Informational Interviews

Questions used for both

What kinds of decisions do you make?

Why did this type of work interest you, and how did you get started?

What is your professional background?

What are the skills that are most important for a position in this field?

How did you learn these skills? Did you enter this position through a formal training program?

Is there flexibility as far as work hours, or working offsite?

How has your job affected your lifestyle?

What are the major frustrations of this job?

How do you think graduation from a private (or public) university is viewed when it comes to hiring?

What special advice do you have for a student seeking to qualify for this position?

What are the major rewards of this position, aside from things like money, fringe benefits, or travel?

What are the salary ranges for various levels in this field? Is there a salary ceiling?

How would you describe the working atmosphere and the people with whom you work?

First Interview with a financial advisor.

Talking with him, he works for a smaller company and doesn’t work as many hours as someone who does for a larger company. He is usually 50 hours a week and home for dinner every night. He went to a public college to earn his degree and says most companies like the high rated colleges when looking at resumes. The skills he needed to learn were analytical and he says he learned most of them when he was interning. He suggested I find internships as a student because that is the best way to get experience for a job after I graduate.

Second interview with an accountant.

I only got to talk to the accountant for 20 minutes because he was very busy. He talked about how most of accounting is becoming online, and that it is getting easier to not have an accountant for some people. He runs his own business and has many clients, but he is finding out that his clients are wanting to do their own taxes because it is cheaper for them, and they have more control. When I mentioned my major as financial economics, he thought that was a great field with lots of potential. He talked about his usual work schedule, and he works most days and tries to take off weekends to spend time with his family.