



ILLINOIS MBA



# Illinois MBA: Interview Process and Tips

November 5, 2013



# Application, Interview, and Decision Process

1. After an application is submitted, we check for materials (2-3 weeks to organize applications)
2. If application complete, forwarded for initial review. Reviewer makes recommendation (Initial review completed within 1 week).
3. Interview invitation emailed. (1-2 days after initial review)
4. Applicant accepts interview offer (Skype or on-campus) and schedules interview.
5. Interview held as scheduled (usually 1-3 weeks after invitation).
6. Interviewer makes recommendation (1 day)
7. Admissions Committee makes decision (1-2 weeks after interview)
8. Final Decision Released



# THE INTERVIEW

1. Points of Evaluation
2. Types of Questions
3. Preparation Tips
4. Interview Tips





# THE INTERVIEW

## *Points of Evaluation*

- Communication/Interpersonal Skills
- Career and Personal Goals
- Self-Awareness
- Strength of Interest in Program
- Teamwork Ability
- Analytical Ability





# THE INTERVIEW

## *Types of Questions*

- Experience verification – “Please tell me about your current professional roles and responsibilities”
- Behavioral – “Tell me about a time when you successfully resolved a conflict with a co-worker”
- Motivation check – “Why do you want an MBA?”



# THE INTERVIEW

## *Preparation Tips*

- Think of examples of your personal accomplishments and teamwork experiences
- Make a list of your greatest strengths in comparison with others
- Re-read your personal statement
- If there are any weaknesses in your application, be prepared to address them
- Write out 2-3 questions that will yield insightful answers from interviewer



# THE INTERVIEW

## *Preparation Tips (Cont.)*

- If interviewing on campus
  - ✓ After receiving invitation e-mail, take a look at the campus interview dates and find one that works best for you. You can register online.
  - ✓ Request parking if you will be driving to campus.
  - ✓ Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before interview.
- If interviewing via Skype, test your setup
  - ✓ Lighting
  - ✓ Background view
  - ✓ Webcam positioning
  - ✓ Background noise
  - ✓ Audio
- Be prepared for some small talk



# THE INTERVIEW

## *Interview Tips*

- Dress professionally.
- Greet interviewer with a smile.
- Make direct eye contact. (If conducting interview online, look into webcam.)



# THE INTERVIEW

## *Interview Tips*

- When speaking of skills, abilities, or qualifications, use examples.
- Communicate strong interest in program. Show you have researched our program.
- Prepare questions in advance. Ask insightful questions without sounding negative.



# Questions

For more information, please:

- Visit our website: [www.mba.illinois.edu](http://www.mba.illinois.edu)
- Contact our admissions team:
  - [mba@illinois.edu](mailto:mba@illinois.edu)
  - (217) 244-7602
- Visit us at the Business Instructional Facility
  - 515 E. Gregory Drive  
Champaign, Illinois

Thank you for attending today's session!





# Upcoming Events

## • In-Person Events

- Campus Connect (Champaign)
  - Saturday, December 7, starting at 10:00 a.m.
  - Network with current and other prospective MBA students.
  - Sit in on a mock lecture with a core MBA faculty member.
  - Learn about Business Career Services at Illinois.
  - RSVP at: [http://go.illinois.edu/IMBA\\_CampusConnect](http://go.illinois.edu/IMBA_CampusConnect)
- Careers and Cabernet with MBA Dean Darcy Sementi (downtown Chicago)
  - Tuesday, November 19, starting at 5:30 p.m.
  - Network with University of Illinois alumnae and the Dean of the Illinois MBA.
  - Wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres courtesy of WineKnow Productions
  - RSVP at: [http://go.illinois.edu/MBA\\_CareersCabernets](http://go.illinois.edu/MBA_CareersCabernets)

## • Online with Admissions

- Experiential Learning at Illinois
  - November 13, 2013, at 6 p.m.: <http://illinois.edu/calendar/detail/3223/30072547>
  - November 14, 2013, at 9 a.m.: <http://illinois.edu/calendar/detail/3223/30072548>
- Go to our events page for further information:  
<http://www.mba.illinois.edu/admissions/events.aspx>



# Online Presentation Recordings

- Application Tips: <https://sas.illuminate.com/p.jnlp?psid=2013-10-09.0726.M.783F200ED09046025E599FD50E9BDF.vcr&sid=407>
- Program Overview: <https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/nativeplayback.jnlp?sid=407&psid=2013-09-24.0733.M.783F200ED09046025E599FD50E9BDF.vcr>
- Faculty Spotlight: <https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/nativeplayback.jnlp?sid=407&psid=2012-11-30.0930.M.783F200ED09046025E599FD50E9BDF.vcr>
- Diversity on Campus: <https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/nativeplayback.jnlp?sid=407&psid=2012-12-07.0843.M.783F200ED09046025E599FD50E9BDF.vcr>



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