Informational interviews provide an excellent way to gather more information about your particular field of interest. Remember, that people want to help and feel good when they do; people are often proud of their work and would love to talk to others about it!

Types of Questions You Might Ask in an Informational Interview:

**Occupational Environment**
- How would you outline or describe a typical day at work?
- How much flexibility are you allowed on your job in terms of dress, hours, vacation, etc.?
- What portion of your job involves interacting with others, such as co-workers or the public?
- What do you like or dislike about your job and the industry in general?
- Is it possible to work full-time and go to graduate school?
- How has your job affected your lifestyle?
- From your perspective, what are the problems you see working in this field?

**Occupational Requirements and Experience**
- What courses (requirements, electives) were most helpful to you in your college career?
- What do I need to explain to an employer about coming from a liberal arts college?
- What graduate school connections are important before and after having a job like yours?
- What are some specific skills I should be trying to obtain to succeed in this field?
- Is special certification, licensing, or an advanced degree required for your job?

**Personal Background/Experience**
- What was your undergraduate major field of study? Have you always been interested in this area?
- Are any co-curricular activities recommended?
- Did you have any practical experience or training, other than college, prior to your current job?
- What is the highest degree you’ve attained?
- How did you get your current job? If you had to do it over again, would you take the same route?
- How is your company different from others in the field?
- If you could change one thing about your job, what would it be?
Outlook

• What are the opportunities for advancement in this field?
• What sorts of changes are occurring in your occupation?
• What is the current and future demand for people in this occupation?
• Is it easier to do a nationwide search or a regional search for this field?
• What are possible salary ranges and benefits for someone in your occupation?

Advice

• Are there any professional groups that I, as an undergraduate, can join that would be beneficial?
• How can I get experience in this field while I’m still in college?
• Do you know of specific websites, publications, or other sources that would post internships or entry-level positions in this field?
• What is a good starting point for this career path? Is any specific entry point more advantageous?
• What are the important keywords or buzzwords to include in a résumé or application letter when job hunting in the field?
• Do you have any recommendations or referrals to anyone in your network, to whom I should reach out next? Who else should I speak to about my career journey?
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