

ACS Careers Programs – Resources Available for Members

NEW! - ACS Careers Videos, Self-Study Guides and Group Discussion Guides

To better serve the needs of members unable to attend our regional and/or national meetings, online videos, self-study guides and group discussion guides have been developed for the topics of finding a job, writing a résumé and interviewing. These materials which will debut at the ACS National Meeting in Washington, DC will be available through the careers page on ACS.org (www.acs.org/careers). The videos which average 10 minutes in length introduce members to basic job search strategies through conversations between Neil and Soba (two graduate students nearing graduation), Prof. Albright (their research advisor), Gwen (industry project lead) and “Caffeine” (their career counselor). The self-study guides are written to compliment the videos, but can also be used independently depending on the member’s preference. The group discussion guides compliment both the videos and the self-study guides and are meant to be used at local section meetings, job clubs or other groups, after watching one or all of the videos.

NEW! - Web-Based Mock/Practice Interviews

In January, ACS Careers began offering a web-based platform for practice interviews. ACS members can log into the system through the ACS Jobs Database. This is a members-only program. Once logged in, members choose an interview format, and then answer questions posed to them by talking heads that appear on their computer screen. The member’s responses are recorded through their webcams and stored on our servers. Afterwards, the member can play back and review their responses, and if they so choose, email the interview to their ACS Career Counselor for further feedback. Employers can also use the system to prescreen job candidates through an automated interview system.

ACS Harvard Online Business Courses

Through a collaborative partnership with Harvard Business Publishing, ACS is offering a suite of 42 introductory online business and management skills courses through the new ACS Center for Professional Development. At \$25 per course, this offering is substantially discounted for our members. Even lower rates are available for members who are currently unemployed. Course topics include business plan development, negotiations, and marketing among others. To enroll in one of these courses or to find out more about the topics covered, go to www.acs.org/careers.

ACS Webinars: Your Careers Matters!

Part of the ACS Webinars program, these online presentations feature speakers that address a wide variety of career and employment topics for science and engineering professionals. This is a free service of the Society. The series have featured luminaries such as Dr. Magid Abou-Garbia, past Senior Vice President and Head of Chemical and Screening Sciences for Wyeth Drug Discovery and Development; Dr. John LaMattina, past Global Head of R&D for Pfizer; Dr. Carolyn Ribes of Dow Benelux BV in the Netherlands; Dr. Michael Stem, founder of Strem Chemicals Inc.; 2009 ACS President Dr. Thomas Lane of Dow Corning Corporation; ACS Director at Large Dr. William Carroll, VP at OxyChem; and former ACS President Catherine “Katie” Hunt, Rohm and Haas Company. To sign up for upcoming presentation and listen to archived recordings, visit the ACS Careers Blog at acscareers.wordpress.com.

ACS Careers News

The ACS Careers News is an HTML newsletter which is distributed to the approximately 55,000 registrants in the ACS Careers Jobs Database. The newsletter was started in February ‘08 as a way to promote membership in ACS to nonmembers using the jobs database. It is also used as a method of promoting ACS Careers programs, products and services to a broad audience.

ACS Careers Blog

The ACS Careers Blog was started in October 2007. It features weekly career advice articles written by ACS members and staff. The readership of the blog has steadily increased since its inception. The number of unique readers in October 2009 was 5,588. As of February 27, 2009, there have been 93 articles posted with 153 approved reader comments. A total of 44,624 people viewed the blog since it was launched.

ACS Careers Jobs Database

The ACS Careers Jobs Database is a dynamic listing of employment opportunities for people in the chemical sciences. At any given time, there are hundreds of job listings from large and small companies, academic institutions and government employers. The database allows job seekers the opportunity to browse job listings and to gather information about employers. The database also allows employers to search for qualified job candidates electronically based on key words, competencies, geographic preferences and degrees.

ACS Career Counseling

ACS Careers offers free career counseling for ACS members through the Online Career Counseling Program. In addition, ACS Career Counselors attend selected national, regional and local ACS meetings to conduct résumé reviews, mock interviews and to give career advice. There are currently 64 active ACS Career Counselors representing many different technical subdisciplines and employment sectors. This service is only available to ACS members.

ACS Careers Workshops and Career Fairs

ACS Careers offers workshops for job seekers at national, regional and selected local section meetings. These workshops which focus on résumé writing, interviewing and job hunting are presented by trained and certified volunteers to great effect. Hundreds of job seekers are aided by this program on a yearly basis, and job seekers frequently express their gratitude for this service. Additionally, ACS offers career fairs at national meetings for meeting attendees. Servicing 10% of meeting attendees on average, the career fairs are an important element of the national meeting program. ACS Career Fairs offer an amalgam of services to members including the workshops mentioned above, résumé reviews, mock interviews and career advice given by volunteer ACS Career Counselors.

Unemployed Status Dues Waivers & Discounts

ACS members who have been in good standing for at least one year may qualify for up to a two-year dues waiver while unemployed. During this time, they can continue to receive all the benefits of membership during their job search. A flyer describing further benefits has been included with this report.