CAREER KINDLING · FREE RESOURCE

Informational Interview Question Guide

"You don't have a career plan until you've talked to someone living it." — Colton Cook

Use these questions when talking with a professional in a career you're interested in pursuing. These conversations are called informational interviews — and they are the fastest path to real career clarity.

Daily reality

1. What does your average day look like?

Variety vs. routine

2. Are your responsibilities the same every day?

Life setup

3. What is your work schedule?

Honest pros & cons

4. What are your favorite parts about this job? What about this job do you wish was different?

Company differences

5. Does your position's responsibilities look different at other companies?

Long-term benefits

6. Does this job include a retirement system?

Compensation

7. How much money could I expect to start at in this job? What are the pay growth opportunities?

Their path

8. What credentials and work experience did you have when you were hired for this job?

Credentials to earn

9. What certificates, licenses, and/or college degrees would make me competitive for this job?

Expand options

10. What similar jobs do you know of that I might find interesting?

Experience roadmap

11. What job experience, including part-time and entry level jobs, would you recommend?

Network building

12. Who else should I connect with to help me achieve my career goals?

Resume builder

13. Are there any extracurricular activities or skills I should pursue to better my resume?

PRO TIP

These 13 questions work for any career. Most professionals say YES when a curious student asks to learn about their career. So don't hesitate. Your career starts with a conversation.