

Want to learn more about a career? Just ask.

Most people are happy to talk about their jobs and career paths. Here are sample questions that can yield thoughtful answers and unexpected insights.

Career Path

Why did you choose this career path?
How did you get started?

Workday

What is a typical workday like for you?
How would you describe your work environment (pace, hours, stress, safety, predictability, creativity)?
Can you describe some of the projects or challenges you've been working on lately?

Education

What kind of education and training did you need for your job?
What types of classes in high school or college provided the most useful preparation for your career?
Are there colleges or programs you would recommend for people interested in this field?

Salary and Advancement

What can people expect to earn in entry-level jobs in this field? How about after 10 or 20 years?
What does it take for someone to advance in this career?
Have you ever seen anyone struggle in this job? What are common reasons for success or failure?

Tradeoffs, Rewards and Quality of Life

What do you enjoy most about your job, and what do you find the most challenging?
Does this job allow for a good work-life balance? Describe ways that people make it work.

Future of Your Industry

Are there any trends in your industry that concern you? Any trends you see as promising?
Is your industry facing a shortage or oversupply of people? How is job security?

Advice

What do you wish you had known at the start of your career?
What are the best opportunities for someone entering your field?

STAY CONNECTED: