Here’s the list of **project categories** you should target, based on what hiring managers expect:

**1. CRUD + Authentication APIs**

* **Purpose**: Show you can build secure, scalable REST APIs with proper auth.
* **Examples**:
  + User management system (register, login, JWT auth, role-based access)
  + Task or project management app
* **Skills shown**:
  + FastAPI routing & Pydantic models
  + JWT authentication & authorization
  + Password hashing & security best practices

**2. API + Database Integration**

* **Purpose**: Show you can connect FastAPI with real databases.
* **Examples**:
  + Inventory management API (PostgreSQL/MySQL)
  + Blog API with comments & tags
* **Skills shown**:
  + SQLAlchemy ORM
  + Async DB queries
  + Migrations with Alembic

**3. File Handling & Media APIs**

* **Purpose**: Show you can handle uploads/downloads and media processing.
* **Examples**:
  + Image upload & processing API (store in AWS S3)
  + PDF generation API
* **Skills shown**:
  + File uploads in FastAPI
  + Integration with AWS S3/Google Cloud Storage
  + Streaming large files

**4. Real-time & Async APIs**

* **Purpose**: Show you can handle live updates & concurrency.
* **Examples**:
  + Chat app API using WebSockets
  + Real-time stock price updates API
* **Skills shown**:
  + WebSockets in FastAPI
  + Async programming
  + Pub/Sub with Redis or Kafka

**5. External API Integration**

* **Purpose**: Show you can consume and process third-party APIs.
* **Examples**:
  + Weather API proxy + caching
  + Payment gateway integration
* **Skills shown**:
  + httpx async HTTP client
  + Data transformation
  + Rate limiting & caching

**6. Data Processing APIs**

* **Purpose**: Show you can build APIs that process and transform data.
* **Examples**:
  + CSV/Excel data ingestion & validation API
  + Text analytics API (sentiment analysis)
* **Skills shown**:
  + Background tasks
  + Pandas/numpy integration
  + Error handling for bad data

**7. Cloud-native / Serverless APIs**

* **Purpose**: Show you can deploy FastAPI in AWS/Azure/GCP.
* **Examples**:
  + AWS Lambda FastAPI API (serverless)
  + ECS/Kubernetes-deployed API
* **Skills shown**:
  + Deployment pipelines
  + Infrastructure as Code
  + Cloud integrations (S3, DynamoDB, RDS)

If you do **one project from each category**, you’ll be very strong in interviews — because you’ll have covered:

* API design
* Database integration
* File/media handling
* Real-time communication
* Third-party API usage
* Data processing
* Cloud deployment

If you want, I can now **pick 3 of these categories** and turn them into **a single realistic production project** so you don’t waste time building 7 different apps.