Information Interviewing

Information interviewing is a term which is used frequently by career and employment counselors. It simply means going out and talking to people to gather information on the work in which you have an interest.

Developing a List of People You Would Like to Interview

- Check with your career services to see if they have a list of people who have agreed to be interviewed by students or recent graduates.
- Ask everyone you know if they can give you the name of individuals doing the type of work in which you are interested.
- Contact former co-op supervisors, external sponsors, former employees.
- Look through association membership lists.
- Find the names of people through directories, newspaper articles, and trade journals.
- Use every opportunity whether it is at a party, in a class, or at the cottage to let people know that you are looking for people to talk to in order to gather information in a particular field.

Preparation for an Information Interview

Develop questions such as:

- What skills are required for entrance to this field?
- What is the academic background most sought?
- How did you get started in this type of work?
- What are the typical entry-level positions?
- What do you like most about the work you do?
- What are some of the frustrations?
- If you had it to do over, would you have done anything differently?
- What further training or education have you needed since you started?
- What might a typical day’s activities be?
- What changes do you see in the future?
- Is this a growth area?
- Which association do you belong to and do they have student memberships?
- Is there a typical career path in this area?
- Are there other people you think it might be helpful for me to speak to?
- How are positions filled?
- Is there any advice you wish you had been given when you were starting out?