A CAREER GUIDE TO: INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWING

The informational interview is a technique that can help you learn more about careers you are interested in and make connections in your field.

**STEP 1:** Find a person that you would like to talk to about a future career. You can find this person through: “6° of Separation” (see self-entitled handout.) Start with your friends, family, classmates, and coworkers and ask if they know of anyone working in the career.

**STEP 2:** Make an appointment with this person. The typical informational interview can last anywhere from 20 minutes to one hour. Be clear that this is an informational interview, inform them that you are not job seeking; you are trying to gather information to make an informed choice about your major or career.

**STEP 3:** Prepare a list of questions that you would like answered.

**STEP 4:** Remember that you are there to learn from an expert and gather information about a possible future major or career.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS →
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1. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CAREER PATH?

2. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING IN THIS PROFESSION?

3. WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU SEEN IN THIS PROFESSION?

4. DO YOU THINK THE MAJOR THAT I’M PURSUING CAN LEAD ME TO THE POSITION THAT YOU HOLD TODAY?

5. TELL ME ABOUT AN AVERAGE DAY?

6. WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST AND LEAST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

7. WHAT ENTRY-LEVEL POSITIONS/PATHS CAN LEAD TO THIS PROFESSION?

8. WHAT IS THE SALARY RANGE FOR THIS PROFESSION?

9. WHAT TYPE OF EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY FOR THIS PROFESSION?

10. TELL ME ABOUT POSITIONS RELATED TO THIS PROFESSION?