QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR MENTOR

ORGANIZATION/CAREER

1. How would you describe your work environment/company culture?
2. Does your current job align with your long-term goals?
3. How high is turnover? How does one move within the organization?
4. What professional opportunities are available within your organization?
5. Does your company's leadership value continuing education? If so, how do they support their employees?
6. What sold you on your current position and organization?
7. What personal values helped you decide that this position or company was right for you?

COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

1. What led you to choose to attend your college
2. Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself as a college student?
3. What is your favorite college tradition?
4. How did you choose your major?
5. What are several of your most meaningful experiences from college?
6. Who were the mentors in your corner that impacted you personally or professionally?
7. What did you do on campus or during your time as a student to stay engaged and prepare for your career path?
8. Tell me about the moment that you were accepted into college.

NETWORKING/ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Are there informal or formal mentoring opportunities in your organization and/or industry?
2. Which professional journals/organizations would be most helpful in evaluating the field?
3. Who else do you recommend I talk with, and may I have permission to use your name?
4. Can you recommend other types of organizations I should consider researching?
5. What podcasts/books/media should I keep up with in the field/industry?

PREP FOR INTERNSHIP/JOB SEARCH

1. Did you secure an internship? If yes, what advice would you give to a student seeking one?
2. What obligations does your work put on you outside of the actual job?
3. What are some lifestyle considerations for this career field?
4. What are some common entry-level positions (or graduate programs) in the field of _____?
5. What kind of salary range and benefits could an entry-level position expect to receive?
6. What kind of individual (skills/personality) would be best suited for these entry-level positions?
7. What are the most important factors used when hiring?
8. How do people find out about open positions in this field?
9. How do you see jobs like yours changing in the future?
10. Is there a particular location where I would be able to find opportunities in the ____ industry?
11. What other experiences led you to secure internships/jobs?
12. Did you conduct any research with a faculty member and/or serve in any student organization leadership positions?

EXPLORING CAREER FIELDS

1. How did you get started in this field?
2. What is the future outlook for this industry?
3. What is the best educational preparation for a career in this field?
4. Which classes and experience would be most helpful to obtain while still in college?
5. How do your interests, values, and skills match with this career field?
6. What does a typical day look like?
7. What are your major responsibilities?
8. What did you do yesterday?
9. What is the most/least rewarding aspect of your career?
10. What challenges do you face in your current role? How do you navigate those challenges?
11. What is the most common career path to end up where you are?
12. What about your career is different than you thought it would be?