

Sample SOP for MBA in USA: Consulting Track

Applicant profile: Aditya Rao, 5 years in supply chain operations, targeting strategy consulting

Sample statement written to a single goals-essay prompt of about 800 words (abridged)

In my third year at Vantage Logistics, I was asked to cut warehouse dwell time across four regional hubs. I rebuilt the slotting logic, renegotiated two carrier schedules and brought average dwell time down from 34 hours to 21. The project succeeded. What unsettled me was the meeting after it, where leadership asked whether the same model should reshape our network strategy, and I realised I could optimise a process but could not yet frame the decision above it.

That gap defines why I am applying now. Over five years I have moved from analyst to operations lead, owning a team of nine and a regional budget. My work has been executional by design. The problems that interest me most sit one level higher: which markets to serve, which capabilities to build and which trade-offs a company should accept. Consulting is where those questions get asked daily, and an MBA is the accepted door into it.

My preparation is uneven in a way I want to correct deliberately. I read financial statements competently but have never built a valuation. I have led operational teams but never a cross-functional strategy engagement. Your program addresses both gaps directly through the strategy consulting concentration and the field project sequence, where teams work with live corporate clients across a full semester. The operations analytics elective is equally relevant, since my strongest evidence is quantitative and I would rather deepen it than abandon it.

Two features drew me beyond the curriculum. The consulting club's case preparation programme has a structure my current employer cannot replicate, and the alumni concentration in healthcare and industrial practices matches where I want to specialise. I spoke with two graduates working in industrial consulting, and both described the same progression I am aiming at.

In the short term, I intend to join a strategy consulting firm as an associate, working on operations and growth engagements for manufacturing and logistics clients. Longer term, I want to lead a supply chain transformation practice, ideally advising companies in emerging markets where infrastructure constraints make the work genuinely hard.

I am applying with a clear view of what I bring and what I lack. I bring measurable operational results, comfort with messy data and the habit of owning a problem to its conclusion. I lack the strategic frameworks and financial fluency this next stage demands. Your program is where I intend to close that distance.

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