

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

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### 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
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### 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
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### 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)
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#### **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
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#### **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
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*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.

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### Key Point:

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