

## Informational Interview Questions – Careers in Medicine

<https://www.aamc.org/cim/specialty/exploreoptions/347182/informationalinterviewquestions.html>

### Questions about the person's present professional experience

1. Can you tell me a little bit about your current responsibilities?
2. What is a typical day like?
3. What is a typical week like?
4. With whom do you primarily interact?
5. What skills and experiences are key to succeeding in your specialty/position?
6. What are common qualities of individuals who are successful in your specialty/position?
7. What makes this organization a particularly good place to work?
8. How long have you been in your position?
9. What is most challenging/unexpected about working in this specialty/position?
10. What do you like about your specialty and work environment?
11. How would you describe the culture, management style, and organization here?
12. What is your understanding of the average starting salary range for a new medical professional in this specialty/field?

### Questions about the person's past professional experience

1. Why did you choose your specialty?
2. How did you get into this field?
3. What path led you to this position?
4. What other settings or work environments have you worked in? What other setting or environments are common in this specialty?
5. How did you organize your job search?
6. What was your application/interview process like?
7. What's been most rewarding about the professional path you have taken?
8. What would you do differently?
9. When you think about your first year in this specialty/position, what activities or actions were key towards your success (engaging other staff, setting expectations, work/life balance, etc.)?
10. What type of orientation or training did you receive when you first began working here?
11. Was there anything you wish had been included in that training?

## **Questions about the person's professional future**

1. What are some future career paths that open up for someone in your position 5-10 years down the road?

2. What would be a professionally interesting next step in your career?

General advice

1. What advice would you give someone in my position who wants to be successful in the field?

2. What would you advise new grads about things to look for in terms of orientation, support, work load, etc.?

3. Looking back on your interview, what questions do you suggest candidates ask before taking a position? What do they need to know?

4. I have a copy of my CV. Could you look at it and let me know your thoughts?

5. From the research and informational interviews I've completed so far, I've developed a list of organizations in our field that I'm interested in. Can you tell me anything about them? Are there organizations I've left off that I should look at more closely?

6. Can you recommend anyone else who might be willing to talk with me about their career path, either with a background or interest similar to mine (in terms of clinical interest, research area, etc.) or who works at one of the organizations I mentioned?