

Ross

STEPHEN M. ROSS SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS, UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN



INTERVIEW INTELLIGENCE SERIES · QUICK GUIDE · 2026

The interview, decoded from 32 MBA Protocol client debriefs



AT A GLANCE **Friendly, scripted, behavioral**

WHO INTERVIEWS
Usually an alum

FORMAT
Virtual, one-on-one

LENGTH
A 40-minute slot; many
run over

YOUR FILE
Blind: your resume only

What to expect

A friendly alum works through a set script: a short introduction, why an MBA and why Ross, then four or five "tell me about a time" questions. Follow-ups press on your exact role, the result and how you handled pushback, and some alumni repeat your answer back before moving on. Interviewers usually save 10 to 20 minutes for your questions, and many stay longer once you ask about their own Ross years.

Questions to prepare

1. Why Ross, and how will Ross help you reach your goals?
2. Why an MBA, and why now?
3. Tell me about yourself, or walk me through your resume.
4. Tell me about a time you worked with people from different backgrounds.
5. Tell me about a time you failed or faced a setback.
6. Tell me about a time you received tough or negative feedback.
7. Tell me about a time you influenced peers without formal authority.
8. What are your short-term and long-term goals?
9. How do you make a decision with limited information?
10. Tell me about a time you led a team.

CURVEBALL

Your role, pinned down

"What specifically was your contribution?" "I am getting a little confused about your role in that story." Ross follow-ups press on what you did and what came of it. Lead with your own choices and know every line of your resume.

PREP TIPS

Short can be normal

Some interviews end early after only a few questions. If your interviewer starts late, keep answers tight.

FROM INTERVIEW HERO A story bank that flexes



Ross runs four or five behavioral prompts from a set list, on diversity, feedback, influence and ambiguity. Interview Hero's Success Inventory helps you build a bank of stories ready to bend to whichever ones you get.

Chapter 9: Get Your Stories Ready for Showtime · [Get it on Amazon](#)

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