

MBA/MSF Typical Interview Questions

You should be prepared to answer these types of questions using specific examples that connect your skills, interests and abilities to the specific job/industry.

1. Why are you interested in this position?
2. Why should we hire you?
3. Why are you interested in this industry/company?
4. What challenges do you think our firm faces?
5. What type of work environment do you prefer?
6. Why do you want to leave your present company?(Remember: never talk poorly of current or previous employers).
7. By walking us through your resume how have your job/life experiences specifically prepared you to add value to this position based on the job description?
8. Where do you see yourself in five years?
9. What are your strengths? Weaknesses?
10. How would your friends describe you?
11. What do you like most about your current or previous job? Least?
12. Why should we hire you for this position?
13. What are your personal goals and interests?
14. Whom do you admire and why?
15. How do you feel you have contributed to the bottom line in your current job (if working, or in the last job you had)?
16. From your resume and past work experience give an example of how you dealt with an angry customer (could be inside/outside the organization).
17. Name three skill sets or values that best describe you (the key is to know the core values of company in order to match up).
18. Tell me a story either personal or professional that paints a picture of you.
19. If you could change anything from your professional background, what would you change and why?
20. How many passengers leave JFK airport on a given day.

Answer: Estimating JFK has about 100 gates, and a plane leaves from a gate every 3 hours, totaling 800 flights per day. The average plane holds 200 passengers

So: 160,000 per day departing - Actual number is 131,000 – Glassdoor (McKinsey Interview).

MBA/MSF Typical Behavioral Questions

(STAR METHOD: Situation, Task involved, Actions taken on your part, Results/outcomes of action)

Dealing with Ambiguity: Employers want to know how a candidate will process information and formulate a decision when the “right” answer is unclear or the course of action risky.

- Talk about a project in an area in which you had little or no knowledge, training or experience.
- Talk about working in unsettled or rapidly changing circumstances.

Overcoming Obstacles: Every work environment has obstacles and difficult situations that can prevent progress. Employers want to know what you will do to rise above these problems and effectively execute the strategies and tactics of the company.

- Give an example of a challenging situation. How did you approach the situation? Were you successful?
- Tell me about a project you worked on in which you had overcome several obstacles.

Problem Solving/Critical Thinking: It can be easy to use a glitch or problem as a reason not to work with integrity or to completion. Employers want to know what type of reasoning, skills and resources you will use to go the extra mile and accomplish your goals.

- Describe a time when you were faced with problems or stresses that tested your coping skills.
- Describe a time when you faced an ethical challenge at work and how you resolved it.

Creativity: Employers will look for innovative and nontraditional ways you have worked through situations such as scarce resources, multiple projects, information gathering, and process development.

- Tell me about a time you handled multiple responsibilities. How did you stay organized?
- Tell me about a situation where you had to make a decision without much information.

Communication: Employers want to know how effectively a potential employee expresses their ideas and thoughts both written and verbally.

- Tell me about a situation at work in which you experienced conflict and how you resolved it.
- Describe an example of your ability to listen and be responsive.

Initiative: When employers are measuring a candidate’s initiative they want to know what you have accomplished (projects, task, etc.) independently without outside influence or control.

- Give an example of a time when you had to motivate yourself to do an assignment that didn’t interest you.
- Provide an example of a time where you had to earn the trust of your stakeholders.

Teamwork: In all work environments, individuals at some point will be expected to work with their associates collectively to complete assignments and projects while also contributing individually. Employers want to know how well you work with others.

- Describe a time when you put your needs aside to help a coworker/classmate undertake a task.
- What type of team allows you to thrive professionally?

Leadership: Employers will look for experiences you have had where you directed the activity or project at hand.

- Tell me about a situation at work in which you led a team well.
- Tell me about a time when you delegated a project effectively.