Moving Into Industry

This course is oriented towards senior level graduate students, those who intend to enter industry within a year or so. The goal is to tell students what is best done to find a position past the graduate degree.

Entering industry is a major change in lifestyle, given that students have been ‘students’ since about age 4. Work lifestyle changes considerably when moving into the industrial setting.

Given my 40+ years of interacting with industry, 11 of them in a full time position, the department decided this course would be useful for me to provide a view of what is “next” after graduate school.

What are the differences of a day at work in academics vs industry? This one credit course, which effectively is a seminar, will address many of these issues, including how to:

- best position yourself in terms of employment applications,
- what changes you should expect at the beginning of a new job,
- what a company expects of you early on,
- how to advance within the corporation,
- how to make an impact, not just hold down a job.

The plan may include visiting speakers - our own graduates - either in person or via Skype address the class.

Grading will be done based on an essay written near the end of the course to define what you have learned from attendance. Office hours will be flexible; I will be available when needed.

K B Wagener
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