



# Preparing for Case Interviews

## Purpose of the Case Interview

The case interview is designed to test a candidate's approach to "real world" business problems and is often used in consulting interviews. When you are invited to a case interview, the interviewer is looking for your ability to reason through a business problem by listening for relevant details, asking strategic questions, and developing a framework—an organized approach to analyze and communicate the problem-solving thought process. You will be expected to address relevant "buckets" (categories of data), walk the interviewer through your approach to the case, and make a confident recommendation at the end of the process.\*

## Preparing for the Case Interview

### Step 1: Review common case interview types and frameworks

- Review the Oregon Consulting Group's excellent [OCG Case Interview Prep Guide](#). Designed for students who will be interviewing for the OCG, this guide offers clear explanations of the purpose of a case interview, different types of case interviews, important considerations when approaching a case (including the MECE principle—which advocates for making sure the framework you use to evaluate and solve a case question is both Mutually Exclusive and Collectively Exhaustive), problem solving tips, communication guidelines, and several examples.
- Review frameworks like [Porter's Five Forces](#) and other systematic analysis processes.
- Cases might focus on profit, market share, mergers & acquisitions, new market entry, or any other common business matter.

### Step 2: Preview case interviews

Check out tips from "The Big Three" consulting firms:

- [Bain & Company](#): This site includes text for two cases that can be read through, with prompts to work one's way through them. Also included are two videos of case interview examples, with an interviewer commenting at the end on how well the interviewee did when working through the case.
- [Boston Consulting Group \(BCG\)](#): This site allows you to work through three different case challenges with interactive quizzes.
- [McKinsey & Co.](#): This site offers several practice cases to work through.

### Step 3: Prepare

If you are interested in pursuing consulting as a career, commit time and energy to prepare for case interviews. The books below provide background, framework options, and examples:

- [Case Interview Secrets](#) by Victor Cheng
- [Case in Point](#) by Marc Consentino



### Step 4: Practice!

- Try it out! Both [BCG](#) and [McKinsey](#) offer practice cases online.
- Get comfortable working through a framework and being able to talk through it. The best way to do this is to practice cases with a partner—a LOT of cases. Websites like [preplounge.com](#) offer opportunities to find case partners to practice with online.
- Brush up on your math skills. Many cases rely on working with numbers to arrive at a conclusion. Consider using percentages to streamline the process.

### Need More Help?

1. Check with OCG for any upcoming workshops to help prepare students learn what to expect during recruitment interviews.
2. Practice working through sample cases with another student.
3. Check to see if Mohr Career Services has any workshops scheduled for case interviews.
4. In some cases, depending on availability and the prior use of all of the existing resources, students may use the “Schedule an Appointment” function in Handshake or stop by 155 Lillis to set up an appointment with a career advisor to practice for an upcoming case interview.

*\*Special thanks to the [Oregon Consulting Group](#) (OCG) for providing input on case interview preparation and for allowing us to link to their excellent Prep Guide. If you are considering a career in consulting, the OCG is a great place to gain some experience!*