

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

Industry – Plastics, Petroleum, Pharma, Foods, Inst Vend.

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)

- * impt 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 → \$\$\$
- * 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