

Discussion on Career Development

Eric Weeks, Erin Rericha, and Daniel Lathrop

Potential Career Paths for Scientists/ Technically trained people

- Teaching faculty
- Teaching & Research faculty
- Industry
- Research faculty
- Technical Management
- Patent Examiner
- Technical Publishing/Editing
- Science Writer/Journalist
- Science Policy
- Entrepreneur
- Finance
- Medical Industry - Radiology
- Consultant – should be good with statistics
- Politician
- Government labs – ex. In US: NASA, NIH, NIST, NSA; In Europe: Max Planck
- Outside STEM fields (STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

Technically trained people have broad opportunities all over the world. The best way to learn more about a specific career path is to find a successful person in that field and ask them about their experience.

Skills in Developing Careers in Science

Take 5 minutes to brainstorm “What is important for career development?”

- Figure out what you want to do
- Find someone who works in that field
- What skills are necessary to be successful
- Network

Eric’s #1 Item: Find a (or multiple) good mentor(s). PhD Advisor or even someone who is not so senior to you.

Dan’s #1 Item: Is the same as Eric’s #1 item.

Art Popper’s tips on mentoring

(from <http://www.faculty.umd.edu/Mentoring/MentoringGuide.pdf>)

Provide guidance

Introduce mentee to colleagues

Provide tips on how to get help on teaching, career and personal issues

Provide insight into funding

Provide career guidance

Provide guidance on campus policies

Work with mentee as they start to mentor their own students

Provide extensive teaching feedback

Having multiple mentors can be very helpful to develop various skills

Art Popper's tips on being a mentee

- Meet regularly with mentor
- Maintain confidentiality
- Ask for and give feedback
- Take responsibility on your own success
- Follow through on referrals
- Listen actively
- Present needs in articulate ways

Make sure your mentor gives you good advice for your own good, not to further their own agenda. If you are struggling with your direct advisor, you can seek out additional **mentors** in your committee, or in your department

Seeking Additional mentors - Committee or a senior PhD student, American Physical Society (APS) has ways of setting up mentor/mentee relationships via email (specifically for women, but also available for men as well)

Erin's #1 Tip for career success – SHOW UP! And be reliable. Develop work habits that are predictable by your coworkers

#1 tips from the participants:

- ****Networking**** Main way that modern professionals get jobs
 - Examples of ways: Going to conferences, Tell people your goals, Linked In, Facebook, Google – Profiles on these can be helpful
 - Ask questions! People LOVE to talk about their own work. Try to link to your own research
- Publications – get it done! There are no perfect publications – excellent is enough!
- Oral and written communication to **different audiences** (children, lay public, other researchers in other fields, your own colleagues, blogs)
- Read the literature (Dan skims Science and Nature titles every week, may read only 2 articles)
- Follow your interests and have tenacity for it! Enjoy it! Find your motivation.
- Define Success Broadly
- Have peers that you can brainstorm ideas with
- Teamwork – Science is not an individual effort!
 - Scientifically
 - Support Staff
- Time Management – Is the container full? Do the big things first, you can't just sit down and write a paper in 5 minute increments.
 - Have a List
 - Choose and plan your failures – everyone has more to do than they can possibly do, get the things done that have to be done, let the little failures go, don't let them get you down

- Being helpful to other people eg. mentoring, can be helpful for your own career, and also your happiness