



Informational Interviewing – Sample Questions

- How did you get into this career field/industry?
- How would you describe a typical day/week on the job?
- What is your job like?
- What kind of decisions do you make?
- How did you get this job, and what kinds of experiences & preparation helped you the most?
- Why did you decide to work for this company/organization?
- What are the most satisfying aspects of your job?
- What frustrations or drawbacks do you experience at work?
- How would you describe the work environment such as work, pressure, deadlines, and routines?
- What future industry trends do you project could affect your occupation?
- What advice would you give to someone trying to break into this field?
- What are the essential skills to be successful in this line of work? How did you learn these skills (e.g., training programs, classroom, on the job)?
- How much time do you spend alone? Interacting with people? Writing reports? Reading job-related publications?
- What's an example of a problem that you help solve at work?
- How does your career affect your lifestyle (the amount of time you work vs. time for leisure, traveling, family, outside interests)?
- What are the latest developments and primary issues impacting this field today?
- How do you see jobs in the field changing over the next five to ten years?
- What educational degrees, licenses, or other credentials are required for entry and advancement in your kind of work? Are there any which are preferred or helpful?
- What are the trade/professional groups to which you belong and which do you find most beneficial to your work? What is your advice about getting involved with these organizations as a student?
- What other career areas do you see as being related to your work?
- What other functional areas within the organization do you collaborate with the most?
- What personal, characteristics, personality traits, values, strengths, and/or interests do you believe are necessary or helpful for success and satisfaction in this occupation (or organization)?
- How do people learn about job openings in the field?
- What do you wish you had known about this career field before you entered it? What about your current employer?
- How is this organization structured?
- What is your organization's leadership/management philosophy? How does this differ from other organizations in this field/industry?
- What is the typical career progression in this field? What are the keys to advancement?
- What books/periodicals/websites that you would recommend?
- What special advice would you give to someone entering this field, industry, or line of work?
- What is the next step in your career?
- Who else do you recommend I talk with about careers in this field?