Career Development: My 2 cents

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What do you want of your job/ career?

• What aspect of work is most fulfilling for you?
• What employment opportunity let’s me meet basic financial needs and fulfills me personally?

Why Chemistry?
Why Spectroscopy?
What work environment?
  Academic – Resch or Teaching
  Govt – DOE, FBI, USDA

What do you ultimately want to achieve?
($’s, position, title, renown, expertise, knowledge)
Pre-graduation Employment Experience

Encourage lab employment experience
- Summer
- Temp
- Volunteer
- Coop

Helps confirm for you that chemistry is an area you’ll like

Looks very good to future employers
Technical Aspects

Competency & Depth in key area(s)
* imp to business
* of interest to you

Breadth in related/other pertinent technologies or skills
* not a one trick pony
* allows for flexibility…thereby more valuable

Keep learning continually!!
* Don’t count of employer to develop your career
* They (impersonal busn) does not care → $$s
* Take ownership of career and take initiative to better yourself to achieve career goals
‘Soft’ Skills

Communication, Leadership, Business Acumen

• No one does anything by themselves...a team is a factor in nearly all activities

• The best and brightest will be ineffective if they can’t communicate well
  - orally (1 to 1, presentation)
  - written (text, powerpoint, etc)
‘Soft’ Skills

• Project Management Skills

• Budgeting (headcount, maint, capital investments, etc)

• Prioritization Skills….expect frequent changes

• Best leaders are the biggest servants/facilitators

• Personal respect is a required default among colleagues, Technical respect is earned
‘Soft’ Skills

• Be aware of the business value of the tasks/projects you are working on

• Question why activity/project is done?

• Can you stop it/redirect/fix?

• Focus resources on activities more valuable to busn

• Don’t forget your own career development here either! Make sure you’re learning!
Family

Needs to consider & balance career development activities with family needs/concerns

Income level
Stress level
Work schedule
Travel
etc

Assess impact on spouse & children