

Interview Protocol

For this activity, you will reach out to a transportation professional and schedule an informal interview with them. The interview should take place via Zoom (or similar platform), telephone, or in-person. An email exchange will not provide sufficient information or interaction for this activity.

Review the Professional Profile template to understand what information you will need to complete the template.

Ask your professional for permission to use the interview to create a 2-page profile of them. You can offer to provide a copy of the draft for their edits and approval. Invite them to provide a photo of themselves for inclusion on the profile. Obtain their permission to post the completed/approved profile on a UF website related to the class. If the professional declines permission, tell them their information will only be used for a class assignment and will not be shared publicly. If they prefer to have their name or other identifying information changed, that can be done as well. [Provide a permission form to be completed by the professional.]

When talking with your professional, use open-ended questions whenever possible (rather than questions that elicit a yes or no response). Ask your professional to describe situations, provide examples, or elaborate on their answers when possible and appropriate. Use the following questions as a guide for your interview:

- Can you tell me about your job and what you do day-to-day?
- Who do you interact with in your job?
- What steps led you to this career?
- What types of training or experience prepared you for this career?
- What were some “aha” moments or key learning experiences that helped shape your career path? For example, are there personal experiences that influenced what you wanted to do?
- Were there specific people who inspired you to pursue this career? Were there others who discouraged you? And, if so, how did you handle that?
- How do you feel your profession impacts your community and the world?
- What do you enjoy most about your profession?
- What are the most challenging parts of your job?
- What advice would you give someone wishing to pursue your career?
- What do you hope to be doing in 10 years from now and how will this career help you get there?