

Food Science & Human Nutrition Seminar Series – Example Questions For the Seminar Speaker

General Questions

- Did you have to take a job that was not in your primary interest area?
- What is your favorite part of your job?
- How long was the period from finishing your last degree to establishing your career?
- How competitive is the workplace setting you are in?
- How do/did you negotiate your position, pay, benefits, etc.?
- What qualities and characteristics do you think are the most important for a person who is successful in your field?
- What type of skills and training are considered most valuable in your field?
- What should students do early on and later during grad school to find a job or post-doc after graduation?
- What resources were most effective in helping you identify the postgraduate positions you were interested in?

Academia Specific Questions

- What aspects would a mentor value for post-doc candidates?
- As a post-doc, what qualities did you look for in a mentor?
- What suggestions do you have for approaching an investigator (you don't know) for a post-doc?
- What recommendations do you have for the transition from being in a PhD program to that first post-doc position?
- What type of professional development activities did you participate in as a post-doc?

Non-Academia Questions

- What advice can you give to PhD students interested in a non-academic career track?
- Is your company compartmentalized, meaning is there room for R&D to move laterally and work in different project emphases or do positions within the company tend to be segregated?
- How is your master's or PhD degree valued as a Professional?
- What was the path to getting a non-academic position after completing your degree?

Academia vs. Industry Questions

- Do you feel there is opportunity to move between academic and industry positions?
- How did you decide on academia vs. industry for a career path (or vice versa)?

Government Questions

- What was the path to getting a government position after completing your degree?
- What advice can you give to students interested in a government career?
- As a Governmental entity, how do you scale up the scientific problems and translate them into policy?

Networking Questions

- What is the best way to maintain networking contacts?
- How did you leverage any connections, if any, to learn about the career and job you have now?
- Any advice for networking with labs/schools once you finish your PhD program?
- How important do you think social media is to your success as a professional?

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Questions

- (If they made a comment about their social identity) What has your career path looked like as someone who identifies as (insert marginalized identity)?
- What advice do you have for students who believe the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are not being held up in their department?