



## What to Ask During an Informational Interview

Setting up an informational interview might seem intimidating, but it is a great way to get inside information about your chosen career path. **Any job seeker or employee at any level** can benefit from talking to professionals in various positions about their backgrounds, career paths and industry knowledge.

An informational interview is the **time for you to gain deeper knowledge about a career path or company**. It is NOT the right time to apply for a campaign for a specific job opening.

Here are **sample questions** you might ask during an informational interview. Change or add questions that are important to your particular career field.

1. How did you get into your current position? How did you choose this career path?
2. What education/training and experience do you have? What background typically is needed at your career level?
3. What's the corporate culture like at your current company (hours, pay ranges, diversity, etc.)? Is this company typical of others in this field?
4. Describe a typical day on the job. Do you have a busy season or less active times during the year?
5. How do you keep your skills updated?
6. How has work in this career changed in recent years? What economic or social trends affect your work?
7. What are employers really looking for currently (skills, education, experience)?
8. What is your advice to someone interested in this field?
9. Could you review my resume and make suggestions for improvements?
10. Can you refer me to someone else in this field who I might talk to?

**More informational interview resources:** <http://denisefelder.com/2010/07/15/informational-interview/>

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