

Tepper

TEPPER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS,
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

 MBA PROTOCOL

INTERVIEW INTELLIGENCE SERIES · QUICK GUIDE · 2026

The interview, decoded from real
client reports



AT A GLANCE **Friendly, behavioral, adcom-led**

WHO INTERVIEWS

An admissions committee
member

FORMAT

Mostly virtual, one-on-
one

LENGTH

30 to 45 minutes

YOUR FILE

Recent interviewers read
it all

What to expect

Tepper interviews are warm, conversational sessions with an admissions committee member. Most open with a short introduction, an elevator pitch or a resume walk, then move through a set of short "tell me about a time" prompts on conflict, differing viewpoints and diverse teams, alongside goals and why an MBA. Follow-ups are light, nobody grills you, and clients report generous time at the end for their own questions.

Questions to prepare

1. Walk me through your resume, or give me a one-minute elevator pitch.
2. Tell me about a time you resolved a conflict or worked with a different viewpoint.
3. Tell me about a time you worked with people from a different background.
4. What are your short-term and long-term goals, and why an MBA?
5. Why Tepper?
6. Tell me about a time you invested in someone else's success.
7. What does a typical day or week look like in your current role?
8. Tell me about a time you convinced someone to do something they didn't want to.
9. What criteria are you using to evaluate MBA programs?
10. How do you learn new things when thrown into the unfamiliar?

CURVEBALL

Billed as blind, read in full

An interview billed as blind can still come from someone who has read the entire application, video essays included. Assume everything you submitted is on the table.

PREP TIPS

Don't wait for why Tepper

Some clients were never asked why Tepper. Weave it into your goals answers, and treat "what criteria are you using to pick a program?" as your opening to make the case.

FROM INTERVIEW HERO Behavioral stories that land



Tepper's core is short behavioral prompts on conflict and diverse teams. Interview Hero's Four C's (Context, Conflict, Choice, Change) help you turn each one into a tight, memorable story.

Chapter 6: How to Tell an Epic Story · [Get it on Amazon](#)

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TEPPER INTERVIEW PREP

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