

Symposium 39: Finalizing Education of Chemistry Majors: How do we better prepare chemistry graduates for careers in industry and graduate school?

Scientists Across the Disciplines: Preparing Chemistry Majors for Careers in Academia, Industry, and So Much More

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There exists a wealth of career opportunities for chemists in academia and industry, but the skills and experiences students gain in their undergraduate education are valuable beyond these two primary occupations. Inquiry, critical thinking, scientific communication, and integrity are a few of the proficiencies that are applicable to many careers that may not be at the forefront when a student first considers a degree in chemistry. Conversations around workplace diversity should also include different ways of thinking; students need to be encouraged to take a seat at the table with everyone from lawyers to publishers to politicians. This presentation will focus on methods professors and institutions can employ to emphasize the need for a scientist's skills and perspective in non-traditional career paths, as well as the skills aspiring scientists should develop in order to expand the definition and perception of what a chemist does.