



Thao Mai Nguyen

B.S. in Materials Science & Engineering (2020)
Nexceris. LLC, Lewis Center, OH

Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as an Engineer II:

I'm currently a Materials Science Engineer at Nexceris responsible for proof-of-concept development through scale-up validation and transfers to operations for pilot-scale production. I am the subject matter expert for the tape casting process and technical lead on substrates development for fuel cells, electrolysis, batteries, and proton conductors technologies.

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

This role requires an understanding of materials' properties in their different physical phases and crystal structures. Having competent technical skills, and utilizing project management is important, but the most valuable skills are my communication and empathy. Working in a cross-functional environment often exposes me to many different perspectives

and personalities. My ability to adapt my language and listen to understand establishes our strong foundation for trust and credibility.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Materials Science & Engineering?

Give MSE a chance! It is an incredible field that opens up a multitude of skill sets and opportunities in a wide range of industries. It's not simply the structure of materials you learn about, but you also have the opportunity to gain insight into how they are processed and why certain objects are designed to be the way they are. I was initially in Exploration without a clue about where my interests lay and stumbled into our Intro to MSE course leaving starry-eyed. Majoring in MSE gave me a new appreciation for everything I touch! I now geek out when I see jewelry plated in rhodium and appreciate cubic zirconia SOOO much more.

