SAMPLE QUESTIONS

These questions are grouped according to different career values.

1. ACHIEVEMENT

   - What gives you a sense of accomplishment at school?
   - What kinds of things do you find challenging about school?

2. ASSOCIATES

   - How much of your schooling involves interaction with professionals? the community?
   - Is there a team approach to your schoolwork?

3. CREATIVE

   - Do you get to express individuality in your schoolwork, or do you have to follow strict guidelines?
   - Do you have leeway in your schoolwork to be creative and imaginative?

4. ENVIRONMENT

   - What kind of conditions do you typically enjoy working in- noisy, quiet, crowded? Did the size of the City of Houghton play a part in attending Michigan Tech?
   - Do you want to work in the city?

5. ETHICAL

   - Under what circumstances can you refuse to do something not in tune with your ethical beliefs?
   - What do you know/learn about ethics that relate to your studies and future career?

6. FINANCIAL BENEFITS

   - Does the amount of money you may make play a large part in your professional decisions?
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- What kind of benefits do you want after graduation from Tech?
- Do you want to be able to do continued education, and if so do you want your company to pay for it?
- Do you prefer salaried or hourly pay?

7. INDEPENDENCE

- How much time do you spend working alone?
- Do you have complete control over how you do things?

8. INTELLECTUAL

- What do you find most challenging about your major?
- What kinds of opportunities for post-graduate education are there? Are you considering graduate school? Why?
- What parts of what you are learning do you most want to work with?

9. LIFESTYLE

- Do you spend a lot of time in the computer labs?
- Do you enjoy traveling?
- Approximately how many hours do you spend studying in an average week?
- Would you prefer to dress-up for your profession or be able to wear jeans?

10. MANAGEMENT

- Do you often become the group leader for projects?
- Do you feel you have the tools to be an effective leader?

11. SECURITY

- Do you know about the job market trends for this field?
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- Do you prefer to have a stable, long-term position or internships and short-term employment?
- What sorts of changes do you expect to occur in your field of interest?

12. SOCIAL RECOGNITION

- Do you feel respected as a result of your schoolwork?
- How is your achievement recognized?
- What social obligations go along with your major?
- Is there a lot of public exposure in your organizations or major?

13. SOCIAL SERVICE

- Does your work bring about social change?
- Do you help others in society?
- Does the community benefit from your work?

14. VARIETY

- What is the most exciting thing about your major?
- Do you prefer to multi-task, or to take it one project at a time?

Here are more sample questions to ask.

GETTING YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR

- What do you feel will help prepare you for the career you want to pursue?
- What do you look for or find most impressive in potential employers?
- Are there any professional journals/ career-related literature/ organizations that you are involved with?
- Have you been on an internship? What did you learn? Did you enjoy it?
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- How are you job searching? Have you been successful?
- What coursework have you found most interesting?
- Have you been interviewed for a job that is related to your schoolwork? How did it go?
  What could have gone better?
- If you could go back in time, would you do anything differently in choosing your school or major?

PROS AND CONS

- Would you choose the same major/school if you could do it all over again; why or why not?
- What have been some good experiences for you at Michigan Tech?
- If you could change any aspects of your major/school, what would you change?
- Why did you choose your major/Michigan Tech? Was it all that you had expected it to be?
  Was it better or worse?
- What is your favorite thing about your field of interest?
- What are some of the major stresses in your schoolwork? Do you consider this to be a low/medium/high stress field?

OTHER QUESTIONS

- What other occupations are you interested in?
- If you had to choose another related occupation, what would it be?
- Are there any experiences that you have had (work-related or otherwise) that have helped you in your schooling?
- How did you end up on your educational path?
- What level of education are you looking to obtain?
- Are you working on any new projects? Tell me about your involvement.
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Guidelines and suggestions for keeping your mentoring relationship progressive:

Sample questions courtesy of the University of Manitoba, Student Counseling and Career Center: Career Mentor Program, Sample Questions,

http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/mentor/sample_questions.html