Chemistry degrees offer a path into exciting and sometimes unexpected careers in academia, government and private sector. Decisions early in our academic life can define our future as a professional. Therefore it is important to explore, evaluate and take advantage of opportunities for professional development. In this presentation, a graduated from the UPR Mayagüez PhD Program in Applied Chemistry shares his career path from a graduate student at UPR Mayagüez to Analytical and Method Development Division Manager in the federal government. He will also explain the importance of developing soft skills in college and graduate school as well as technical core competencies. The goal of this presentation is to have a dialogue with undergraduate and graduate students to help them reflect about the transition of a student to the professional world, to motivate them to start planning their career and answer questions about working in the federal government.