Base Catalyzed Hydrolysis of Nitriles

Reaction:

\[
\text{RC} &= \text{NaOH} / \text{H}_2\text{O} \\
\rightarrow & \quad \text{RCOO}^- \text{Na}^+ + \text{NH}_3
\]

Mechanism:

This irreversible reaction produces the salt of a carboxylic acid. You may need to perform an acid workup if the product requires further chemical changes.