
INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWING

Informational interviewing is a great way to get to know professionals in the field you wish to pursue. From small and large animal to zoo to public health, talking to someone currently doing what you want to do will help you decide if that is the right career path for you as well.

Request an interview

How do you go about requesting an informational interview with someone? LinkedIn is a great way to first find professionals. You can type key words in the search bar and ask to connect with people by letting them know you are a veterinary student interested in their field. You can also ask members of your network if they know anyone in your chosen career path. Then, send the person an email or call them and let them know who suggested you get in contact with them and that you would like to meet to learn more about their career path. You can also ask the Office of Professional Success – we know professionals in almost every veterinary field and would be happy to connect you with them.

Ask the right questions

The goal of an informational interview is to get to know the person and learn about their experiences, never to ask for a job. Here are several questions to incorporate into your meeting:

1. Why did you choose to pursue veterinary medicine and this particular field?
2. What is a typical day like for you?
3. What are some activities you were involved in during vet school that you think would be beneficial for someone wanting to pursue your same career path?
4. Do you see this field expanding and growing? Or are the opportunities limited?
5. What is your favorite aspect of your profession?
6. What are the biggest challenges you face in your job?
7. Are there opportunities to grow and expand your skills in this field?
8. _____ is really important to me in a future career. Is this something valued in this line of work?
9. If you could go back to veterinary school, is there anything you would have done differently to prepare for your career?
10. How does this career impact your personal life?
11. What is the most important thing someone entering this field of veterinary medicine should consider?
12. **And always**—Are there others in your network you would suggest I get in touch with to learn more about this career path?

Follow-up

Following up is key with informational interviewing, because it will keep your network strong and your connections growing. Just as with a regular interview, always send a thank you. Be sure to mention something specific from your meeting, either a piece of advice they gave you or an action item you said you would complete. A good way to keep your name fresh in your new connection's mind is to share an article, news story, or a bit of information with them a few weeks later. If they suggest someone else you should get in touch with, let them know you contacted them. You will learn the most about a career path from someone actually in it – so use informational interviewing as a way to expand your knowledge and skills and to help decide the right career path for you.