



Welcome to the live chat session with the MBA Prep School team! You might also like to check out their videos here: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/mba-prep-school-s-application-course-videos-187689.html>

Topic set by smartperson on Tue Nov 11 2014 21:35:39 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time)

21:30 MBAPrepSchoolTyler Hello Everyone. Welcome to the Chat with MBA Prep School. I'm Tyler Cormney and I'm here with Chris Aitken. We are the firm's co-founders.

21:31 MBAPrepSchoolChris Tyler and I are looking forward to answering everyone's questions ...

21:32 MBAPrepSchoolTyler I'll answer questions in orange and Chris in blue so they stand out. Apologies in advance for typos! 😊

21:33 MBAPrepSchoolChris Great to be here! Shall we get started? Who would like to ask the first question?

21:34 kklk Anything to help out regarding wharton team based discussion.. (from india).. scheduled on 21st november

21:36 MBAPrepSchoolChris @kklk -- congrats on being invited to the Wharton team interview. Couple of thoughts. Your individual presentation needs to be prepared but not over rehearsed. This is your first chance to make an impression.

21:37 MBAPrepSchoolChris The second thought would be to remember that in the team based discussion, they are looking for examples of your ability to help lead and work within a team

21:38 MBAPrepSchoolChris That means not trying to dominate the discussion but also making sure that you're not too passive -- need to find a balance of participation that helps the team achieve its ultimate goal -- of coming up with a strong combined response to the prompt.

21:39 MBAPrepSchoolChris Final thought: if there are team members obviously struggling, try to help bring them into the discussion. In a real job environment you wouldn't let someone "drown", so don't do that in the Wharton Team interview either. That's a few thoughts; hope they're helpful and best wishes for success!

21:40 MBAPrepSchoolTyler Quick Intro so you know who I am and about our firm - This is my ninth year as an admissions consultant. MBA Prep School is a full service admissions consulting firm with private coaching packages and online tools for applying on your own

21:40 MBAPrepSchoolTyler I hope everyone visits our website: <http://mbaprepschool.com> and we'll be announcing a special offer package for Round 2 applicants a few times during this chat.

21:40 Pottsmi1 Do you think schools track visits by applicants? Any idea what impact they may have? Good/bad impression made on campus?

21:42 MBAPrepSchoolTyler Pottsmi1 I'm a huge advocate of campus visits. You sign-up and these are tracked formally and informally. Our coach Esther who is a former Booth adcom told us these do make a difference. Primarily though because she'd remember someone she met and pull their file or keep an eye out for it.

21:43 fede7flores Hello, I will be interviewing with MIT tomorrow, any tips for a BEI interview? Should I stick to the experiences mentioned on the essays, use only events not mentioned there or balance it?

21:43 piku9290dgp My first question- What is admission team view about taking help from consultants? I was asked about it, and I told yes

21:44 chijmes +1 to fede7flores' request

21:44 kklk @MBAPrepSchoolChris thanks. hope to keep those things on mind and do execute them as well.

21:44 MBAPrepSchoolChris @fede7flores: congrats on the MIT interview! The MIT interviewers tend to prefer new examples, since they will have (generally) read you complete application. In any event, even if you were to lead with an example from your application, don't be surprised if the interviewer asks for another example. So I recommend having at least two strong answers ready

21:45 chijmes thanks! won't that kinda throw them off, though? because they're familiar with the examples in your file?



21:45	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@piku9290dgp: AdCom teams have varied views on the use of consultants. Some are OK with it; others less so. The key is to be able to demonstrate in your writing and interview answers that the stories, examples, etc. are authentically yours!
21:45	fede7flores	thank you chris!
21:46	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@chijmes: No, won't throw them off -- they are looking for additional information about your background, profile, experiences, etc.
21:46	chijmes	thanks Chris that helps me a lot!
21:47	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	piku9290dgp They take a dim view of essay ghost writing services of course. But working with a coach who helps you identify and communicate your strengths makes good sense and doesn't violate the integrity of the process
21:47	fede7flores	Any tips for the BEI interview?
21:48	chijmes	BehavioralEventInterviewQuestions.pdf
21:48	fede7flores	thanks!
21:48	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Here's a link to our free resources page with interview tips: https://mbaprepschool.com/category/ace-the-interviews/
21:50	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@fede7flores: When responding to behavioral interviews, make sure that you focus the answer around what you thought, felt, said, and did. This provides a full dimension of an answer ... Also you might find the STAR framework helpful to organize your response. S = Situation/background, T= task or objective you and your team were trying to address ...
21:51	MBAPrepSchoolChris	A = Action (what do thought, felt, said and did), and R = result/outcome ... Also can include what you learned from the experience
21:52	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Welcome everyone -- Chris and I are here to answer questions and are taking turns so we'd love to help out
21:53	MBAPrepSchoolChris	While we are waiting for the next question 😊 here is a link to a special offer that Tyler and I are making to GMAT Clubbers who are participating today: If you've already taken your GMAT and are applying in R2, you'll find this page useful: https://mbaprepschool.com/gmat-club-special/
21:54	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@fede7flores: Within the STAR framework, you want to focus ~70% of your response time on the "action" piece!
21:54	MBAPrepSchoolChris	Does that make sense?
21:54	Ergen	Hi. I would like to know if 101 in ToEFL is ok for top business schools such as harvard, standford, wharton, columbia, chigaco. I know that harvard writes in their site that they discourage people who scored less than 109 to apply their program. However, I want to know if I am not able to take the toefl till the last day of application, might they give opportunity to submit it later?
21:55	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@ergen: from the HBS website: The MBA Admissions Board discourages any candidate with a TOEFL score lower than 109 on the iBT, an IELTS score lower than 7.5, or a PTE score lower than 75 from applying." http://www.hbs.edu/mba/admissions/application-process/Pages/international-applicants.aspx
21:55	MBAPrepSchoolChris	Most schools won't allow additional information after you've submitted your app. (unless they ask for it!)
21:56	MBAPrepSchoolChris	Part of the reason the top schools focus on TOEFL scores is that the class discussion and group projects and learning are such an important part of the educational experience. Your communication skills in English are obviously key to you being about to make the most of the opportunity and make the biggest contributions to your classmates
21:57	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	We posted 3 videos from our Virtual Admissions Consulting library. I'm going to fill the gap with a few tips from the first video: 25 Tips for Building an Outstanding Application



21:57	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Tip 3: If there are red flags in you academic history the sooner you know about them the better. Once you've identified them, you can take steps to counterbalance poor performance with additional coursework or by tackling professional or personal projects that require the skills in question.
21:58	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	A word on timing for tests in light of that questions. Get GMATs, TOEFLs, etc. out of the way at least 6 months before you apply. That way you can focus on your written application
21:59	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	I'm often asked what score is necessary to be competitive for a top tier school. The easiest way to remember the answer is our "Three 80s" Rule. First, you want your score to be well above the low-end of the range of scores made by the middle 80% of the school's accepted applicants.
22:00	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Next, you want to have percentile scores on the quant and verbal sections above 80%. Third, ideally, you want a cumulative score above 680. In fact, the median scores for top 10 schools has recently climbed above the 700 mark, so the bar is even higher than 680 for a top 10
22:00	Narenn	Hello Chris/Tyler, Many applicants have been waitlisted without interview in R1. Could you please advise how can one increase his/her chances of getting an interview?
22:01	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Great question. First off, you MUST follow the instructions given by each school. Some will allow additional info and others won't. Don't ignore their rules.
22:02	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	I think the Update Letter can be a powerful tool. Write to summarize things that have made your candidacy stronger since applying
22:02	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	A promotion, new accomplishment outside of work, higher GMAT Score. If a campus visit is allowed and you haven't been then visit campus. In a non-pushy way see if you could spend a few minutes meeting with an adcom
22:03	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	They might say no but if you are friendly they won't blame you for asking
22:03	chijmes	from what I understand, HBS doesn't want us to give additional information
22:03	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	chijmes is right. HBS is on the record about forbidding new info.
22:04	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	I had a client waitlisted at Booth last year who ran one of the most comprehensive campaigns I've ever seen -- a video, 2 extra rec letters, letters from students, another campus visit
22:04	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Frankly, I worried we were going overboard. Happy ending though she got in!
22:05	Ergen	Thanks Chris. But do you have any specific information about the schools I counted: harvard, wharton, chigaco, columbia. Have you encountered anyone in the same situation. I am able to score more than 109 in the TOEFL. I just think I will not afford it till the deadline. Thanks.
22:06	MBAPrepSchoolChris	I think all of the schools you listed don't accept additional information after the deadline (except in rare cases, such as your recommender being a few minutes late)
22:06	MBAPrepSchoolChris	Please also note the difference in my and Tyler's answers relate to you submitting your application (my answers) versus if you've been waitlisted (Tyler's answers)
22:06	Ergen	Thanks Chris.
22:06	chijmes	if I'm not wrong, MIT is very open to additional information... Waitlist or not
22:07	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	RE: Wait list one of the most powerful things you can do is raise your GMAT score, assuming it's at or below median
22:07	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Applicants with great profiles but weak GMATs often hit the waitlist
22:07	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@chijmes: My clients haven't been able to get add'l information into their application files in the past but if there is something on the site indicating you can, then by all means! I'm just not familiar with it 😊
22:08	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Another excerpt from our free video on building and outstanding application (link above). The topic resumes



22:08	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	there are important differences between an MBA application resume and an employment resume. Your objective and your audience is different. For example, an employer might be interested in your technical skills whereas an MBA admissions officer will be more interested in significant achievements and the moments in your career that distinguish you
22:09	Ergen	What is attitude of adcoms to mandatory military service?
22:10	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	re: military service, I generally think it can be viewed positively -- especially if you gained leadership experience during military service
22:10	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@ergen: Tyler comes from a military family, so he'll likely have more depth in a response but generally military experience provides some amazing experiences and opportunities to demonstrate your leadership in action, under significantly stressful and difficult circumstances. Don't shy away from it -- embrace the opportunity to show your leadership skills
22:11	MBAPrepSchoolChris	While we are waiting for the next question 😊 here is a link to a special offer that Tyler and I are making to GMAT Clubbers who are participating today: If you've already taken your GMAT and are applying in R2, you'll find this page useful: https://mbaprepschool.com/gmat-club-special/
22:11	chijmes	@Chris they don't allow you to submit directly.. but through Sloan alum, definitely
22:11	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@chijmes: thanks for the clarification
22:11	fede7flores	thank you chris! sorry for the late response
22:11	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@all: We still have another 20 minutes -- lots of time to get your question answered ... Please don't be shy! 😊
22:12	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Any questions on essays that you guys are wrestling with? We love to talk about MBA application essays
22:12	chijmes	from their FAQ: Does MIT Sloan accept peer recommendations from either current MIT Sloan students or alumni? We do accept letters of support from alums or current students. They can be emailed to adcom@sloan.mit.edu and we will attach them to your application as supplemental information.
22:12	chijmes	I think it'll be very useful to start a project with sloan alumni... asap so that they can shoot a letter in if necessary!
22:13	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@chimes makes an important point; you should be building relationships with current students, alum, and even faculty as you're getting to know the school. Only advice I would have is try to get them to submit their support *before* the deadline because you don't know when they'll be reading your application profile
22:14	chijmes	yup yup!! definitely I think they're doubtful if you start your networking late
22:14	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@deek: Still happy to answer your question if you're able to clarify it please?
22:14	Ergen	Thanks for your answers.
22:15	fede7flores	Can a support letter work after interview?
22:15	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	fede7flores It can, however, it needs to be almost right after. The decisions are made very soon after interviews so timing is critical
22:16	chijmes	@Tyler, how soon after interviews?!
22:16	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	chijmes the timing of decisions varies by school but informal discussions can take place at the end of a large block of interviews when the team is on the road
22:17	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Timing a letter of support is tricky because if it comes before you submit your application they don't have a file to put it in
22:17	RuchaMegha2083	Can you list some good universities who accept GMAT score range from 580 to 650?



22:18	MBAPrepSchoolChris	The question of a "good" university really depends on your career goals and reasons for pursuing an MBA. I often recommend that if you're GMAT is in that range that you worry less about the rankings and spend more time understanding the strengths and unique resources offered by the schools you are considering.
22:19	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@RuchaMegha2083: Said differently, understand how that school will help you achieve your career goals - and then apply to those that will demonstrably help you!
22:20	Ergen	I work as a marketing manager in a pharmaceutical company. As an after mba goal I want to show a job in pharmaceutical division of a consulting company. But I think when I apply to wharton they can ask me why don;t I apply to their healthcare management program. What are your thoughts on it?
22:20	Ergen	As you understood I do not want to apply to healthcare management program)
22:21	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@Ergen: Regarding Wharton's h'care mgmt program ... as the name suggests, it's more focused on healthcare *management* and your career goals are more oriented around marketing in the pharma industry.
22:22	Ergen	Chris, can you clarify more, pls
22:22	MBAPrepSchoolChris	You might find it helpful to "map out" exactly the courses, clubs, research centers, etc that you would participate in if accepted to Wharton. Pretend you've received that offer letter ... How would you spend the two years? Then you can figure out whether the h'care mgmt program is the right focus for your career goals or not (more...)
22:23	MBAPrepSchoolChris	If there are only a few classes within the HC Mgmt discipline that you need to achieve your goals, then you can show that. If, on the other hand, most of your classes would come from their program, then you have to think more about this ...
22:23	mib_da42ff	Anyone ever get a thank you note FROM their adcom interviewer?
22:23	MBAPrepSchoolChris	I've never heard of that! 😊
22:24	mib_da42ff	i came home on Friday to a thank you letter from my interviewer, thanking me for my note and for coming in. pretty awesome
22:24	MBAPrepSchoolChris	nice work 😊
22:25	mib_da42ff	thanks. it was really classy. sloan can't reject me if they sent me a thank you note, can they? 🙏
22:25	MBAPrepSchoolChris	I certainly hope they admit you!
22:25	chijmes	@MBAPrep: do you think you can rank the top 5 schools in order of application difficulty? I'd assume 1. Stanford, 2. HBS, 3...?
22:25	Pottsmi1	How would you rank the portions of an app in order of importance? Gmat, resume, interview, essays, etc.
22:25	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@Pottsmi1: All the pieces are important, especially at different stages -- for top schools you can't really have a "weak" section. However to answer your Q directly, Interview, recs, essays, app form, GMAT, GPA
22:26	RuchaMegha2083	I am looking for MBA in Accountancy. I had heard that Ziclin school is good in regard of this.
22:26	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	I always refer to this chart for GMAT score ranges --
22:26	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Here's the link: http://gmatclub.com/forum/all-2014-mba-rankings-99812.html
22:27	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	RuchaMegha2083 I went to UT Austin for undergrad and it has a great accounting program. I believe the Master's is an MPA not an MBA however
22:27	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@RuchaMegha2083: When you have specialized goals (e.g., Accountancy) then the program focus is even more important. Depending on the type of firm/role you want post-MBA, Baruch College/CUNY could be a fine choice for you



22:28	nitz19arg	My question : For an applicant, which current job position is seen as more beneficial: technical role or techno-functional(eg. business analyst) role? I currently work in IT and hold a purely technical role. Will this be a drawback/advantage for me? A techno-functional role sounds better for MBA but—One theory says that a purely technical role would strengthen my skills in that technology and later be beneficial to me when I will play a managerial role in same technology. Your thoughts please.
22:28	Narenn	All Newly joined Members: We are chatting with Tyler Cormney and Chris Aitken - Co-Founders of MBA PREP SCHOOL Consulting. Get all your questions about MBA Application/Interviews answered from them. We shall continue for next 10 minutes. If you have any pending questions, please ask them early.
22:29	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	nitz19arg MBA programs want to see how you've done in a role that has aspects of management and business decision making; therefore, purely technical roles are not as competitive, I'm afraid.
22:29	Sor	Hi, I am quite new to GMAT and I will be taking it soon. If a school has a median GMAT score of the incoming students of 710, what's the lowest score that you can guess would allow me to have decent chances of getting in ? I am asking this because I do not know how differences of 10 or 20 in the score compare in the GMAT
22:30	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Sor Do a google search for this Poet's and Quant's article -- Those Pesky GPA & GMAT Averages. That table is useful as it gives the middle 80% range for GMAT
22:30	nitz19arg	thanks. I have 2.5 yrs of work-ex in technical. If I get option of switching to business role as a fresher, should I go for it? I want to apply next year.
22:31	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	nitz19arg I think that most successful MBA applicants to the top 7 have had a healthy amount of experience with solving business problems to build upon a great technical foundation
22:32	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	More helpful tips from our free video (link above) while we wait for questions: Start drafting application forms weeks in advance so you have time to perfect any short answer questions
22:32	dlmm	When will be a good time to let the adcom know that I will be changing jobs? after the interview or before? i have good reasons for this... but my apps are all finished and i am already invited to interview
22:33	MBAPrepSchoolChris	Many schools ask you about any significant "updates" during the interview ... You should be prepared to explain the change and show how it fits/demonstrates that you're already making progress towards your stated career goals.
22:33	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	dlmm During the interview you could discuss the change of jobs.
22:33	chijmes	@MBAPrep - I've got a friend who wants to go to BSchool next year, but hasn't taken his GMAT yet. Do you think its too late?
22:33	chijmes	*too late to start
22:34	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@chijmes: Pretty tough timing to be *starting* GMAT now and then still have the entire application to build. Much better to wait and submit the best possible app that your friend can
22:34	deeuk	that sounds great to me. I have a question. If i have added academic qualifications, would it help too? or is it just on the job front?
22:35	deeuk	*if i get new courses
22:35	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	chijmes I have clients who are applying in January who still haven't taken the GMAT. It's not too late for your friend, but as I mentioned before I highly recommend finishing the tests at least 6 months before applying
22:36	dlmm	thank you, and my communication to the adcom should be just an email stating the reasons?
22:36	nitz19arg	@tyler: so what weighs more: (A) 4 yrs of technical team-lead role or (B) 3yrs of tech+2yrs of business with no team-lead?
22:36	Ergen	Thanks. What do you think about applying to wharton as a marketing manager? Does it competitive position regarding diversity?



22:37	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@ergen: I wrote a blog post about this exact scenario: https://mbaprepschool.com/wharton-for-marketing/ 😊
22:37	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@ergen: Go for it is the short answer ...
22:37	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@deek: Added quals can help, more so if you can show their relevance to your career goals and/or what you'd add/bring to the classroom discussions, etc.
22:38	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@all: we have a couple of mins left -- any last questions?
22:38	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	nitz19arg interesting query. I'd have to say that what you have achieved and learned in either role would decide which is better. I've had successful clients with either profile. That's a tough one. i guess if pressed I'd vote for the team-lead (A)
22:38	MBAPrepSchoolChris	Final reminder about our special offer to GMAT Clubber -- if you've already taken your GMAT, please check out this page: https://mbaprepschool.com/gmat-club-special/
22:39	deek	Ms in finance? Better than Mba for a fresher?
22:39	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Also, we really want you all to check out our free videos hosted on GMAT club: http://gmatclub.com/forum/mba-prep-school-s-application-course-videos-187689.html
22:39	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	You'll get some great ideas for building an outstanding application that will set you apart from the competition
22:39	nitz19arg	Thanks a lot @tyler. This will be of great help. I'll shape my career accordingly. 😊
22:39	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@deek: Ms in Finance vs. MBA really depends on your career goals -- they are quite different programs with different areas of emphasis
22:40	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	If you like the videos you can take advantage of the \$50 off savings and gain access to our entire library of Virtual Admissions consulting videos
22:40	deek	ok...if invstmnt and finance is really my thing, then...
22:40	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	The offer is one of the bonuses in the link Chris has provided you: https://mbaprepschool.com/gmat-club-special/
22:40	MBAPrepSchoolChris	@deek: depends on whether you're looking at (e.g., quant trading) versus investment management. Quant = MFin, management = MBA
22:40	Narenn	Alright!! Let's wrap up here. Thank you very much everyone for attending this session.
22:41	Narenn	My sincere thanks to MBA PREP SCHOOL team for sparing their valuable time with us and answering the questions.
22:41	hirdesh2008	Can we get the chat archives for this session, I just logged in...
22:41	Narenn	There is a special offer from MBA PREP SCHOOL to GMAT Club members who participated in today's chat. Wow...thank you Tyler and Chris. 😊 Check out this page https://mbaprepschool.com/gmat-club-special/
22:42	MBAPrepSchoolChris	Thanks everyone ... Best wishes for success with your MBA applications!
22:42	Narenn	@Hirdesh, Yes We shall post session transcript tomorrow.
22:42	Ergen	Thank you too
22:43	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Chris and I enjoyed answering your questions. We are offering free consultations for Round 2 applicants who have taken the GMAT. Here's the link: https://mbaprepschool.com/gmat-club-special/
22:43	MBAPrepSchoolTyler	Just for signing up, you'll also receive a bonus collection of premium videos and tools to help you build an outstanding MBA application: