Discussion Topics for Mentee

A mentor is a resource for you to find answers to questions you have about college and/or careers. They are valuable because they have experience with the college/career you are considering. The purpose of your information interview or half day shadow day is to gain information, advice, and contacts. Below are some possible topics to discuss with your mentor.

Find out background information about your mentor:

- Types of courses that best prepared him/her for this career
- The impact of their college major on their career
- Is this the career you thought you would find yourself? Did you ever want to do something else?
- Did you do any internship(s)? How did it impact your career choices?
- Length of time in current position/organization
- Major job responsibilities
- Organizational structure
- Past career path and how he/she got to the position he/she is in today. How did he/she learn about this career?

Ask about their profession:

- Description of a typical day
- Likes and dislikes of the job
- Challenges in the profession or recurring problems within the occupation
- Rewards of the profession
- Employment trends
- Professional associations, networks online resources that the mentor would recommend
- General salary information and benefits for the profession
- Aspects of his/her education or other skills that helped most in the job
- Projected future of their company

Get some advice:

- Share your background/goals with the mentor
- Obtain advice about your job search or career path
- Ask for resume advice, for example: what does my resume need to look like if I desire to have a career similar to yours?
- Obtain advice about finding an internship
- Ask for job search advice and tips that the mentor can provide
- Ask for a referral to another contact person to continue networking