How do you know if a career is a good choice for you?
- You should listen to any gut feelings that tell you you don't enjoy a job. Don't do anything you do not enjoy!

What should you do if you don't have specific background knowledge for a job or graduate school?
- In the context of lacking physics knowledge, you can look for departments which are astronomy only.
- A good first step to breaking into a field is to intern in the field.

How do you become an observing specialist and what qualities do you need to succeed?
- Aspects of an observing specialist job: You do not work alone; the day to night shift transitions can be difficult at first.
- There isn't one quality you need to be successful, many positions will train you in your position. The longer you are there, the better you will be. Usually by the end of your first year you will settle in.
- An observing specialist job is 95% sitting around and 5% working to fix things quickly and effectively.
- You should have a high tolerance for stress and should be someone who can think on their feet.

What is the main difference between software engineering and computer science?
- Computer science is much more mathematics based, while software engineering is much more application based like many other engineering disciplines.
- Astronomers could benefit from software engineering training.

How do you know when a position is right for you?
- You should explore as many topics as you can.
- Your thesis will need to be a specific problem, but it doesn't mean it will pigeonhole you into a specific career choice.
- When looking for specific roles in academia it is always important to assess the available mentorship and science equally.

If you take a break from working, how do you answer questions related to the break in interviews?
- You can continue to take online courses, work on side projects etc.
- It is always good to seek out a strong reference who can speak on your behalf.
- Hopefully these types of questions will not come up in an interview because they are somewhat inappropriate.

How can you improve your resume?
- It can be very useful to have a critical eye look at your resume. Any university should have a career office which provides this service.
- Be specific with numbers and action verbs in your resume. "I improved project X's efficiency by 3000% and this work led to 900 publications."
- Always use I on your resume, not we.
- Don't be afraid to sell your work, just don't over inflate.

How can you improve your cover letter?
- Make sure you make it clear that you have read the job ad and you know why you would be a good fit for the position. You should be specific and genuine.

- Cover letters for industry positions are somewhat less common.

How have you coped with rejection during your career?
- You should never be hard on yourself because of rejections. Rejection is almost always situational and never personal.
- Getting a job is almost always luck, especially in academia.
- Treat yourself (buy a coffee, take a day off, etc) and get back to it.
- You should always apply for the job, regardless of your experience. Almost no applicant meets all categories. Sometimes if you don't get a job you will be kept in mind for the future.
- It is easy to be ashamed about feelings of failure, but if you are honest with yourself and confide in those you care about it can really improve your state of mind.
- Maintaining social connections outside of your professional life can also help you to detach from the intensity of job search rejection.

What skills does a social media person have that other people don't?
- You should have a very strong interest in science and love talking to folks about how science can illuminate their interests.
- If you have ever heard of a "translator" role, it is a similar type of job. You take advanced concepts and distill them into the most interesting and captivating points.

How do you deal with impostor syndrome?
- It is important to recognize that everyone feels impostor syndrome.
- It is important to realize that you're comparing yourself to perceptions and not reality.
- You can also try to reframe the problem. For example, you can learn from the people you may think know more than you. Additionally, you can look at it as an opportunity to improve yourself.
- Always try and keep an open mind.
- Make sure your social networks are not just astronomers.