

# INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS

Informational interviewing is the process of meeting with a professional in the field you are interested in entering to gain valuable information about their career, industry, company/organization, and/or geographic location. It is a great opportunity to learn how to be competitive when entering the field as a professional upon graduation. It is also a smart way to connect with employees of a company you are hoping to work for one day.

Reach out to contacts from family and friends, the LSU Olinde Career Center, and LSU Alumni chapters to get easy access to professionals who are excited about helping Tigers prepare for life after graduation.

Dear Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr. Last Name,

My name is Mike Tiger and I am a freshman at Louisiana State University. I am a history major with a minor in art history and was exploring careers that fit in my major. I am interested in your role as a curator and would love the opportunity to discuss your work. I found your information through Handshake for LSU and wanted to reach out. After doing some research about the exhibits at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, I would love to have your insight on what your day-to-day job entails. If you are available anytime over the next two weeks, please let me know. I would love to meet for around thirty minutes.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Mike T. Tiger

What to wear? Making a positive first impression shows you care about your career.

An informational interview is more casual than a job interview. This casualness is part of its charm.

Informational interviews should still be professional, however. Making a positive first impression shows you care about your career and may help your chances if you choose to pursue a job with the person you're meeting with.

## A TIP FOR INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWING

You should conduct several interviews in an occupation and try to confirm the information against various sources. After the interview, show gratitude by sending a thank you note.