

Recruiting Guide: Investment Banking Technical Interview Prep (4-Week Timeline)

WEEK 1: Foundations & Core Concepts

- **Accounting Basics**
 - Review basic and advanced accounting principles
 - a) 3 financial statements and how they connect
 - b) Conceptual question (“What is the difference between Accounts Receivable and Deferred Revenue?”)
 - c) Single-step scenarios (“What happens on the 3 statements when Depreciation goes up by \$10?”)
 - d) Multi-step scenarios (“Walk me through what happens when you buy inventory using debt, turn it into products, and then sell the products?”)
 - Learning Outcome: Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement
Depreciation, Current Assets, Current Liabilities, Retained Earnings
- **Accounting Advanced**
 - Study financial ratios (Liquidity, Leverage, Profitability)
 - Resource: [CFI Financial Ratios](#)
 - Practice explaining changes across statements. For example, increase in expense impact on income statement, statement of cash flows, and balance sheet
 - Resources: WSO, M&I guides, basic accounting textbooks
- **Corporate Finance**
 - Introduction to corporate finance
 - Learning Outcome: Time value of money, NPV, IRR

WEEK 2: Valuation Methodologies

- **Discounted Cash Flow**
 - Discounted Cash Flow model (formulas and calculations)
 - [Link to model template](#)
 - Enterprise Value v. Equity Value
 - Learning Outcome: Build basic DCF in Excel (use [YouTube tutorials](#) if needed)
- **Valuation Methods**
 - Comparable Company Analysis & Precedent Transactions
 - Learn key multiples (EV/EBITDA, P/E, etc.)
 - Learning Outcome: Practice explaining valuation conclusions and pros/cons of each method

WEEK 3: Real-World Applications & Practice

- **Leveraged Buyout Model**
 - Advanced topics: LBO basics, Merger Model overview
 - Build simple LBO sensitivity tables
- **Technical Interview Practice**
 - Practice technical interview questions: brainteasers, “walk me through a DCF,” accretion/dilution

- Use online question banks (WSO, M&I, Street of Walls)
- **Mock Interviews**
 - Mock interviews with a friend, mentor or career advisor (focus: explaining thought process)

WEEK 4: Review & Interview Readiness

- **Common Pitfalls**
 - Review common mistakes, focus on weak areas
 - Rebuild models from memory
- **Simulate Real-World Scenario**
 - Practice under timed conditions, do verbal drills
 - Review technical resources, cheat sheets
- **Final Review**
 - Final review & confidence building
 - Organize cheat sheet and mental frameworks for quick recall

General Tips:

- Spend 2-4 hours/day on prep, adjust as needed
- Use Excel & pen/paper for calculations
- Leverage online resources and technical guides
- Document key frameworks for “walk me through” questions

Resources:

- Wall Street Oasis (WSO), Breaking Into Wall Street (BIWS), Mergers & Inquisitions (M&I)
- Basic accounting/finance textbooks, Investopedia, Excel modeling guides

Stay consistent and actively practice explaining your answers as you go!

Appendix A: Finance Interview Resources

- a) [Behavioral and Technical Interview Guide](#)
- b) [Finance Interview Skills Workshop](#)
- c) [Valuation Methods - Trading and Transactions Comps](#)
- d) [Valuation Methods - DCF & WACC](#)
- e) [Valuation Methods - LBO](#)
- f) [Excel Essentials Bootcamp](#)

Appendix B: Preparing for HireVue Interviews

Summary of Tips for Preparing for Banking HireVue Interviews

1. **Practice Common FIT & Behavioral Questions:**
 - “Tell me about yourself,” “Why investment banking?” “Why our firm?”
 - STAR Method: Structure your answers (Situation, Task, Action, Result) for clarity and impact.
2. **Prepare for Technical Questions:**
 - Expect basic finance/accounting/valuation questions. Practice concise, structured responses.
 - Review “walk me through a DCF,” financial statement linkages, and simple valuation concepts.
3. **Set Up the Right Environment:**
 - Quiet, well-lit space. Neutral background. Dress professionally (suit or business attire).
 - Check your internet connection, camera, and microphone beforehand.
4. **Practice Recording Yourself:**
 - Use [Big Interview](#) to record mock interviews to get comfortable talking to a camera. You can find sample investment banking questions under the Custom Set Option - Careers in Business - Finance Technical Interview
 - Watch recordings to improve tone, body language, and pace.
5. **Answer Clearly and Concisely:**
 - Keep answers structured, direct, and within the time limit (usually 1-2 minutes).
 - Avoid rambling—stick to key points.
6. **Show Personality & Motivation:**
 - Smile, maintain eye contact with the camera, and express genuine enthusiasm for investment banking and the specific firm.
7. **Follow Instructions:**
 - Listen carefully to prompts, clarify if needed, and don’t skip required steps.
8. **Prepare Questions for the End:**
 - If given the chance, ask insightful questions about the firm or role.
9. **Practice Under Time Constraints:**
 - Get used to answering quickly and fluidly—rehearse with a timer.

Key Point:

Be natural, prepared, and personable—show both your technical readiness and strong motivation for the role and firm.