

## KEY QUESTIONS FOR INFORMATIONAL NETWORKING

### HOW TO HAVE GREAT CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR MENTOR

Wondering what questions to ask as you get the ball rolling? Here's an entire page of them. Generally, a 30 minute conversation might give you time to ask 3-5 questions. Feel free to use these directly, or just use them as inspiration as you brainstorm your own.

#### MIDDLEBURY

1. Why did you come to Middlebury?
2. What made you decide to declare your major? How has it helped you?
3. At Midd, what was most [challenging, fun, surprising, difficult, etc.]?
4. Knowing what you know now, is there anything you'd do differently?
5. How do you think the college has changed since you graduated?
6. What was your sophomore year like for you?
7. What's not to be missed?

#### POST-MIDD PATH

1. When you were a student at Middlebury, did you expect to end up where you are now?
2. What got you started along your path? How did you get into the field?
3. After college, what did you feel most prepared for? Least prepared for?
4. How certain were you, about your career/grad school/post-Midd experiences?

#### PROFESSION

1. What do you like best about what you do?—what do you like the least?
2. What are some projects/initiatives you've worked on recently that you're excited about?
3. What parts of your job do you find most challenging? What keeps you engaged?
4. Within your field, what changes have you seen in the course of your career thus far?
5. In your organization, what differentiates the most successful recent grad hires from the rest?
6. What direction is your industry/organization headed in? In the next 1-3 years, where will the talent needs and opportunities be?

#### PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

1. If you were *me*, and had an interest in getting where *you* are, what would do to get started?
2. Is there a typical pathway or trajectory that people take?
3. Are there backgrounds or qualifications you like to see in new hires?
4. Are there resources, journals, or professional associations that you've found useful?
5. Are there additional organizations you'd recommend I target?

#### CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

1. What are one or two things I could do to keep up the momentum until we talk next?
2. What else should be on my radar?
3. Are there questions you wish I asked you?