



## Top 20 Things Your Advisor Didn't Tell You!



This list of advice was put together by AEG members reflecting on lessons learned during our first years working in the environmental and engineering geology industries. We hope you will take the opportunity to learn from the hurdles we encountered.

Nearly every item on this list is either an opportunity that you can easily access through AEG membership, or advice offered to us by fellow AEG members which turned out to be critically important as we transitioned from students to young professionals.

**We hope this advice will help you find success, and show you the value of continued membership with AEG!**



# ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

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## Top 20 Things Your Advisor Didn't Tell You!

*Networking:*

### **1. Networking is important, even *after* you get a job!**



And connecting with professionals with specialties outside of yours (business, etc.) can be just as important as networking within your specialty.





*Networking:*

**2. When you attend your AEG section meetings, make it a goal to get to know at least two non-student members at each meeting.**



It is tempting, and understandably more comfortable, to talk with friends and peers, but getting to know professionals will pay off in many ways when it comes to finding internships and jobs as well as professional contacts for your future career. Not to mention they really are a great group of people and you will likely make some great friends



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*Networking:*

### **3. Getting a job can often come down to who you know, no matter how impressive your resume is.**



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Talk with and get to know as many professionals as you can. Even if they or their company are not hiring, they can be valuable references.

AEG section and national meetings are great opportunities to network and get to know local professionals!





*Networking:*

## **4. Getting involved in meetings is more beneficial than just showing up to meetings.**



Joining AEG committees, volunteering for a section officer position, or just taking advantage of student presentation nights are great ways to get your name out there and show potential employers and collaborators your own capabilities.



*Networking:*

## **5. Attending conferences is good practice networking and presenting.**



Social and public speaking skills, as well as the ability to get an idea across clearly and effectively are a must in the workplace. These are things you should be working on throughout your career.

What better way to hone these skills than to attend any of AEG's section or annual meetings!?





*Networking:*

## **6. If you're looking for work but don't have a business card, make one!**



Just use your name, contact info and qualifications (put your degree or degree in progress if you don't have work experience yet).

Seasoned professionals still prefer this convenient method of trading contact info while making new contacts. It allows someone to connect your name, your face, and the conversation with a visual aid.



*While in college:*

## **7. Internships/volunteering/practical experience/ research experience is important!**



Knowing how drilling, sampling, etc. works in the field is valuable and will help you stand out from other job applicants.

Remember: Volunteer internships are better than not working at all, and the skills and knowledge you will gain are priceless!





*While in college:*

## **8. Go to field camp even if your school doesn't require it.**



You will learn how to use certain field equipment that will make you a more appealing candidate.

Choosing a region away from home will give you a broader geology experience with different instructors.



*While in college:*

**9. There is a lot of writing in consulting! Take as many writing classes as you can; they will come in handy.**



Take as much time as you can to review your writing before you hand it in, and make sure to leave some time after you have written it to review it.

Get a peer to review your work if possible, ideally someone with a similar knowledge level as your target audience.





*While in college:*

**10. While in school, take as many math and relevant software courses as possible.**



Courses like math, GIS, field work, or classes that are specific to software that is popular in the industry you are seeking employment in can put you ahead of other candidates.



*While in college:*

## **11. Keep your resume up to date so you're always prepared.**



A quality resume takes time to build, and you don't want to be putting it together in a hurry.





*While in college:*

## **12. If you start looking for work after you graduate, you're already behind the curve.**



It could take weeks or even months to go through the hiring process, with no guarantee that you'll land that position at the first place you apply.

Start looking before you graduate. You'll have a better sense of what's out there, get your name out to several different companies, and may even get a job lined up for when you *do* graduate!



*While in college:*

## **13. Schedule informational interviews**



These are a great way to find out more about your career options and how best to prepare for the real deal.





*What is truly required of you:*

## **14. You can get a job with a Bachelor's Degree!**



While the job market is increasingly demanding, a master's degree is not always required in order to succeed in a great career.



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*What is truly required of you:*

**15. A P.G., P.E. or other similar license is not always necessary.**



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While getting started toward a license right away is a good idea if you need it, deciding the industry and region you want to work in first can help you decide if a license is right for you.





*Early in your career:*

## **16. When you get a chance to get behind a drill rig, talk to the drillers.**



You may have a degree, but they have far more experience and knowledge.

If you learn as much as you can about what they are doing and why, the results of your subsurface investigation will be more valuable to your client.



*Early in your career:*

## **17. Subcontractors probably know a lot more about geology than you think they do.**



Remember this if you end up working with drillers, backhoe operators, or similar professionals. They can be a great source of information and great allies.





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*Early in your career:*

**18. You can always learn something from someone.**



Always.



*Early in your career:*

## **19. You will have to pay your dues.**



The grunt jobs go to the recent hires, no matter how smart or well-educated you are. Having the right attitude about it will help you in the long run.





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*Early in your career:*

### **20. Some jobs will have you living in a hotel room for weeks/months at a time.**



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If that situation sounds unappealing, give it a try! You may enjoy the travel and adventure.

If it turns out to be not a good fit, you've gained some experience and can narrow down your career goals.