Press Release

MBA Students Revolutionize Investment Banking Interview Preparation with AI Coach

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Nina Luo was on her third investment banking interview preparation session when she hit a roadblock. "I kept getting confused about how to walk through a leveraged buyout model correctly," said Luo, a first-year MBA student at Chicago Booth. "The traditional guides were overwhelming, and I couldn't find clear examples that explained each step." As she reached out for help, her peers recommended her to try out the Finance Bro - Investment Banking AI Interview Coach , a new AI-powered platform developed by a team of Chicago Booth MBA students and data scientists.

"I typed in 'Walk me through an LBO model' and the system immediately broke down the process step-by-step, explaining each component with the clarity of a seasoned banker," Chen recalled. "What impressed me most was when I asked follow-up questions about specific concepts like exit multiples—the AI remembered our conversation context and built upon previous explanations." Since then, this AI tool became Luo's best friend in her recruiting journey. Three weeks later, Luo received an offer from a top investment bank.

The new platform is a specialized chatbot that uses retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) technology to access a comprehensive database including the traditional 400 investment banking interview questions, advanced guides and the latest online information such as SEC filings. Unlike general AI systems, the Finance Bro is designed especially for investment banking interviews. When users ask questions, the system retrieves the most relevant information from its knowledge base and generates tailored responses that maintain the precision required for technical finance concepts while delivering them in a coaching style.

"What makes our system unique is its ability to understand the specific language and concepts of finance," said Shai Basys, the data scientist on the development team. "General AI tools often struggle with technical finance terms or provide incorrect or oversimplified answers. Our RAG pipeline ensures responses are grounded in vetted financial knowledge, eliminating the risk of hallucinated information that could mislead candidates."

While currently available in a command-line interface through Google Colab, the team is working to develop a web application. "We're gathering feedback from early users to refine the system before scaling," said Vitor Lupo, one of the MBA developers. "The long-term vision is to incorporate personalized feedback based on a candidate's responses and even simulate full mock interviews with industry-specific questions."

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Who is Finance Bro for?
This product mainly targets undergrad and graduate students recruiting for investment banking internships with little financial modeling experience.

Q: Can't interviewees just rely on the classic investment banking preparation guides? Why would they want to use an AI tool?
The traditional interview guides usually assume that interviewees already understand many complex and important concepts. When we study the guides, we need to do a lot of extra work by ourselves to acquire the basic knowledge. This AI tool can shorten the time spent on learning basic knowledge.

Additionally, the real interviews cover more topics besides basic concepts. For example, interviewers often ask about the market and industry trends. We have observed that many students have had a hard time preparing for those questions. This AI tool can also offer students the most updated information and good examples of how those open questions should be answered.

Q: Is Finance Bro for free?
In the current phase, this product is free. We are open to all feedback and comments. We are planning to create a pro version in the future for more tailored answers and more complicated calculations. This pro version will charge users on a monthly basis, applying the classic subscription model.

Q: Does your product simulate real interview scenarios? If so, how?
So far, our product is prompt based. The students ask this product interview questions and the tool provides answers. In the next phase, we would add more functions such as timed technical sessions to simulate the real interviews.

Q: How does Finance AI Interview Coach differ from using general AI assistants like ChatGPT for interview prep?

General AI assistants like ChatGPT have broad knowledge but often provide generic interview advice that lacks the technical depth required for investment banking interviews. The Finance AI Interview Coach is built on a specialized knowledge base of 400+ curated finance interview questions and answers, categorized by topic areas like valuation, M&A, LBOs, and accounting. Our system uses vector embeddings to match questions with the most relevant expert answers, ensuring responses are technically accurate and aligned with what top banks expect. Additionally, our RAG pipeline grounds every response in verified financial knowledge, eliminating the hallucination problems that plague general AI systems when discussing complex financial concepts.

Q: How are the AI models you use trained?
The system uses a combination of pre-trained models and retrieval mechanisms. We use OpenAI's GPT-4o-mini as the main language model for generating responses, OpenAI's text-embedding-3-small to create vector representations of financial documents and queries. Maintains a vector database (Chroma) containing embedded financial documents including interview guides, technical information, and company data. Creates embeddings of user queries to identify and retrieve relevant financial information. Provides this contextual information to the LLM along with system prompts that define behavior for different experience levels and communication styles. Augments responses with financial data from Polygon API and web search results from Brave Search when relevant.

Q: Can you provide examples of how your product helps candidates practice key financial accounting skills?

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### 2. **Impact of $10 Depreciation With a 40% Tax Rate**

Now, let's consider the tax impact. With a tax rate of 40%, the effect of depreciation changes slightly.

**Income Statement:**
- Depreciation still reduces net income by $10.
- However, because of the tax shield from depreciation, you save on taxes. The tax savings from the depreciation expense is calculated as:
  - Tax Savings = Depreciation × Tax Rate = $10 × 40% = $4.
- So, the effective decrease in net income will be $10 (depreciation) - $4 (tax savings) = $6.

**Cash Flow Statement:**
- Start with the new net income, which is $6 lower than before.
- Add back the $10 depreciation (non-cash expense).
- The cash flow from operations will now be:
  - Cash Flow from Operations = Net Income - $6 + $10 = $4 increase in cash flow.

**Balance Sheet:**
- Accumulated depreciation increases by $10, reducing the total value of fixed assets.
- Retained earnings decrease by $6 (the new net income impact).
- The overall effect on the balance sheet is:
  - Assets decrease by $10 (due to accumulated depreciation).
  - Equity decreases by $6 (due to lower retained earnings).

### Summary With Tax:
- **Income Statement:** Net income decreases by $6 (after accounting for tax savings).
- **Cash Flow Statement:** Cash flow from operations increases by $4.
- **Balance Sheet:** Assets decrease by $10, and equity decreases by $6.
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Q:How accurate are the responses provided by the Finance AI Interview Coach?

We evaluate accuracy by benchmarking against gold-standard answers from professional interview guides (e.g. Breaking into Wall Street - 400 Questions), measuring similarity with cosine scores above 0.85 for technical questions. As shown in Figure 2, our system achieves an average rating of 4.3/5 across all question categories, with the highest scores in valuation and accounting topics. While no AI system is perfect, our RAG architecture substantially reduces the risk of inaccurate information by grounding responses in verified knowledge.

Q: What sources of information does the system use to generate responses?

The system draws from a multi-layered knowledge base that includes: (1) A proprietary dataset including 400+ investment banking interview questions and detailed answers; (2) Technical finance concepts extracted from professional training materials; (3) Real examples from SEC filings (10-Ks), Polygon API, and Brave search functions to illustrate financial concepts with actual company data; and (4) Interview experiences from successful candidates who received offers. Each knowledge source is embedded using OpenAI's text-embedding-3-small model to enable semantic search and retrieval based on the meaning of questions rather than just keywords.

Q: Can Finance Bro provide real-time financial data for market trends and deals?
Yes! Finance Bro integrates with financial data providers like SEC filings, Polygon APIs to deliver real-time market insights, recent M&A transactions, and key valuation metrics.

Q: Can Finance Bro assist with qualitative interview questions, such as industry trends or market outlook?
Yes! Many IB interviews include market-driven or "Tell me about a deal" questions. Finance Bro can analyze recent M&A deals, industry trends, and macroeconomic factors to help candidates develop strong answers with real-world data.

Q: Will Finance Bro include behavioral interview coaching?
Not at this stage. Since behavioral questions are highly personal and cultural fit can be subjective to assess, Finance Bro remains focused on technical and market-based IB interview preparation. However, we may introduce mock behavioral interview structuring tips in a future release.

Q: Does Finance Bro adapt to my experience level?
Finance Bro is designed to be adaptable to a wide range of user experience levels, ensuring a personalized and effective learning experience. For beginners, the tool

provides structured, foundational explanations accompanied by basic examples to build a strong understanding of core financial concepts. For more experienced candidates, Finance Bro offers advanced modeling techniques and in-depth breakdowns of complex M&A deals, catering to their more sophisticated needs. Additionally, for those seeking a more engaging and lighthearted approach, the "Bro Mode" injects finance culture humor into its responses while maintaining the rigor and accuracy of the information provided, making it a versatile tool for diverse learning styles.

Q: What are the future plans for the Finance AI Interview Coach?

We have three primary development paths planned. First, we're working to incorporate company-specific insights by integrating additional SEC filing data to help candidates prepare for interviews at specific banks with relevant examples. Second, we plan to develop an adaptive questioning module that simulates a real interviewer who adjusts follow-up questions based on the quality of previous answers. Third, we're exploring integration with PitchBook data to provide up-to-date market insights for questions about recent deals, industry trends, and company valuations. We're also working on a web interface with audio capabilities to help candidates practice their verbal delivery. These enhancements are guided by feedback from career services professionals at top business schools and recruiters from investment banks.