

(520) Advanced Interview Skills

Description

Assess advanced proficiency in job search, interview situations, and portfolio development.

Eligibility

Any secondary division student member may enter this event. Member may *not* enter both Interview Skills and Advanced Interview Skills in the same year. Advanced Interview Skills may be repeated. Members participating in national level competition must be registered for the event prior to submission deadline for technical judging. Members must participate in both parts of the competition to be ranked.

No equipment, supplies, or materials other than those specified for an event will be allowed in the testing area. No previous Business Professionals of America tests and/or sample tests or facsimiles thereof (handwritten, photocopied, or keyed) may be taken into the testing area. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

Competencies

- Apply technical writing skills to produce cover letter and résumé
- Create and effectively use an employment portfolio
- Demonstrate knowledge of employability skills
- Apply research to determine qualifications for jobs
- Demonstrate a professional image
- Demonstrate knowledge of job advancement
- Demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Discuss understanding of workplace ethics and work environments

Specifications

- This is a pre-submitted event. See instructions for submissions.
- Member will indicate on his/her résumé the position for which he/she is applying. There are openings in all departments of Digital Solutions shown on the Organizational Chart found in the *Style & Reference Manual*.
- Member may interview for any position listed on the organizational chart for which he/she is qualified.
- Information in the cover letter and résumé must be authentic; however, members may choose to use a fictitious personal address and telephone number. The use of references on the résumé is optional.
- **Submit the résumé and cover letter as two separate PDF files to <https://upload.bpa.org> no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, on April 1, 2025. This is the deadline for the National Leadership Conference. Each Regional or State Conference may have specific deadlines prior to the National deadlines. Please consult the Regional or State Conference Administrator for Regional or State deadlines.**
- Members will receive an automated response confirmation at the time of submission.
- Individual confirmation of receipt *cannot* be provided by the National Center.
- Member ID will be required for all submissions.
- No fax or mailed copies will be accepted.
- No exceptions can be made for missed deadlines due to incorrect submission or technical difficulties.
- Multiple submissions *cannot* be accepted.

- Due to the nature of the pre-submitted materials, no late registrations/move-ups for Advanced Interview Skills can be accepted after April 1, 2025.
- Materials from non-registered members, those missing Member ID and/or projects received after the deadline *cannot* be accepted.
- No changes can be made after the date of submission.
- The cover letter must be addressed as follows:
 Ms. Julie Smith, Manager
 Human Resources Department
 Digital Solutions
 700 Morse Road, Suite 201
 Columbus, OH 43214
- Member *may* choose to use a paper portfolio or an electronic portfolio.
 - Paper portfolios may *not* be larger than 8 ½"x11"
 - Paper portfolio pages must be placed in plastic sheet protectors
 - Electronic portfolios may be displayed on a notebook/laptop computer or tablet.
- No Internet access will be provided on-site at NLC; however, members may provide their own access to be used only for access to and their presentation of their portfolio.
- Members may access the Internet through a mobile hotspot or a hotspot on a cellular phone. If a member chooses to use their own device(s) to access the Internet, the device(s) must be setup prior to entering the presentation room. The cellular phone may *only* provide Internet access when used as a hotspot or be the sole source used to display the portfolio. Members may *not* use the device for any other purpose during their presentation.
- No time will be given for the set-up of equipment. If notebook/laptop or tablet is used it can only be set up by member.
- Members may *not* use any type of projection device. (Table-top projection screens, TVs, or other types of displays will *not* be allowed.)
- One (1) copy of the résumé may be used for reference by the member during the interview.
- Portfolio will *not* be submitted; the member will take the portfolio into the interview to be used to demonstrate job competence. **Portfolios *must not* be left with judges.**
- Materials previously submitted to the website will *not* be available at the time of interview.
- No other materials will be allowed (i.e., business cards, thank-you notes, etc.) during the remainder of the Advanced Interview Skills contest.

Upload Requirements

What to Submit at https://upload.bpa.org	Saved File Name(s)	Deadline
Cover Letter and Résumé as separate PDF files.	AIS-MemberID-coverletter.pdf AIS-MemberID-resume.pdf	April 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Method of evaluation

Technical Scoring Rubric

Interview Scoring Rubric

Length of event

No more than fifteen (15) minutes for interview

Finals may be required at state and national levels

Entries

Each state is allowed three (3) entries

Judges' comments will be returned digitally through the online judging system at the national level.

Materials submitted for technical judging *cannot* be returned and will *not* be available at NLC.

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Judge Number _____

Member ID _____

Technical Scoring Rubric

	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent	Points Awarded
Member submitted the correct information and in the correct format. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cover Letter - PDF format• Résumé - PDF format <i>All points or none are awarded by the technical judge.</i>				10	
Cover Letter (Must follow business letter format in the Style & Reference Manual)					
Introduction and addressed correctly	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Skills relevant to position	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Closing	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Correct grammar and spelling	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Résumé					
Position applying for listed	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Layout	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Reverse chronological order of work history (all paid and unpaid work experiences)	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Correct grammar and spelling	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
TOTAL TECHNICAL POINTS (170 points maximum)					

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Judge Number _____

Member ID _____

Interview Scoring Rubric

	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent	Points Awarded
Applicant's Greeting: Proper introduction Positive first impression	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Applicant's Appearance: Neat, well-groomed, and appropriately attired	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Personality and Poise: Positive, courteous, sincere, and confident Good posture, gestures, and eye contact	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Communication Skills: Proper grammar Good pronunciation and enunciation Pleasant voice and tone	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Responses: Responded with appropriate answers Showed knowledge of potential position Indicated knowledge of company Volunteered information Demonstrated initiative and enthusiasm Asked appropriate questions	1-5 1-5 1-5 1-5 1-5 1-5	6-10 6-10 6-10 6-10 6-10 6-10	11-15 11-15 11-15 11-15 11-15 11-15	16-20 16-20 16-20 16-20 16-20 16-20	
Showed evidence of the following skills: Required job skills Good work habits Problem-solving abilities	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Portfolio: Information included relates to position Presentation demonstrates job competence Effective use of portfolio	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Close of Interview: Expressed a thank you Concluded interview effectively	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
TOTAL INTERVIEW POINTS (260 points maximum)					

TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS = 430