

Questions for Colleagues

Informational interviews are an important networking tool that can help you in your career exploration and your job search. By talking to people currently in your field of interest you are able to gain understanding of the trends and nuances in the field.

Most students find that asking 5–7 questions is enough for a 30-minute conversation.

1. Can you briefly tell me about your current job?
2. Can you tell me about any of your recent projects?
3. How do you work with other departments?
4. Whom do you depend on?
5. What makes your division distinct?
6. How did you get into this position?
7. What are typical entry-level jobs in this industry?
8. Why did you want to work in your current organization/job?
9. What's the most challenging part of your job?
10. What do you like most about what you do?
11. How do people break into this field?
12. Can you discuss what made your job search successful?
13. Would you discuss how and what type of research or outreach you did during your job searches?
14. What does a typical career path look like in your industry?
15. What was it like working on your team?
16. What does a typical day look like for you?
17. How would you describe your work environment/culture?
18. What advice do you have for students considering this type of work?
19. How has your education played a role in your current employment?
20. What is your hiring process like?
21. What do you read—in print and online—to keep up with developments in your field?
22. What are long-term trends in your business?
23. Do you have other comments to add about your experience?
24. Who else do you suggest I contact to learn more about this type of work?
25. Who else would you recommend that I speak with?