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 [your major] 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 UTA (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 [job field]?
• 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?

Developed by Jeff Jenkins, NCA
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?