Maximizing Learning with Your AI Course Assistant

A Guide for Business Students

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Learning Objectives

This guide will help you use your AI Course Assistant to:

- Master complex business concepts through active learning and structured practice
- Develop critical thinking skills by engaging in meaningful dialogue with the AI
- Build effective study habits using evidence-based learning techniques
- Prepare thoroughly for assessments while maintaining academic integrity
- Transform passive reading into active learning experiences

Effective Prompting Strategies for Different Learning Activities

Breaking Down Complex Business Concepts

Strong approach:

1. First, ask the AI to identify the core components of a concept
2. Then, request explanations of each component using business examples
3. Finally, ask the AI to show how the components interact

Example prompt sequence:

1. "What are the key components of Porter's Five Forces framework?"
2. "Explain 'bargaining power of suppliers' using an example from the tech industry."
3. "How does increased supplier bargaining power affect the other forces in Porter's framework?"

Analyzing Business Case Studies

Use this step-by-step approach:

1. Ask the AI to help you identify key facts and issues
2. Request guidance in applying relevant frameworks
3. Develop and evaluate alternative solutions
4. Create implementation plans

Example prompt sequence:

1. "Help me identify the main strategic issues in this case study about Tesla's expansion into China."
2. "Which strategic analysis frameworks would be most relevant for analyzing Tesla's situation?"
3. "Let's analyze each potential solution using the criteria we identified."
4. "What are the key risks and mitigation strategies for the recommended approach?"

Practicing Quantitative Problems

CAUTION: Many AI models have difficulty solving calculations correctly.

Effective approach:

1. Start with understanding the concepts
2. Practice with scaffolded problems
3. Progress to complex applications

Example prompt sequence:

1. "Explain the concept of Net Present Value (NPV) in simple terms."
2. "Show me a step-by-step solution for this NPV problem, explaining each step."
3. "Create a similar NPV problem but change some variables to test my understanding."

4. "Now create a more complex NPV problem that includes different scenarios."

Coding Help

Most AI models do an excellent job with coding whether it be Python or Excel or another language.

Effective approach:

1. Start with understanding the function or concept
2. Get an example
3. Ask how to code your specific problem

Example prompt sequence:

1. "Explain the COUNTIF function in Excel."
2. "Show me an example of using COUNTIF in Excel."
3. "If I wanted to count the number of “apples” in a list of vegetables, how would I do this with COUNTIF statement in Excel."

Evidence-Based Learning Techniques

Self-Quizzing Templates

Basic Recall:

"Compare this explanation with the textbook definition: [your explanation]."

Application:

"Given [business scenario], identify which concepts from Chapter X are most relevant and explain why."

Analysis:

"Compare and contrast [two related concepts] using specific business examples."

Active Recall Exercises

Transform textbook content:

1. Convert key points into questions
2. Create scenario-based problems
3. Develop compare-and-contrast exercises

Example prompts:

> "Take the section on marketing mix from Chapter 3 and create five scenario-based questions that test my understanding of how the 4Ps interact."
>
> “Create a quiz with 10 short answer questions on the Capital Asset Pricing Model based on Chapter 7 of the textbook. After I answer each question, tell me if I am correct. If I am incorrect, explain the correct answer and tell me why my answer is not correct.”
>
> “Create a quiz with 10 multiple questions of varying Complexity on dividend policy based on Chapter 10 of the textbook. For each question, give me four possible answers labeled A, B, C, and D, with the 4th answer being "None of the Above". After I answer each question, tell me if I am correct. If I am incorrect, explain the correct answer and tell me why my answer is not correct.”
>
> “Create a haunted mansion exploration game for me to understand how the stock market works. Describe where I am in the mansion and what I can do. I should discover new features, facts, historical facts, and functions in each room of the mansion I visit. Each room should also focus on one function or feature of the stock market. I should have to visit all the rooms to have substantial knowledge about the stock market. Tell me about the first room and then ask me what action to take.”

Progressive Difficulty

Level 1 - Basic Understanding:

> "Explain the concept of market segmentation using a simple example."

Level 2 - Application:

> "Given this customer data, how would you segment the market? Explain your reasoning."

Level 3 - Analysis:

"Evaluate the effectiveness of this company's segmentation strategy. What improvements would you suggest?"

Spaced Repetition Strategy

1. Create a review schedule:

   "Help me create a spaced repetition schedule for reviewing key concepts from Chapters 1-3 over the next two weeks."

2. Generate review questions:

   "Create three questions about [topic] that build on what we covered in our last review session."

Common Pitfalls and Ethical Considerations

Avoiding Learning Shortcuts

DO:

- Use the AI to generate practice questions
- Ask for explanations of concepts you don't understand
- Use it to verify your understanding

DON'T:

- Ask for direct answers without understanding
- Use AI-generated content without attribution
- Rely on AI instead of reading course materials

Academic Integrity Guidelines

IMPORTANT: It is essential to adhere to any AI use policies set by your instructor.

1. Always cite AI assistance in detail:

   - In assignments: "This analysis was developed with assistance from [AI Assistant Name]"
   - In group work: "Our team used AI to help brainstorm initial ideas"

2. Verify AI responses:

- Cross-reference with course materials
- Consult with professors about acceptable AI use
- Document your AI interactions

Strong vs. Weak Prompts

Weak Prompts (Avoid):

- "Give me the answer to question 3"
- "Write a summary of Chapter 4"
- "What's the definition of price elasticity?"

Strong Prompts (Use):

- "Help me think through this problem by asking me guiding questions"
- "After I summarize Chapter 4, can you ask me questions to test my understanding?"
- "I'll explain price elasticity in my own words, then you can help me identify any gaps in my understanding"

Practical Study Tips

Taking Notes During AI Interactions

Create a structured template:

1. Concept being studied
2. Key questions asked
3. AI explanations and examples
4. Your own understanding and examples
5. Follow-up questions and clarifications

Integrating AI with Other Study Methods

1. Pre-reading preparation:

- Ask AI to preview key concepts
- Generate questions to consider while reading

2. Active reading:

- Create concept maps with AI guidance
- Use AI to check understanding of difficult passages

3. Post-reading reinforcement:

- Summarize content in your own words
- Use AI to identify gaps in understanding

Exam Preparation

1. Create a study plan:

> "Help me create a study plan for the midterm that incorporates active recall and spaced repetition."

2. Practice problem-solving:

> "Generate practice problems similar to those in [Chapter X], but with different variables and contexts."

3. Concept review:

> "Let's review [topic]. I'll explain the main concepts, and you point out any areas where my understanding could be stronger."

Getting Unstuck

When facing challenging concepts:

1. Break down the concept into smaller parts
2. Ask for real-world examples
3. Try explaining it back to the AI
4. Request alternative explanations
5. Connect it to familiar concepts