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 ½ 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