

Career Exploration: Questions to Ask Your Mentor

To Explore Career Fit

- How did you decide on this career?
- How does this career fit your interests, values, and skills?
- What are your main duties?
- What skills are most important for success?
- What kind of person does well in this industry/company?
- What was your major and how have you used this in your position(s)?
- What type of experience/coursework would you recommend liberal arts students take to prepare for this type of career?
- What skills do you use most in your position?
- What is a 'typical' background for someone in your role?
- What opportunities are there for advancement in this field?
- What is a typical day like for you in your position?
- What are your favorite/least favorite parts of your job?

How to Prepare for a Career in a Specific Industry

- How did your time at NU (inside and outside the classroom) prepare you for this field?
- What are some challenges to working in this industry?
- What experiences should I engage in to be better prepared for this industry?
- How is this field/industry changing?
- What type of internships are helpful to have to learn more about working in a museum?
- Do you need an advanced degree to begin working or are there entry level jobs?
- What are some typical entry level jobs students start with?
- How do you work your way up in this industry ?
- What trends do you see occurring in this industry?
- What are some of the internship and job search strategies you recommend?

Learning about the Specific Organization

- How would you characterize the work culture/environment in this setting?
- Can you share with me the structure of the department or division and how it fits into the total organization?
- Considering the people in your department or company, what are characteristics you believe makes them successful?
- Do you provide any sort of professional development or training programs?
- It seems that every organization has its own personality. How would you characterize yours?
- What do you like most/least about working for this company?

To Learn Internship/Job Search Strategy

- What are methods and resources for getting internships/jobs in this industry/company?
- What resources would you recommend I use to find an internship/job in this industry?
- Who else would you recommend I talk with about employment in this industry/company?