

Haas

HAAS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY



INTERVIEW INTELLIGENCE SERIES · QUICK GUIDE · 2026

The interview, decoded from 22 MBA Protocol client debriefs



AT A GLANCE **Warm, scripted, principle-driven**

WHO INTERVIEWS

Mostly an alum,
sometimes a student

FORMAT

Live on Zoom, or a
recorded option

LENGTH

About 45 minutes, with
your questions

NEAR-CERTAIN

A diversity and inclusion
question

What to expect

A warm alum or student works through a list of questions supplied by the school, often saying so at the start, and follows up on your stories. Many interviews skip tell me about yourself and open cold with why MBA or why Haas. Expect a diversity question almost every time, plus stories tied to the Defining Leadership Principles. Clients who did several interviews that season said Haas asked the most questions.

Questions to prepare

1. Why an MBA, and why Haas?
2. How have you promoted diversity and inclusion, and what will you add?
3. Tell me about a time your idea was rejected or you had to persuade.
4. Is there anything else you want admissions to know?
5. Tell me about yourself.
6. Tell me about a time you led a team through difficulty.
7. Which Leadership Principle resonates with you most?
8. What are your short-term and long-term goals?
9. Tell me about a time you drove change without formal authority.
10. What is the biggest risk or boldest decision you have taken?

CURVEBALL

Know all four principles

"What is your favorite Haas principle?" "A time you questioned the status quo." "A time humility played a role." One client was told some interviewers test whether you know all four. Others were asked about a book they read recently.

PREP TIPS

Be ready to open cold

Don't count on a warm-up question. If it opens with why MBA and why Haas, it is fine to ask to share a short background first.

FROM INTERVIEW HERO

Be wrong, gracefully

Pushback and rejected-idea stories are Haas's most common behavioral theme after diversity and inclusion, and interviewers ask when humility played a role. Interview Hero's Confident Humility helps you show strength and openness in the same story.

Chapter 3: Confident Humility and Enthusiasm · [Get it on Amazon](#)



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HAAS INTERVIEW PREP

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