

Questions for Job/Shadowing/Volunteer Experiences

Ask questions that help them understand the nature of the work, the opportunities for skill-building, and how the experience might contribute to their long-term career goals. Here are some tailored questions for each field:

About the Role

- What type of tasks or responsibilities would I have during my internship/experience?
- Will I be working directly with patients/clients/animals, or is the experience more focused on behind-the-scenes or observational tasks?
- How much interaction will I have with clients/patients/animals, and in what contexts (e.g., examinations, treatment, legal depositions, intake meetings, etc.)?
- Are interns involved in any research, writing, or assisting with case preparation?
- Will I get exposure to a wide range of specialties/areas or will this opportunity focus on one specific area.
- Can you describe a typical day for an intern or shadowing student in your facility?

Learning Opportunities

- What opportunities are there for learning about different specialties or departments?
- Are there any mentorship or guidance opportunities for interns? Will I have a chance to ask questions and receive feedback?
- What kind of training or orientation do interns receive before starting?
- How will I be taught to handle animals safely and learn about their care needs?
- Will I have the chance to observe surgeries, procedures, or other key healthcare practices?

Skills Development

- What key skills or competencies would you expect interns to develop during this experience?
- Are there specific software programs or technologies that I will learn to use during the internship?
- What soft skills (e.g., communication, empathy, teamwork) are important for succeeding in this type of role?
- How do you support interns in developing their communication skills, especially when interacting with clients?

Career Impact

- How can this experience help me explore different career paths within healthcare/veterinary medicine/law?
- Is there potential for this internship or shadowing opportunity to lead to full-time job offers or further opportunities?
- Do you provide recommendations or help interns make connections with professionals in the field after the experience?

General Questions

- What types of projects or tasks do past interns typically work on?
- What are the most common challenges interns face, and how do you support them in overcoming them?
- Is there any training provided at the start of the internship or shadowing experience?
- How do you evaluate the success of your interns, and is there any possibility for advancement or continuing work after the experience?
- What is the timeline for applying, and are there specific prerequisites or qualifications you look for in candidates?