What is an informational interview?

An informational interview is a meeting between you and a professional in a career or job that you find interesting. Often, the most current information about a career field comes from the people who are working in the field themselves. An informational interview is not a job interview. The objective is not to get a job offer it is to learn about a new job and expand your professional network.

Why would you conduct an informational interview?

Informational interviews are a great opportunity to get to know a specific industry, field, organization, and/or position so you can determine if it would be a good fit for your skills, personality, and goals. Informational interviewing also will give you:

- A feel for different work environments from a first-hand professional
- Tips about how to prepare for, enter, and/or progress in a given career
- Knowledge that can help you better write your resume or interview for jobs in the field
- A professional relationship to expand your network

How do you conduct an informational interview?

- websites like careers.org and www.onetonline.org.
- Identify people to interview. Ask people you know for potential contacts in the field(s), company or job(s) that piques your interest. People are usually very willing to talk to you.
- Prepare for the interview. Prepare plenty of open-ended questions to keep the conversation moving, such as:
 - o What skills are necessary for your job/field?
 - o What makes a person successful in your line of work?
 - o Do you enjoy your work?
 - o How do you spend your day?
 - o How did you get into the field?
 - o What are some challenges of your job?
- Initiate contact. Pick up the phone