

The interview, decoded from 30 MBA Protocol client debriefs



AT A GLANCE **Casual, alumni-led, resume-first**

WHO INTERVIEWS
An alumni Ambassador

FORMAT
Mostly virtual

LENGTH
30 to 60 minutes

YOUR FILE
Blind: resume only

What to expect

Most clients describe something close to coffee with another professional. An alum who has only your resume asks you to walk through it, then covers why MBA, why Columbia and your goals, with a question or two on teams, leadership or plan B. Formal behavioral questions are not guaranteed. Alumni from your industry may talk shop at a practitioner level. Expect time at the end for your own questions.

Questions to prepare

1. Why Columbia? Why CBS specifically?
2. Why an MBA, and why now?
3. Tell me about yourself, or walk me through your resume.
4. What are your short-term and long-term goals?
5. How will you contribute at Columbia? Which clubs will you join?
6. What other schools are you applying to?
7. What is your plan B if your goal does not work out?
8. Tell me about a time you worked on a team.
9. What is your leadership style?
10. Tell me about a challenge or mistake and how you handled it.

CURVEBALL

Everything in one answer

Some alumni open with a single broad why question, so be ready to fold resume, goals and fit into one answer. Others want the resume walk in under three minutes.

PREP TIPS

Other schools and plan B

They show up in roughly half the reports. Be honest, show conviction about Columbia and never trash another program.

Go beyond the course list

Alumni notice when why Columbia explains how specific resources serve your goals. Show a real plan to be engaged.

FROM INTERVIEW HERO Your resume is the whole script

Columbia alumni usually have only your resume, so your walk-through sets the agenda. Interview Hero offers eight frameworks for telling it well.

Chapter 11: Walk Me Through Your Resume · [Get it on Amazon](#)



YOUR COLUMBIA INVITE JUST LANDED?

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