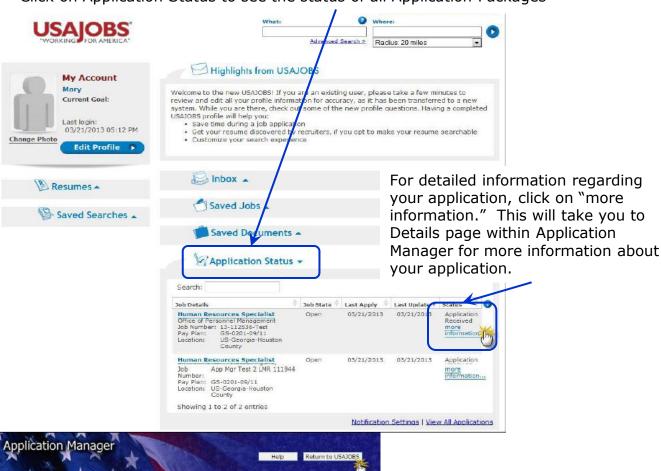
A confirmation of your submitted application package will appear.



Click View/Print My Answers on the Navigation Bar to see and print your responses Click here to return back to USAJOBS®

Checking the Status of Application Packages

Click on Application Status to see the status of all Application Packages



Application Package Status: Complete Job Title: Human Resources Specialist Vacancy Identification Number: 112536 Closing Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013 Announcement Number: 13-112536-Test USAJOBS Control Number: 304741100 Applicant: MARY MACK Contact: 5QA Tester - (478)744-2222 Change My Answers Add Documents Update Biographic Information View/Print My Answers Most information below pertains to the most recent version of your Application Package. (Explain This.) Notice to Applicants: Please ensure you keep copies of all documents you uploaded or faxed, including your resume, as well as any notifications sent to you. They will be deleted from the system after 3 years of the closing date of the announcement. Details Checklist Assessments Documents Original File Name 03/21/2013 Test Applicant Resume 04:43 PM USAJOBS Received-Pending Virus Scan 03/21/2013 Gover Letter 04:43 PM 03/21/2013 Vet Doc 04:43 PM 03/21/2013 sf-50 04:43 PM <u>View</u> Processed SF-50 USAJOBS Not Received Transcript Messages Date Emailed Date Printed Message Type Acknowledgement Letter 3/21/2013 4:46:57 PM

Date Submitted

3/21/2013 4:56:31 PM

Application Processing Status

Status

Within Application Manager, the Details page provides information on Assessments, Documents, Messages, and Application Processing Status

REMEMBER:

Complete and up-to-date information on the status of your application packages can be found 24 hours a day in you're "My Account" section of USAJOBS®

Alternative to Applying Online: Faxing Applications

If you cannot apply online:

- 1. Please review the **"Required Documents"** area to ensure that all the required documents are faxed together with your application package.
- 2. Print the OPM Form 1203-FX form to provide your response to the occupational questionnaire.
- 3. Fax the completed OPM Form 1203-FX along with all required documents to **(478) 757-3144**. Your 1203FX form needs to be placed on top of all materials being faxed and will serve as a cover page for your fax transmission.
- 4. Keep a copy of your fax receipt in case verification is needed.

To fax supporting documents you are unable to upload:

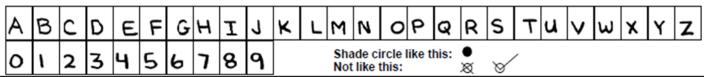
- 1. Complete the fax cover page. You must use the USAJOBS® fax cover sheet in order for your documents to be matched with your online application.
- Fax your documents to (478)757-3144.

Faxed documents submitted with missing information will not be processed. It is recommended that on the fax cover page and the OPM FORM 1203-FX that you print neatly and with capital letters to ensure your application package materials are properly received. The following will prevent your documents from being processed:

- Not using the special cover page mentioned above.
- Missing, incomplete, illegible, or invalid Vacancy Identification Number
- Missing, incomplete, or illegible Social Security Number or Name

For optimum accuracy:

- It is recommended that characters be written in all capital letters and printed neatly to ensure the faxed material is uploaded properly.
- Do not write on or outside the boxes.
- Do not use special characters.
- Use the following example as shown below.



Resource Center

You may visit USAJOBS® Resource Center where you can find tutorials for using different areas of USAJOBS® and information about Federal Employment, applying for Federal jobs, Veterans information, and other areas to assist you within the application process.

