INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW

An informational interview is an opportunity to speak with a networking contact to gain industry and career information. In order to have a productive informational interview, you should prepare questions in advance. This will help you stay organized, make the best use of your contact’s time and help alleviate experiencing nervousness since you have an agenda to follow.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

How did you get into this field?

Can you describe a typical day on the job?

What are some of the challenges you have faced pursuing this career?

What did you major in college?

How did you get your job? Why did you decide to work for this company?

Can you provide one career tip that you know now that wish you knew when you were in college?

How do you stay current in your knowledge?

What are key qualities you look for when hiring?

What projects have you worked on that have been particularly interesting?

What kinds of people experience success in this field?

Is graduate school recommended? What program (s)?

Besides from school, how did you prepare for this work?

What is the next step in your career?

What are current trends/changes in this field?

How would you assess the experience I have so far in terms of entering this field?

Thank you so much for your time. The information you provided is very helpful. I would like to continue this exploration. Do you have any contacts you can refer me to?