

Senior Professional Project: Suggested Interview Questions

1. What is your official job title, and how long have you been a _____?
2. How long have you been involved in the field itself?
3. What inspired you to become a _____, and which factors led you to choose _____ as a career?
4. Were you already planning to become a _____ when you were my age? If so, how did you prepare yourself for what lay ahead?
5. How much time did you spend preparing for your current job – studying, interning, apprenticing, etc.?
6. Where did you attend college, and do you think it will matter where I attend?
7. What sort of courses did you need to take in high school and college in order to prepare for this career?
8. How challenging did you find your college studies?
9. Did you need to attend graduate school, and if so, for how long?
10. Do you need degrees or credentials beyond a bachelor's degree in order to become a _____?
11. Was it difficult to find work after you entered the workforce, and how did you ultimately succeed in landing a job?
12. How are the job prospects for someone young like me who wants to enter the field?
13. When you began your career, what were your expectations regarding the job?
14. Did you have any expectations about the job that turned out to be correct?
15. How would you describe what you do for a living, both in the day-to-day sense and in the bigger picture?
16. What does your schedule usually look like, and how does your work life affect the rest of your life?
17. What traits, skills, or talents have you found particularly useful in this field, and are there any that every _____ should have?
18. What sort of skills and experiences should I highlight on a resume when I apply for work in this field?
19. What would you consider your greatest professional accomplishments?
20. What are you still hoping to achieve in your career?
21. Who determines what work you do, and do you ever have to negotiate or compete for certain work or projects that you'd like to do?
22. How much direction do you receive, and how much initiative do you usually have to take in order to get something done?

23. How do you get along with supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates?
24. Would you say that it's easy to make friends in your field or workplace, or do you find that you keep your social and professional life separate?
25. What are the most common challenges you face – again, both in the day-to-day world and in the bigger scheme of things?
26. Do you ever find your work affected by things outside of your control – the health of our economy, for example?
27. Where are the best companies or locations to work at in this field?
28. Have you needed to work in multiple places and roles, or has your professional life followed a pretty stable path?
29. How difficult is it to switch positions or earn promotions in your field?
30. I know salary information can be a sensitive subject, so please feel free to respond generally to the following: what are salary levels like in the field for beginning and veteran workers, and what would my compensation depend on?
31. Do you find that you get benefits beyond present-day pay – health benefits, vacation days, retirement packages, and so forth?
32. Is there anything you wish the career provided that it doesn't offer you?
33. How has the field or career changed since you started working?
34. Is the future bright for this career/field, and do you see the definitions of the job changing?
35. Do you have any other predictions regarding the future of the field?
36. Do you a) love your job, b) find your job satisfying, or c) find yourself considering other careers?
37. How much longer do you intend to spend on the job?
38. Do you have any other advice for someone who's curious about the field, or who's just starting to seek work?