

QUESTIONS TO ASK....

DO I WANT TO DO THIS?

- What is a typical day like?
- What is the work setting like (i.e., quiet, busy, formal, group or individual work, etc.)?
- In what other companies/industries do you find people doing your type of work?
- What do you like about your job?
- What do you wish you could change about your job?
- What are some of the reasons why people leave this field?
- What kind of hours do you work – do you have any flexibility in your schedule?
- How much structure/supervision is there in your type of job?
- What could I expect as an entry-level salary? What can I expect to be earning after 5, 10, 15, etc. years on the job?
- Is turnover high?
- What does the typical career path look like?
- What are the typical job titles in the entry, middle, and senior career levels?
- What positions come after entry-level jobs?
- Does your company promote from within?
- How common/hard is it to move up the ladder?
- How does one usually dress in this field?
- Is much travel involved?
- How does your department fit into the overall company structure?
- If you could do it all over again, would you choose the same path?

CAN I DO THIS?

- What classes should I be sure to take?
- What kind of training/education is required (i.e. BS, MS, certifications, etc.)?
- What is your background (education/experience)? How about the backgrounds of your co-workers?
- What does the future of the industry look like? What changes do you see in the next few years?
- Given the current job market, do you think there will be employment opportunities in the field in the next few months/years?
- How competitive is this field?
- What skills and/or personal characteristics are important to do well in this job?
- What should I do before I graduate to make myself marketable (i.e., internship, campus activities, certain classes, etc.)?

HOW DO I DO THIS?

- How does one break into this field? Is there more than one path?
- What's the best way to look for a job/internship in your company/industry/field?
- How did you get your job?
- Are there any professional organizations you suggest I join, websites I should check out, journals/books I should read?
- Do you have any special advice?