

Informational Interview Questions

Use the following questions to engage with your on-site colleagues.

1. What is your job like?
 - On a typical day what do you do?
 - What kinds of problems do you solve?
 - What kinds of decisions do you make?
 - What is your most significant accomplishment from the past year?
2. What do you like most about your job?
 - What do you find challenging?
 - What do you not like about your job?
 - Is your job different from how you first thought it would be? Were there any surprises?
3. What things (work, activities, classes, or hobbies) did you do before you entered this occupation?
 - Which have been most helpful?
 - What other jobs can you get with the same background?
 - What attracted you to this type of work?
4. What changes are occurring in your occupation?
 - Has technology changed your work in any way?
5. How could I start working in your field?
 - What are the major qualifications for success in this occupation?
 - What are the advancement opportunities?
 - Are there special areas or needs that a newcomer could fill?
 - If you were starting again, what, if anything, would you do differently?
 - Are you making the amount of money you thought you would?
 - What is a typical pay range for someone entering this occupation?
6. Why do people leave this occupation?
7. What other local companies hire people in this occupation?
8. What social obligations go along with your job?
 - Are there organizations you must join?
 - Are there other activities you are expected to do outside work hours?
9. What sources of information would you recommend?
 - Are there any books I should read?
 - Are there online forums for this occupation or industry?
10. What other advice do you have for a person considering this career?

Adapted from *Informational Interview Questions*, *CIS Job Search Information* (U of O) by Liz Pearse and Denise Hughes-Tafen [CC BY-NC-SA](#) for Open Oregon Educational Resources