



Applied AI for Startup Founders at Haas

Revolutionizing AI Education through Real Startup Builds

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Why Practical AI Entrepreneurship Now?



AI is a "must-have" skill for future leaders

Business strategy now requires understanding AI capabilities and limitations



Speed: go from idea to paying product in a day

Modern AI tools drastically compress product development cycles

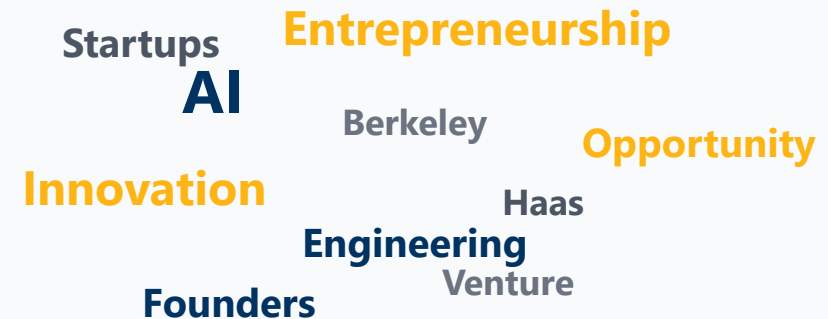


Haas + Berkeley Engineering = perfect launchpoint

Unique cross-campus collaboration opportunity for AI innovation

"With AI tools, founders can go from an idea in the morning to a working prototype by lunch and a paying customer by dinner."

— Y Combinator Partner, 2025



Course Vision & Objectives

Vision: Empower founders to build, validate, and launch real AI startups—from idea to Demo Day—within a true interdisciplinary environment. Students will emerge with practical AI entrepreneurship skills immediately applicable in today's venture landscape.



Build real AI apps

Create production-quality applications using modern AI frameworks and tools



Learn GTM & market validation

Develop go-to-market strategies and validate product-market fit with real customers



Pitch to VCs & mentors

Refine venture narratives and present to real investors for feedback and potential funding






Current Haas Landscape — What's Missing

Haas Offers Several AI Courses — But None Like This One

Course	Focus	Startup Focus?	Hands-On?	Interdisciplinary?
EW MBA277 Ethical AI & Societal Impact	Responsible use-case & governance design	✗	✗	✗
MBA290T.8B AI Strategy & GenAI Applications	Strategic implications of AI, business value	✗	✓	✗
MBA290T.12 Harnessing AI for Business Success	Practical business use of AI across domains	✗	✓	✗
MBA 267 The Business of AI	Intro to AI, legal & policy implications	✗	✗	✗
Applied AI for Startup Founders	AI entrepreneurship	✓	✓	✓

While these courses provide valuable strategic and ethical lenses on AI, none offer hands-on, interdisciplinary startup building — the type of experiential learning that's critical to producing the next wave of AI founders. Our proposed course fills this gap.

Key Differentiators

- ✓  **Startup-first project focus**
Students build real companies, not theoretical case studies—with actual users and market validation
- ✓  **MBA + engineering team requirement**
Cross-disciplinary teams combine business acumen with technical expertise—mirroring successful startup dynamics
- ✓  **Twice-weekly creation labs**
Dedicated technical sessions with hands-on AI development and implementation support from experts
- ✓  **Mid-term + final pitch structure**
Milestone-based progression with real investor feedback and increasing stakes—culminating in Demo Day
- ✓  **Built-in mentor & speaker series**
Direct access to Silicon Valley AI founders, VCs, and technical leaders throughout the program

How the Top "AI + Entrepreneurship" B-Schools Do It

Northwestern
Kellogg

Kellogg

Northwestern

MBAi Program

Engineering Partnership

Joint degree with McCormick School of Engineering focusing on analytical and technical foundations

MIT
MANAGEMENT
SLOAN SCHOOL

MIT Sloan

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

AI + Analytics Track

CSAIL Integration

Direct access to Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence Laboratory resources and mentorship

STANFORD
BUSINESS
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF

Stanford GSB

Stanford University

CS Electives

Venture Focus

Strong emphasis on entrepreneurial ventures with selective CS department course access



Tepper

Carnegie Mellon University

AI Concentration

Applied Projects

Robust technical curriculum with industry-sponsored applied AI projects throughout program

Wharton
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Wharton

University of Pennsylvania

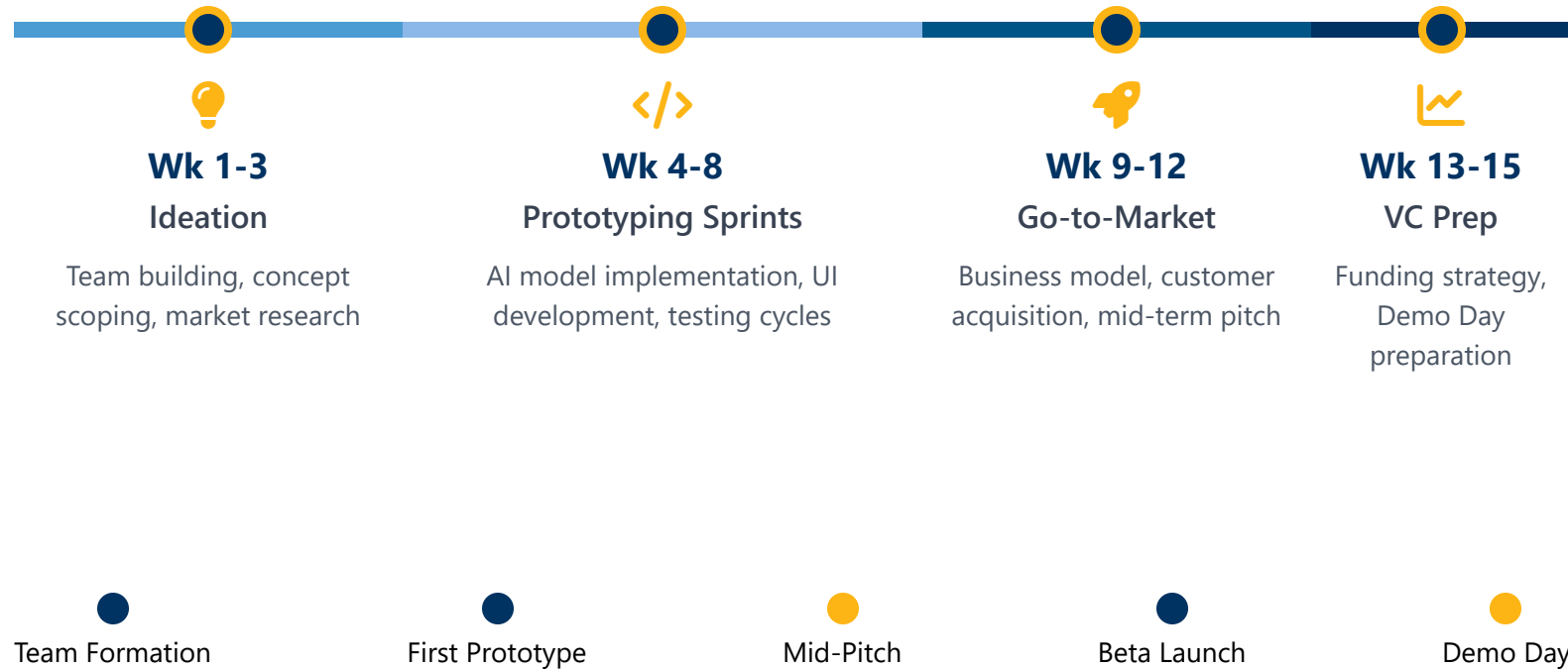
New AI Major

Fall '25 Launch

Comprehensive AI curriculum being developed with specialized entrepreneurship track

"Applied AI for Startup Founders" positions Haas to lead AI-era business education—uniquely pairing MBA and engineering students to build investment-ready startups through hands-on labs and direct access to Silicon Valley's AI ecosystem.

Learning Journey (15-Week Roadmap)

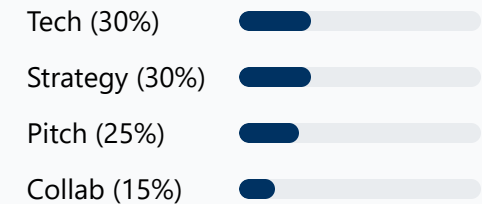


Program Components

Weekly Guest Speakers
Industry experts, VCs, and successful founders share insights

Mentorship Program
1:1 guidance from experienced entrepreneurs and AI experts

📊 Grading Split



Why Haas Wins



Train future AI founders

Equip students with practical skills to lead the next generation of AI-driven companies, creating a pipeline of tech-savvy founders.



Bridge Haas–Engineering collaboration

Forge stronger interdisciplinary ties across campus, creating innovative partnerships that leverage Berkeley's full academic ecosystem.



Expand startup & VC network

Strengthen Haas's connections to Silicon Valley's AI investor community, creating opportunities for mentorship and funding.



Stay competitive with peer schools

Position Haas at the forefront of AI entrepreneurship education, matching or exceeding offerings at other top business schools.



Foster real venture outcomes

Create a structured pathway for student projects to evolve into funded startups, generating tangible successes for Haas.



Let's Launch This Together

Next Steps



Review full syllabus & logistics

Complete course framework, weekly plan, and required resources for final approval



Plan cross-departmental coordination

Establish joint governance with Berkeley Engineering to ensure seamless integration



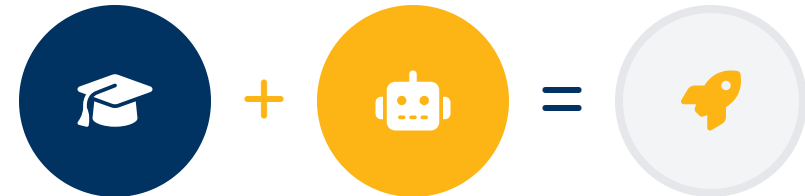
Begin outreach to industry partners

Secure mentors, guest speakers, and venture partners to build robust ecosystem

Target Launch: Spring Semester 2026



Creating the next generation of AI-native entrepreneurs





Thank You

Let's build the future of AI entrepreneurship at Haas



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