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Describe your overall duties/ responsibilities as a Manufacturing Technology Engineer:

I resolve plant technical issues through troubleshooting process equipment and implementing best practices. I also develop and direct continuous improvement projects in order to increase yield, capacity, and uptime. I lead teams comprised of operation, maintenance, and technical to complete Process Hazards Analyses. When quality concerns arise, I collaborate with downstream customers to investigate and resolve. Most recently, I have served as the process resource for a capacity expansion project, which is installing a new production line and distillation train.

Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:

Good communication is key. I must be able to communicate clearly and concisely with operations, management, research and development, and many other functions.

Self-awareness is another trait that has made me successful in my role. I am aware of what I don't know and when to ask questions. I am also aware of how what I do affects operators and mechanics, and I always keep them in mind when implementing improvement projects.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Chemical Engineering?

The advice I would give to students who are considering majoring in chemical engineering, is that the most growth will happen when you fail, so don't be afraid to. Stepping outside of your comfort zone is how you grow as an individual and as a professional. Whether it be doing a yearlong multi-disciplinary capstone course instead of the normal design course, taking a co-op position in manufacturing even though you wanted a research position, or joining a club where you don't know anyone, those are the situations in which you will learn the most about yourself.