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Sherwin-Williams (Vaspar): Industrial Chemistry

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* Why go into industry?
  + Improve upon and invent new materials people use daily
  + Competitive pay
  + Challenging work
  + Skills gained are transferable
  + Global jobs
    - Ex: sherwin is in +120 countries/6 continents
  + Perks of business (free food?!)
* Performance Coating Groups
  + Everything but house paint
    - Automotive finishes, coil coatings, packaging coatings, protective/marine, wood coatings, industrial coatings, polymer solutions, etc.
* Packaging Coatings
  + Barely any metal out there that does not have any protective coating on it
    - Drums, Pails, Beverage and food cans, aerosol cans, glass, etc.
* Purpose of Coatings
  + Protection
    - Protect the product from the package and the package from the product
  + Production
    - Promotes ease of fabrication
    - Promotes ease of handling sheets/fabricated items
* What to expect at Sherwin-Williams
  + Different types of chemists!
    - Synthesis
    - Analytical
    - Formulation
  + Involves more than just the science
    - Regulatory
    - Raw material sources
    - Manufacturing
    - Customer interface
  + Fluid job- time allocated between
    - Product development
    - Troubleshooting customer issues
    - Troubleshooting manufacturing issues
* Industrial Chem with a BS
  + Competitive!!!!
    - Large number of graduates and few openings
  + Cultivate skills and experience to stand out
    - Internships and undergraduate research
    - Interpersonal and “soft skills” IMPORTANT
      * Also critical thinking is important when it comes to selling yourself
      * Have a narrative that you can connect with people on
        + ENTHUSIASM is KEY
      * Report writing/telling someone what you do- make sure someone without a technical background can understand you
      * Okay to admit you DON’T know something! That’s okay! Don’t lie
      * Focus on what you DO know
  + Industries hiring large number of chemists:
    - Pharmaceuticals and medical manufacturing
    - Paint, coating, and adhesive manufacturing
    - Environment and material science industries
* Contract Work
  + 1 in 5 jobs in all industries is contract work
  + Upside
    - Flexibility and try many different jobs
    - “foot in the door” – most companies will hire contractors they work with
    - determine if company is a good fit for you
    - most staffing agencies offer benefits
  + Downside
    - Pay is hourly (no paid holidays or sick pay)
    - Minimal or no benefits depending
    - Some employers keep contractors indefinitely
    - Little to no job security
* Job Hunting in Industries
  + Job posting sites like Indeed, Glassdoor, etc.
  + Internships
  + Contract-to-hire positions
  + Networking
  + University resources (!!!)
  + Consider non-traditional paths
    - Forensics
    - Patent law
    - Teaching
    - Regulatory
    - Business
* Qualities of Industrial chem
  + Plays well with others
  + Creative
  + Hard working
  + Uses brain
  + Shows initiative