Informational Interview Form

# General Information

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| Your Name: | Ali Kalakish |
| Date: | April 23, 2025 |
| Employee’s Name: | Sarah Mansour |
| Position: | Cybersecurity Analyst |
| Company: | SecureTech Solutions |

# Informational Interview Questions

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| Question | Answer |
| What do you do? What are your job duties/functions/responsibilities? | I monitor and protect the company's digital infrastructure... |
| Why did this type of work interest you, and how did you get started with your career? | I've always had an interest in technology and security... |
| What type of education and training prepared you for this career field? | A Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and several certifications... |
| How did you get your job? What jobs and experiences led you to your present position? | I started as an IT support intern... |
| Does your work relate to any experiences or studies you had in college? | Yes, especially in networking and operating systems... |
| What challenges did you have to overcome to get to your position? | Getting certified while working full-time was tough... |
| What do you look for in a quality employee? | Curiosity, attention to detail, strong analytical skills... |
| What personal qualities do you believe contribute most to being successful in your job? | Patience, persistence, and being calm under pressure... |
| What skills or talents are essential to being effective in your job? | Knowledge of firewalls, SIEM tools, scripting (like Python)... |
| What are the types of entry-level positions that you/your company typically hire? | Security Analyst I, IT Support Technician, SOC Analyst... |
| What are the typical entry-level job functions? | Monitoring alerts, performing basic security assessments... |
| Do you think there are some entry-level tasks in your area of work that I would be able to do if I were to start working here today? Please list some. | Yes: log analysis, password policy audits, phishing simulations... |
| In your experience, what are the top three reasons why young people have difficulties being hired? | Lack of hands-on experience, poor soft skills, generic resumes... |
| In your experience, what are the top three reasons why young people have challenges keeping their jobs? | Not adapting to culture, missing deadlines, not taking initiative... |
| What advice do you have for young employees who want to advance in their career? | Always be learning, seek mentorship, accept new challenges... |
| What sorts of changes are occurring in your occupation? | More automation, cloud security growth, increased AI use... |
| With the information you have about my education, skills and experience, what other fields or jobs would you suggest I research further? | Network Engineer, Systems Administrator, Penetration Tester... |
| How much demand is there for people in this occupation? Can you estimate future job openings? | Very high. Projected to increase significantly... |
| What are the salary ranges for various levels in this field? | Entry: $40-60k, Mid: $60-90k, Senior: $100k+... |
| Do you know of other organizations/places of work that do similar kinds of work or use similar skills? Do you know of other people I might be able to talk to who have similar jobs? | DarkMatter, Booz Allen Hamilton, Cisco... |
| What’s the best advice you’d give to someone interested in this field/seeking to qualify for this position? | Get certified, build a lab, attend webinars, keep learning... |
| I am told that X, Y and Z are my strongest assets. (Fill in the blanks with your skills, areas of knowledge, personality traits). Where would these skills be helpful in this organization? | Linux, Networking, and Programming are very helpful here... |
| Would you mind taking a look at my resume/CV? | Sure, I’d be happy to give you feedback. |