COURSE SYLLABUS

AI for Finance and Financial Analysis (Self-Paced)

Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://www.graduateschool.edu/courses/ai-finance-online



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Course Outline

Module 1: Financial Statement Fundamentals

- Reading the income statement, balance sheet, and cash flow statement
- What each statement measures and its main sections and line items
- Tracing a single transaction through all three statements
- How net income, working capital, and cash tie the statements together
- Using an AI assistant to explain a statement rather than replace reading it

Module 2: Financial Analysis Fundamentals

- Core liquidity, profitability, leverage, and efficiency ratios
- Margin and trend analysis across periods
- Naming the likely causes behind margin and trend movements
- Turning a set of ratios into a short, defensible narrative
- Verifying AI-generated analysis against the underlying numbers

Module 3: Excel Acceleration with Copilot in Excel

- Building formulas and tables from plain-language requests
- Cleaning and standardizing a messy financial extract while keeping the original intact
- Interrogating an existing workbook to understand its structure and check its logic
- Copilot's reach inside a workbook and its blind spots
- A verification routine to run before Copilot output reaches a report

Module 4: Excel Acceleration with Claude in Excel

- Using the Claude for Excel add-in to analyze, build, and explain workbook logic
- Running the same financial task in Claude and Copilot side by side
- Choosing an assistant based on data location, task type, and organizational policy
- A decision rule for picking the right assistant per task

Module 5: Bottom-Up Forecasting with AI

- Identifying the operating drivers behind revenue and cost lines

- Building a driver-based forecast from the ground up
- Using an AI assistant to draft driver logic and formulas
- Extracting and validating every assumption inside AI-drafted logic
- Building an assumptions register that travels with the model

Module 6: Top-Down Forecasting with AI

- Building a forecast from market size, share, and penetration assumptions
- Using an AI assistant to research and structure market-sizing inputs
- Verifying the sources behind AI-researched market figures
- Reconciling the top-down forecast against the bottom-up forecast
- Explaining the gap between the two views

Module 7: Short-Term Cash Forecasting

- Building a 13-week cash flow from receipts, disbursements, and opening cash
- Running scenario analysis with an AI assistant's help
- Running sensitivity analysis to find what matters most
- Presenting the cash position and its risks in a short management briefing

Module 8: Capstone: An AI-Augmented Monthly Reporting Package

- Assembling a monthly reporting package with the numbers computed in the workbook
- Drafting commentary with an AI assistant, grounded in the actual figures and their drivers
- Running a review pass for errors, unsupported claims, and sensitive details
- Submitting the workbook, commentary, and review notes

Module 9: Finance Wrap-Up and Next Steps

- Reviewing the skills and deliverables built across the course
- Identifying which parts of your own monthly close to improve first
- Keeping current as the AI assistants change