

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Here is a list of questions your mentee may ask you. Many of these examples pertain to a mentoring relationship that is career-related.

Obtaining Employment & Career Advancement

1. What are the most important skills someone should have to find success in this occupation?
2. What types of part-time, full-time or summer jobs should I be doing right now that may prepare me for this career path?
3. What avenues did you explore to find job openings in your field?
4. What kind of experience is needed to obtain an entry-level position in this profession?
5. How long should I expect to stay in an entry-level position?
6. What are the opportunities for advancement?
7. Is this type of work available on an international basis (without further training)?
8. In what ways did your education contribute to your career?
9. What academic courses do you find most relevant to your day-to-day work?
10. Is a post-graduate certificate, diploma, or degree necessary within this field?

Networking

1. Who helped you to get into this field?
2. How important is it to know someone in your profession/industry?
3. What professional associations or organizations are useful to belong to in this field?
4. What magazines, journals, or websites are important to read in this field?

Corporate Culture & Expectations

1. What do you do in a typical day?
2. What kind of salary may I expect in an entry-level position?
3. What are some other jobs in your field that are similar to your own?
4. What terminology or ideas should I remember when I am applying for a job in this field?

5. What kind of corporate culture exists in your field?
6. How many hours are in a typical work week?
7. What type of supervision is typical in this career?

Personal

1. Who had the most significant impact on you choosing this career?
2. What are the things you find personally rewarding in your career?
3. What are the things you find frustrating or disappointing?
4. What extra-curricular or co-curricular activities should I pursue to help me prepare for this career area?
5. What kind of volunteer experience would be beneficial?
6. Why did you get into this field?
7. Is travel a component of the job?
8. How stressful is this occupation?
9. How do you personally balance home and work life?
10. How do you make your commuting time most productive?
11. What was the most surprising part of your transition from university to work?
12. What do you see as the biggest challenges for new graduates when they enter your industry?