6-Week Entrepreneurship Masterclass Curriculum Design

Based on the Problem-Solution Innovation Framework (PSIF)

Executive Summary

This comprehensive curriculum design presents a revolutionary 6-week entrepreneurship masterclass that surpasses the offerings of MIT, Harvard, Wharton, and Stanford by integrating cutting-edge pedagogical approaches with the Problem-Solution Innovation Framework (PSIF). The course is designed for college students with a 6-8 hour weekly commitment and leverages advanced gamification, Al tools integration, and diverse global case studies to create an immersive, transformative learning experience.

The curriculum follows a progressive journey from problem discovery to scaling strategies, ensuring students develop both theoretical understanding and practical skills. Each week builds upon the previous, culminating in a validated startup concept or clear career pathway. The design emphasizes experiential learning, peer collaboration, and real-world application while maintaining accessibility for a global audience.

Course Philosophy and Framework

Core Principles

- 1. **Problem-First Approach**: Every entrepreneurial journey begins with identifying and deeply understanding a genuine problem
- 2. Experiential Learning: "Learning by doing" through hands-on projects and real-world application
- 3. Global Perspective: Diverse case studies and international collaboration opportunities
- 4. Al-Enhanced Learning: Integration of cutting-edge Al tools throughout the curriculum
- 5. Community-Driven Growth: Peer learning, mentorship, and collaborative problem-solving
- 6. **Sustainable Impact**: Focus on creating ventures that generate positive social and economic value

The PSIF Framework Integration

The Problem-Solution Innovation Framework serves as the backbone of our curriculum, structured around four core stages:

- Problem Discovery & Validation (Weeks 1-2)
- Solution Development & Testing (Weeks 3-4)
- Implementation & Go-to-Market (Week 5)
- Scaling & Ecosystem Navigation (Week 6)

Week-by-Week Curriculum Design

Week 1: Problem Discovery & Empathy-Driven Innovation

Theme: "Finding Problems Worth Solving"

Learning Objectives

By the end of Week 1, students will be able to:

- Apply Design Thinking principles to identify meaningful problems
- Conduct effective customer discovery interviews using "The Mom Test" methodology
- Distinguish between symptoms and root causes of problems
- Evaluate problem significance using impact assessment frameworks
- Develop empathy maps and user personas for target audiences

Content Delivery Mix

Asynchronous Content (3 hours)

- Video lectures featuring Stanford d.school methodology and MIT's "mind and hand" philosophy
- Interactive case study analysis: Grammarly's journey from plagiarism detection to writing confidence
- Al-powered market research tutorial using ChatGPT and Claude for initial problem exploration
- Reading materials on Design Thinking fundamentals and customer empathy

Synchronous Activities (2 hours)

- Live workshop: "The Art of Problem Discovery" with industry mentors
- Peer collaboration session: Problem brainstorming and validation exercises
- Guest speaker: Successful entrepreneur sharing their problem discovery journey

Hands-on Project Work (2-3 hours)

- Conduct 3-5 customer discovery interviews using provided templates
- Create empathy maps and problem statements
- Document findings in Notion workspace using "Problem-Solution Navigator" template

Case Study Integration

- Primary Case: Grammarly's evolution from addressing plagiarism to building writing confidence
- **Supporting Cases**: Zocdoc's founder experience with healthcare access, TOMS' observation of children without shoes
- International Perspective: Include case studies from emerging markets addressing local problems

Gamification Elements

- Discovery Badge: Awarded for completing first customer interview
- Empathy Champion: Recognition for most insightful empathy map
- Problem Validator: Points for identifying problems with quantifiable impact
- Collaboration Star: Peer-nominated award for helpful feedback

AI Tools Integration

- Use ChatGPT for generating interview questions and analyzing responses
- Leverage Claude for market research and trend analysis
- Employ Perplexity for competitive landscape research
- Utilize Notion AI for organizing and synthesizing interview data

Interactive Activities

- Virtual "Problem Hunt" where students identify problems in their daily lives
- Cross-cultural problem sharing sessions with international cohort members
- "Problem Pitch" practice sessions with peer feedback
- Collaborative problem database creation for future reference

Assessment Strategy

- Peer review of empathy maps and problem statements
- Self-reflection journal on problem discovery process
- Quality of customer interview insights and documentation
- · Participation in collaborative activities and discussions

Week 2: Solution Ideation & Lean Validation

Theme: "From Problems to Possibilities"

Learning Objectives

By the end of Week 2, students will be able to:

- Generate multiple solution approaches using structured ideation techniques
- Apply Lean Startup methodology to formulate testable hypotheses
- Design and conduct solution validation experiments
- Create compelling value propositions using proven frameworks
- Understand the concept of product-market fit and early indicators

Content Delivery Mix

Asynchronous Content (3 hours)

- Video series on Lean Startup methodology and Build-Measure-Learn cycles
- Interactive case study: Notion's flexible platform approach to productivity problems
- Al-assisted ideation techniques and solution brainstorming
- Value proposition canvas tutorial and application exercises

Synchronous Activities (2 hours)

- Live workshop: "Solution Ideation Bootcamp" with Y Combinator methodology
- Peer solution validation sessions with structured feedback protocols
- Mentor office hours for individual guidance on solution development

Hands-on Project Work (2-3 hours)

- Generate 10+ solution ideas using various ideation techniques
- Create value proposition canvas for top 3 solutions
- Design and execute 2-3 validation experiments
- Document learnings and iterate on solution concepts

Case Study Integration

- Primary Case: Notion's modular approach to solving productivity fragmentation
- **Supporting Cases**: Warby Parker's Home Try-On solution, Chobani's authentic Greek yogurt approach
- Failure Analysis: Solutions that failed due to poor problem-solution fit

Gamification Elements

- Ideation Innovator: Badge for generating 10+ unique solutions
- Validation Virtuoso: Recognition for most creative validation experiment
- Pivot Pioneer: Points for successfully iterating based on feedback
- Hypothesis Hero: Award for best-structured testable hypothesis

AI Tools Integration

- Use GPT-4 for solution brainstorming and refinement
- Leverage Midjourney for visual solution prototyping
- · Employ Jasper for value proposition copywriting
- Utilize Airtable with AI for solution tracking and comparison

Interactive Activities

- "Solution Speed Dating" where students pitch solutions to multiple peers
- Cross-industry solution adaptation exercises
- Virtual hackathon for rapid solution prototyping
- Collaborative solution database with voting and feedback mechanisms

Assessment Strategy

- · Peer evaluation of solution creativity and feasibility
- Quality of validation experiments and learnings documentation
- · Value proposition clarity and compelling nature
- · Iteration quality based on feedback and data

Week 3: Prototyping & MVP Development

Theme: "Building to Learn"

Learning Objectives

By the end of Week 3, students will be able to:

- Design and build low-fidelity prototypes using no-code tools
- Apply MVP principles to create testable product versions
- Conduct user testing sessions and gather actionable feedback
- Iterate rapidly based on user insights and data
- Understand different prototyping approaches for various business models

Content Delivery Mix

Asynchronous Content (3 hours)

- No-code development tutorials (Bubble, Webflow, Figma)
- MVP case studies from successful startups
- User testing methodologies and best practices
- Al-assisted prototyping and design principles

Synchronous Activities (2 hours)

- Live workshop: "Rapid Prototyping Masterclass" with hands-on building
- User testing practice sessions with peer feedback
- Technical mentorship for prototype development challenges

Hands-on Project Work (2-3 hours)

- Build functional prototype using no-code tools
- Conduct user testing sessions with target customers
- Iterate prototype based on user feedback
- Document development process and learnings

Case Study Integration

- Primary Case: Warby Parker's Home Try-On prototype development
- Supporting Cases: Zocdoc's early booking platform iterations
- Technical Focus: How different industries approach MVP development

Gamification Elements

- Prototype Pioneer: Badge for completing first functional prototype
- User Whisperer: Recognition for most valuable user insights
- Iteration Ace: Points for multiple successful prototype iterations
- Technical Trailblazer: Award for most innovative use of no-code tools

AI Tools Integration

- Use Figma with AI plugins for design assistance
- Leverage Bubble's AI features for app development
- Employ ChatGPT for user testing script generation
- Utilize Loom with AI transcription for user session analysis

Interactive Activities

- Virtual prototype showcase with peer voting
- Cross-functional team formation for complex prototypes
- "Prototype Swap" where students test each other's MVPs
- Technical troubleshooting support groups

Assessment Strategy

- Prototype functionality and user experience quality
- User testing insights and iteration quality
- Technical implementation creativity within constraints
- Peer feedback on prototype usability and value

Week 4: Business Model Design & Market Strategy

Theme: "Creating Sustainable Value"

Learning Objectives

By the end of Week 4, students will be able to:

- Design comprehensive business models using proven frameworks
- Develop go-to-market strategies for different customer segments
- Understand revenue models and pricing strategies
- Create financial projections and unit economics
- Analyze competitive landscapes and positioning strategies

Content Delivery Mix

Asynchronous Content (3 hours)

- Business Model Canvas deep-dive with interactive exercises
- Revenue model analysis across different industries
- Go-to-market strategy frameworks and case studies
- Financial modeling basics and unit economics

Synchronous Activities (2 hours)

- Live workshop: "Business Model Innovation Lab"
- Peer business model review and feedback sessions
- Expert panel on scaling strategies and market entry

Hands-on Project Work (2-3 hours)

- Complete comprehensive Business Model Canvas
- Develop detailed go-to-market strategy
- Create financial projections and unit economics model
- Conduct competitive analysis and positioning

Case Study Integration

- Primary Case: Chobani's business model evolution from premium to mass market
- Supporting Cases: TOMS' One-for-One model transformation, Grammarly's freemium strategy
- Financial Focus: How successful startups achieved profitability

Gamification Elements

- Business Model Architect: Badge for comprehensive canvas completion
- Market Strategist: Recognition for most innovative go-to-market approach
- Financial Forecaster: Points for realistic and detailed projections
- Competitive Analyst: Award for most insightful market analysis

AI Tools Integration

- Use ChatGPT for business model brainstorming and validation
- Leverage Excel/Sheets with AI for financial modeling
- Employ Perplexity for competitive research
- Utilize Canva AI for business model visualization

Interactive Activities

- Business model "stress testing" with peer challenges
- Revenue model experimentation and comparison
- Market entry simulation exercises
- Collaborative competitive intelligence gathering

Assessment Strategy

- Business model completeness and innovation
- Go-to-market strategy feasibility and creativity
- Financial projection accuracy and assumptions
- Competitive analysis depth and insights

Week 5: Pitching, Storytelling & Fundraising Fundamentals

Theme: "Communicating Your Vision"

Learning Objectives

By the end of Week 5, students will be able to:

- Craft compelling startup narratives and pitch decks
- Deliver confident and persuasive presentations
- Understand fundraising landscape and investor perspectives
- Navigate legal and regulatory considerations
- Build networks and strategic partnerships

Content Delivery Mix

Asynchronous Content (3 hours)

- Pitch deck design and storytelling principles
- Fundraising fundamentals and investor types
- Legal basics for startups and intellectual property
- Networking strategies and relationship building

Synchronous Activities (2 hours)

- Live workshop: "Pitch Perfect Masterclass" with investor feedback
- Peer pitch practice sessions with structured feedback
- Legal clinic with startup attorneys and advisors

Hands-on Project Work (2-3 hours)

- Create comprehensive pitch deck and presentation
- Practice and refine pitch delivery
- Research potential investors and funding sources
- Develop networking and partnership strategies

Case Study Integration

- Primary Case: Zocdoc's fundraising journey and business model pivot
- Supporting Cases: Successful pitch decks from unicorn startups
- Failure Analysis: Common pitching mistakes and how to avoid them

Gamification Elements

- Pitch Perfect: Badge for compelling presentation delivery
- Story Weaver: Recognition for most engaging narrative
- Investor Magnet: Points for understanding investor perspectives
- Network Navigator: Award for strategic partnership identification

AI Tools Integration

- Use ChatGPT for pitch script writing and refinement
- Leverage Gamma or Beautiful.ai for pitch deck creation
- Employ Grammarly for presentation polish
- Utilize LinkedIn Al for investor research and outreach

Interactive Activities

- Virtual pitch competition with investor judges
- Peer feedback sessions with structured evaluation criteria
- Mock investor Q&A sessions

Networking simulation exercises

Assessment Strategy

- Pitch deck quality and visual design
- Presentation delivery confidence and clarity
- Understanding of fundraising landscape
- · Strategic thinking about partnerships and growth

Week 6: Scaling Strategies & Ecosystem Navigation

Theme: "Building for Growth and Impact"

Learning Objectives

By the end of Week 6, students will be able to:

- Develop scaling strategies for different business models
- Navigate startup ecosystems and support resources
- Plan international expansion and market entry
- Integrate advanced technologies and AI tools
- Create actionable next steps and career pathways

Content Delivery Mix

Asynchronous Content (3 hours)

- Scaling strategies and growth frameworks
- International expansion case studies and considerations
- Advanced AI tools for business operations
- Startup ecosystem navigation and resource utilization

Synchronous Activities (2 hours)

- Live workshop: "Scaling Summit" with successful entrepreneurs
- Final presentation showcase and peer evaluation
- Career pathway planning and next steps session

Hands-on Project Work (2-3 hours)

- Develop comprehensive scaling strategy
- Create international expansion plan
- Integrate advanced AI tools into business operations
- Finalize venture concept and next steps plan

Case Study Integration

- Primary Case: Grammarly's international expansion and AI integration
- Supporting Cases: Warby Parker's omnichannel scaling, Chobani's category expansion
- Global Perspective: International scaling success stories and challenges

Gamification Elements

- Scaling Strategist: Badge for comprehensive growth planning
- Global Visionary: Recognition for international expansion strategy
- Al Integrator: Points for innovative technology adoption
- **Ecosystem Navigator**: Award for resource identification and utilization

AI Tools Integration

- Use advanced AI tools for business automation
- · Leverage international market research AI platforms
- · Employ predictive analytics for scaling decisions
- Utilize Al-powered networking and partnership tools

Interactive Activities

- Final venture showcase and peer voting
- International expansion simulation
- · AI tool integration workshop
- · Career pathway planning sessions

Assessment Strategy

- · Scaling strategy comprehensiveness and feasibility
- · International expansion plan quality
- Al integration creativity and practicality
- Overall venture concept development and presentation

Advanced Optional Modules

Financial Modeling & Investment Analysis

Duration: 2-3 hours additional per week

Content: Advanced financial modeling, valuation methods, investment analysis, cap table manage-

ment

Tools: Excel/Sheets advanced functions, financial modeling software, Al-powered analytics

Assessment: Complex financial model creation and investment scenario analysis

Legal Frameworks & Intellectual Property

Duration: 2-3 hours additional per week

Content: Startup legal structures, IP protection, contracts, regulatory compliance

Tools: Legal research platforms, contract templates, IP databases **Assessment**: Legal strategy development and compliance planning

International Expansion Strategies

Duration: 2-3 hours additional per week

Content: Market entry strategies, cultural adaptation, regulatory navigation, partnership development

Tools: International market research platforms, cultural analysis tools

Assessment: Comprehensive international expansion plan

AI Tools Mastery & Integration

Duration: 2-3 hours additional per week

Content: Advanced AI applications, automation strategies, AI ethics, future trends

Tools: Latest AI platforms, automation tools, analytics software **Assessment**: AI integration strategy and implementation plan

Gamification System Design

Achievement Levels

- 1. Entrepreneur Explorer (Week 1-2): Focus on discovery and validation
- 2. Solution Architect (Week 3-4): Emphasis on building and business modeling
- 3. Venture Visionary (Week 5-6): Leadership in pitching and scaling

Badge Categories

- Discovery Badges: Problem identification, customer insights, market research
- Innovation Badges: Solution creativity, prototype development, iteration
- Business Badges: Model design, financial planning, strategy development
- Leadership Badges: Presentation skills, team collaboration, mentorship
- Impact Badges: Social value creation, sustainability focus, global perspective

Leaderboard Systems

- Individual Progress: Personal achievement tracking and milestone completion
- Team Collaboration: Group project success and peer support metrics
- Community Contribution: Helping others, sharing insights, mentorship activities
- Innovation Index: Creativity, originality, and breakthrough thinking

Reward Mechanisms

- Digital Certificates: Completion certificates for each module and overall course
- Portfolio Showcase: Featured presentation opportunities for top performers
- Mentorship Access: Exclusive sessions with successful entrepreneurs and investors
- Funding Opportunities: Connections to seed funding and grant programs
- Career Pathways: Job placement assistance and internship opportunities

Assessment Strategies

Continuous Assessment Framework

Rather than traditional guizzes, the course employs dynamic, real-world assessment methods:

Peer Review System

- Weekly Peer Evaluations: Structured feedback on projects and presentations
- Cross-Cultural Collaboration: International team projects with diverse perspectives
- Mentorship Circles: Students mentor each other based on strengths and expertise

Portfolio Development

- Living Document: Continuously updated venture concept and business plan
- Reflection Journals: Weekly insights, learnings, and personal growth documentation
- Case Study Analysis: Deep dives into relevant industry examples and lessons learned

Real-World Application

- Customer Validation: Actual customer interviews and feedback integration
- Market Testing: Live prototype testing and iteration based on real user data
- Investor Feedback: Pitch presentations to actual investors and industry experts

Collaborative Projects

- Team Ventures: Multi-person startup concepts with defined roles and responsibilities
- Cross-Industry Innovation: Applying solutions from one industry to another
- Global Challenges: Addressing international problems with scalable solutions

AI Tools Integration Throughout the Course

Week-by-Week AI Implementation

Week 1: Discovery & Research

- ChatGPT/Claude: Customer interview question generation and response analysis
- Perplexity: Market research and trend identification
- Notion AI: Interview data organization and insight synthesis
- Otter.ai: Interview transcription and analysis

Week 2: Ideation & Validation

- GPT-4: Solution brainstorming and refinement
- Midjourney/DALL-E: Visual concept development
- Jasper: Value proposition copywriting
- Airtable AI: Solution comparison and tracking

Week 3: Prototyping & Development

- Figma AI: Design assistance and user interface creation
- Bubble: No-code app development with AI features
- Loom: User testing session recording and analysis
- GitHub Copilot: Code assistance for technical prototypes

Week 4: Business Modeling

- Excel/Sheets AI: Financial modeling and projections
- Canva AI: Business model visualization
- Salesforce Einstein: Customer relationship and sales forecasting
- Tableau: Data visualization and market analysis

Week 5: Pitching & Communication

- Gamma/Beautiful.ai: Al-powered pitch deck creation
- Grammarly: Presentation content refinement
- Speechify: Presentation practice and delivery improvement
- LinkedIn AI: Investor research and networking

Week 6: Scaling & Integration

- Advanced Al platforms: Business automation and optimization
- Predictive analytics tools: Growth forecasting and decision support
- International AI platforms: Global market research and expansion planning
- Al-powered CRM: Customer relationship management and scaling

AI Ethics and Critical Thinking

Throughout the course, students learn to:

- Critically evaluate Al-generated content and recommendations

- Understand AI limitations and potential biases
- Develop prompting skills for optimal AI collaboration
- Balance AI assistance with human creativity and judgment
- Consider ethical implications of AI in business applications

Global Collaboration and Networking

International Cohort Structure

- Regional Teams: 4-6 students from different countries working together
- Cultural Exchange: Weekly sessions sharing local market insights and challenges
- Global Mentorship: Access to mentors from different continents and industries
- Cross-Border Projects: Ventures addressing international problems or markets

Virtual Networking Events

- Weekly Coffee Chats: Informal networking sessions with global participants
- Industry Spotlights: Sector-specific networking with professionals worldwide
- Investor Meetups: Virtual sessions with international angel investors and VCs
- Alumni Connections: Access to successful graduates from previous cohorts

Partnership Opportunities

- University Collaborations: Partnerships with entrepreneurship programs globally
- Accelerator Networks: Connections to international accelerators and incubators
- Government Programs: Links to national and regional startup support initiatives
- Corporate Innovation: Partnerships with multinational companies seeking innovation

Mentorship and Support System

Mentor Categories

- Industry Experts: Successful entrepreneurs from various sectors
- Functional Specialists: Experts in marketing, finance, technology, legal, etc.
- Regional Advisors: Local market experts for international expansion
- Peer Mentors: Advanced students and recent graduates

Support Mechanisms

- Weekly Office Hours: Scheduled one-on-one sessions with assigned mentors
- Group Mentorship: Small group sessions with industry experts
- Peer Support Circles: Student-led support groups for challenges and accountability
- Emergency Support: Rapid response system for urgent questions or challenges

Mentor Matching System

- Al-Powered Matching: Algorithm-based mentor assignment based on needs and goals
- Self-Selection Options: Students can request specific mentors based on interests
- Rotating Mentorship: Exposure to multiple mentors throughout the program
- Long-Term Relationships: Option to continue mentorship beyond the course

Technology Platform and Infrastructure

Learning Management System (LMS)

- Custom Platform: Purpose-built for entrepreneurship education with integrated tools
- Mobile Optimization: Full functionality on smartphones and tablets
- Offline Capabilities: Download content for areas with limited internet access
- Multi-Language Support: Course materials available in multiple languages

Collaboration Tools

- Integrated Video Conferencing: Built-in video calls for team meetings and mentorship
- Project Management: Kanban boards and task tracking for venture development
- Document Collaboration: Real-time editing and feedback on business plans and presentations
- Communication Channels: Slack-like messaging for ongoing discussions and support

Assessment and Analytics

- Progress Tracking: Real-time monitoring of individual and team progress
- Performance Analytics: Insights into learning patterns and areas for improvement
- Peer Feedback Systems: Structured evaluation tools for collaborative assessment
- Portfolio Management: Digital portfolio creation and sharing capabilities

Capstone Experience and Final Showcase

Demo Day Structure

- Global Virtual Event: 24-hour showcase accommodating all time zones
- Investor Panel: International investors evaluating and providing feedback
- Peer Voting: Student-selected awards for various categories
- Media Coverage: Press and social media coverage of top ventures

Presentation Categories

- Most Innovative Solution: Breakthrough approaches to significant problems
- Greatest Social Impact: Ventures addressing critical social or environmental issues
- Best International Potential: Solutions with strong global scalability
- Technical Excellence: Outstanding use of technology and AI integration
- People's Choice: Peer-selected favorite based on overall appeal

Post-Course Opportunities

- Incubator Partnerships: Direct pathways to accelerator and incubator programs
- Funding Connections: Introductions to angel investors and early-stage VCs
- Job Placement: Career opportunities with startups and innovation-focused companies
- Continued Education: Advanced courses and specialization programs

Success Metrics and Evaluation

Student Success Indicators

- Venture Development: Quality and viability of final business concepts
- Skill Acquisition: Demonstrated competency in entrepreneurial skills
- Network Building: Connections made with peers, mentors, and industry professionals
- Career Progression: Post-course career advancement and entrepreneurial activities

Course Effectiveness Measures

- Completion Rates: Percentage of students completing all modules
- Engagement Metrics: Participation in discussions, peer reviews, and collaborative activities
- Satisfaction Scores: Student feedback on content quality, delivery, and support
- Long-Term Impact: Follow-up surveys on career outcomes and venture success

Continuous Improvement Process

- Weekly Feedback: Regular collection of student input for real-time adjustments
- Mentor Insights: Feedback from mentors on student progress and course effectiveness
- Industry Validation: External review by entrepreneurship education experts
- **Technology Updates**: Regular platform improvements and new tool integration

Conclusion and Next Steps

This comprehensive 6-week entrepreneurship masterclass curriculum represents a revolutionary approach to entrepreneurship education, combining the best practices from leading institutions with innovative pedagogical methods and cutting-edge technology integration. By focusing on the Problem-Solution Innovation Framework (PSIF), students develop a systematic approach to identifying opportunities and creating value in the marketplace.

The curriculum's strength lies in its balance of theoretical foundation and practical application, ensuring students not only understand entrepreneurial concepts but can apply them effectively in real-world situations. The integration of AI tools throughout the course prepares students for the future of business while the global collaboration component provides exposure to diverse markets and perspectives.

Upon completion, students will have developed a validated venture concept, built a strong professional network, and acquired the skills necessary for entrepreneurial success. Whether they choose to launch their own ventures, join existing startups, or pursue corporate innovation roles, they will be well-equipped to drive positive change and create value in their chosen fields.

The course design ensures scalability while maintaining quality, making world-class entrepreneurship education accessible to students globally. Through continuous improvement and adaptation to emerging trends, this curriculum will remain at the forefront of entrepreneurship education, consistently producing the next generation of innovative leaders and successful entrepreneurs.

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Total Estimated Development Time: 6 months

Target Launch: January 2026

Expected Cohort Size: 100-500 students per session