

# Informational Interviewing Assignment

## Objective

Using provided resources as a guide, students will identify a professional in a career field of interest and conduct a 30-45 minute informational interview.

## Learning Goals

1. Identify experiences available to explore interests and skills (job shadowing, student organizations, volunteer work, introductory classes, etc.)
2. Identify potential academic majors and career paths that align with their values, interests, skills, and goals
3. Outline a path to reach their early career goals
4. Reflect on how their career plans have changed as a result of their exploration activities

## Resources

[Informational Interviewing Guide](#) (pdf)

[Following Up After and Interview](#) (pdf)

[Central Connections](#)

[Alumni Finder on Central Michigan University LinkedIn Page](#)

## Assignment

1. Identify a professional in a career field of interest (use personal networks, Central Connections, CMU alumni finder tool on LinkedIn, or other means)
2. Develop a series of 8-12 questions to ask that individual in order to gain insight into the career field
3. Submit the name/title/organization of interviewee and list of questions to instructor for approval
4. Schedule and conduct an in-person or virtual informational interview
5. Using the prompts below, compose a two-page essay discussing the insights gained from the interview and the process of scheduling and conducting the interview

## Essay Prompts

1. How did it feel to contact and interview a professional in your field of interest?
2. Based on your conversation, what educational credentials (courses, degrees, certifications) are typically required for entry into this career field? Does this educational path correspond with your current plan of study?
3. What internship or volunteer experiences does this person recommend for preparing for this career field? How might you obtain that experience during your undergraduate work?
4. What aspects of this profession match your interests, skills, and values? What aspects do not match your preferences?
5. If you are still interested in this career field, what will you do next to further your exploration/preparation for it?
6. If you are no longer interested in this career field as a result of your informational interview, what will you do next to continue your career exploration?



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