FINANCE PREPARATION · BUILT TO BE REUSED

Boone's Finance Boot Camp

From a targeted set of finance-basics videos to a free, integrated learning platform for undergraduate and MBA students.

PREPARED BY
Boone Bowles

REPORT DATE
September 15, 2026

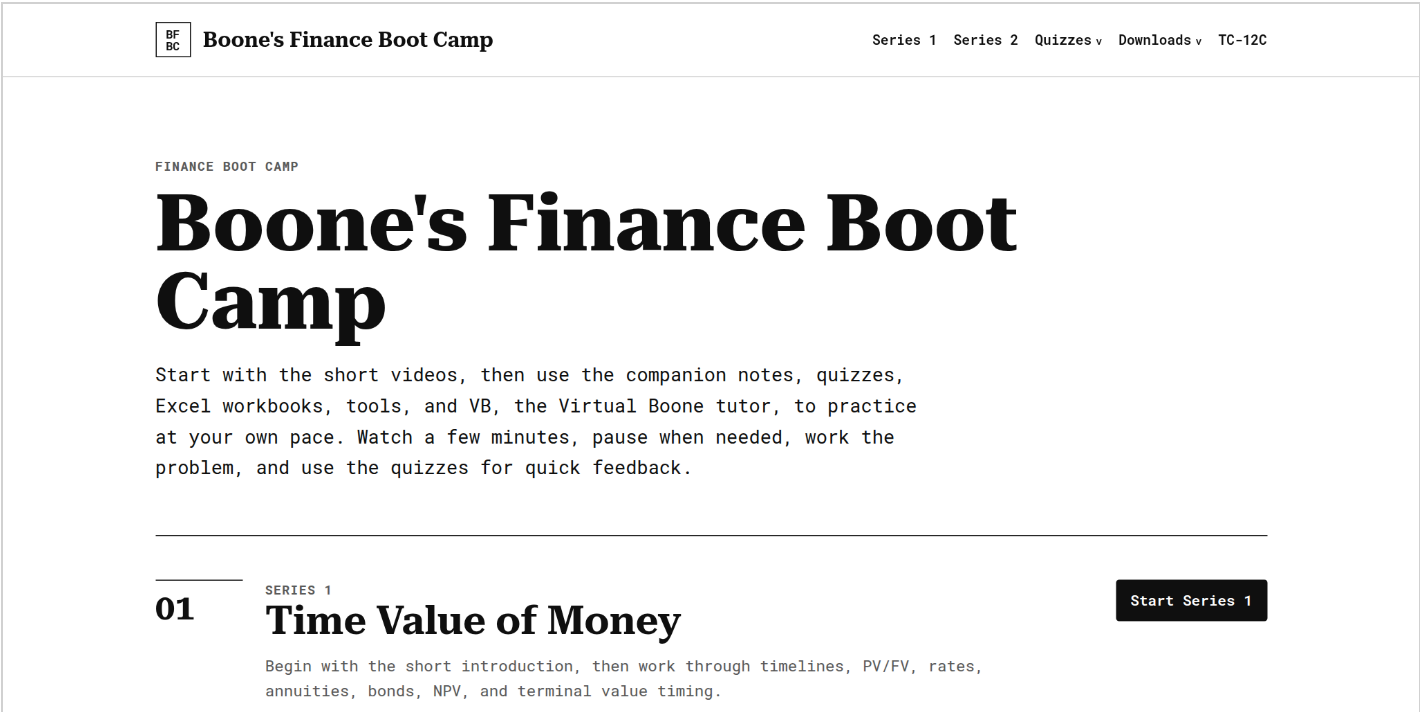
PROJECT
bootcamp.boonebowles.com

Department of Finance · Mays Business School · Texas A&M University

MONTAGUE–CTE SUPPORT

From idea to platform

Award funding supported the development of a reusable learning resource for students and faculty.



A public, self-paced doorway to videos, practice, notes, workbooks, tools, and VB.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The award enabled a substantially broader learning system than first proposed. Nineteen short videos now sit alongside randomized practice, immediate feedback, downloadable notes and Excel files, a financial calculator, and a specialized LLM tutor grounded in the Boot Camp materials. The design remains intentionally lean: faculty expertise directs the work, while reusable source materials, AI-assisted production, and lightweight web delivery keep the resource maintainable and free to students.

01 · PROJECT EVOLUTION

A focused proposal became a complete platform.

The teaching need

Students enter finance courses with uneven preparation in prerequisite concepts. When class time is limited, reteaching foundations competes with cases, decisions, and higher-level application.

ORIGINAL GOAL

Give incoming finance students clear explanations they could replay at home, preserving class time for application and feedback.

PROPOSAL DIRECTION	DELIVERED PLATFORM
Short finance-basics videos A compact library focused on prerequisite review.	**19 videos across two sequenced series** Time Value of Money through bonds and NPV; financial statements through free cash flow (FCF) and valuation.
Practice sheets Additional opportunities to work foundational problems.	**Seven randomized quiz banks** 1,400 tagged questions, immediate answer-specific feedback, standard and challenge modes, and links back to instruction.
Desk and virtual-whiteboard recording A simple faculty-led production model.	**PowerPoint-first recording** Consistent visual explanations, minimal editing, reusable scripts, and approximately 2.5 hours of faculty on-camera recording time.
Practice support and simple hosting Free student access through institutional delivery.	**Public web, YouTube, and LLM delivery** Companion notes, six Excel workbooks, a TC-12C calculator, VB, and a modular site that faculty can link directly.
Usage and learning checks Before/after checks, linked assessment, surveys, and basic usage.	**Built-in measurement infrastructure** Aggregate traffic plus private anonymous quiz-event tracking; survey and first-pilot analysis are scheduled for fall 2026.

What did not change: the project remains free to students, grounded in Boone's course materials, designed around concise explanations, and intended to return class time to higher-value learning.

02 · LEARNING DESIGN

One pathway, several ways to get unstuck.

01
Watch
Begin with a short, single-purpose explanation.

→

02
Practice
Work a fresh mix of tagged questions.

→

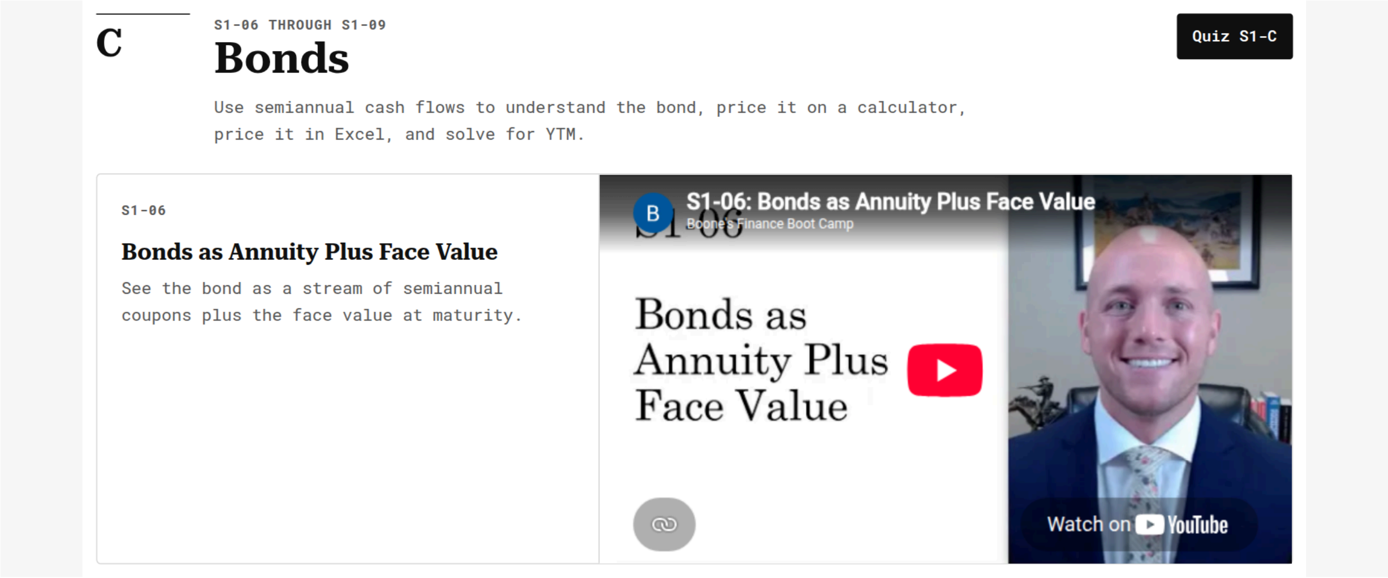
03
Review
Use immediate, answer-specific feedback.

→

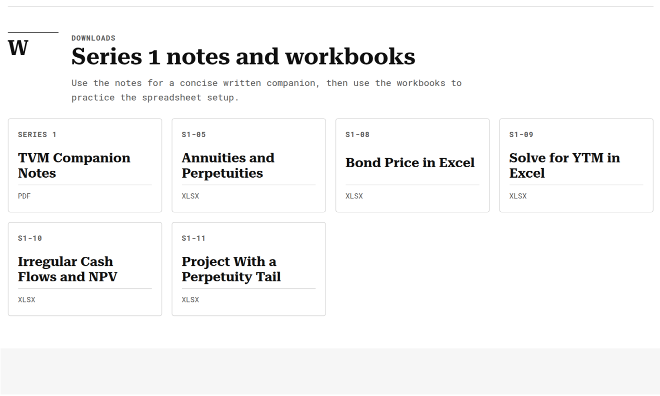
04
Apply
Open notes, Excel files, or the calculator.

→

05
Ask
Use VB for a hint and a relevant resource.



Short and sequenced. Students can watch in order or jump directly to a weak skill.



Reusable files. Notes and workbooks sit beside the lessons they support.

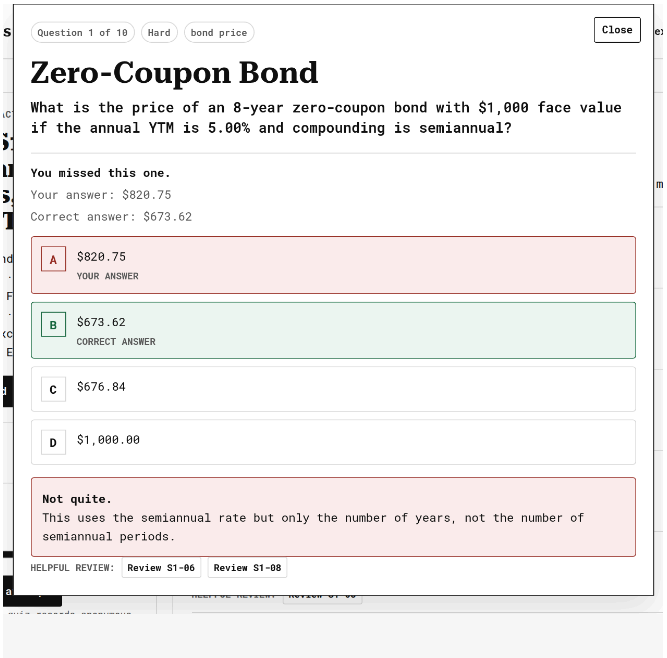
Tools where they matter. The TC-12C runs in the browser. Created by Thomas Ciampi '27.

Short enough to revisit | Specific enough to act on | Flexible enough to reuse | Support available on demand

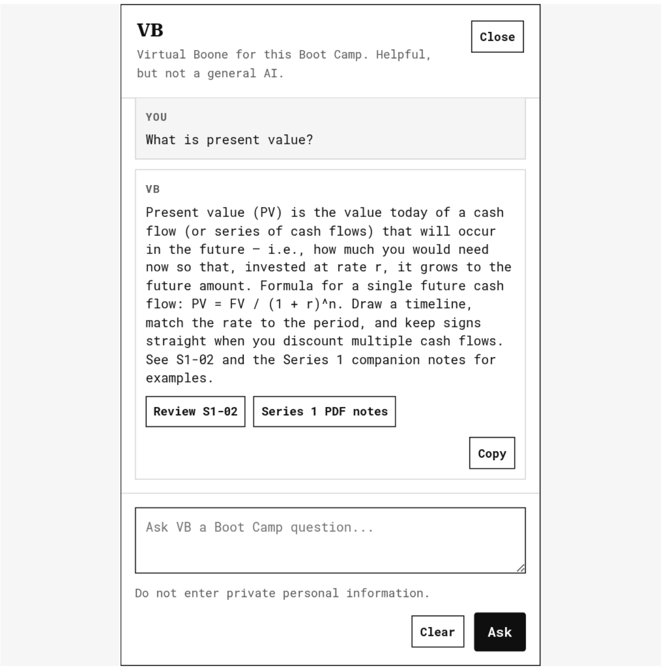
03 · PRACTICE AND SUPPORT

Feedback at scale—without becoming an answer key.

19 short videos	**7** quiz banks	**1,400** practice questions	**2** note sets	**6** Excel workbooks



Corrective feedback. A missed answer is identified, explained, and linked directly to the relevant lesson.



Virtual Boone. This specialized LLM tutor explains, prompts, and routes students back to the Boot Camp sources.

Quiz design

- Varied families, skills, difficulty, and source-video tags
- Immediate feedback for every answer choice
- Repeatable attempts without a fixed answer sequence

LLM tutor design

- Grounded in polished Boot Camp materials
- Kept off quiz pages and prompted to give hints rather than answers
- A 55-question review set is ready to check accuracy, hint-giving, and lesson recommendations

Measurement

- Google Analytics for aggregate reach and navigation
- Private anonymous quiz starts, finishes, scores, timing, and skill patterns
- No student account required

04 · USE AND CONTINUATION

Built for use now—and for thoughtful iteration.

Open by design

The Boot Camp is free, self-paced, and available without an account. A student or faculty member can enter through the full sequence or link directly to a lesson, quiz bank, workbook, note section, calculator, or VB.

PRIMARY AUDIENCE

Incoming finance students who need a clear way to refresh foundations, identify gaps, and return to a specific concept when they get stuck.

BEFORE A COURSE

Prepare

Review core concepts and identify weak areas before class begins.

AT A POINT OF NEED

Refresh

Revisit one explanation or practice bank before an assignment, exam, or advanced application.

THROUGH FACULTY REUSE

Share

Assign only the modular lessons and practice that fit another course.

FIRST MEASURED USE

October–November MBA cohort

The first planned evaluation will combine aggregate use, anonymous quiz activity, and a short student survey.

EVIDENCE BOUNDARY

Useful, not overstated

Results will describe reach, engagement, and perceived usefulness—not claim causal learning improvement.

REACH

Who encountered it?

Invitations, public-site users, page views, and most-visited resources.

ENGAGEMENT

What did they use?

Video, quiz-bank, workbook, calculator, and aggregate VB activity.

EXPERIENCE

What was useful?

A short survey will capture helpfulness, preparation, usability, and improvement ideas.

PLANNED NEXT ITERATION

Mastery Practice

An optional third quiz mode will choose each next step from the student's response. A miss brings focused review and a fresh problem; varied, unassisted success leads to a mastery check.

Question → Answer → Feedback → Adapt → Mastery check → Move on

USE

Incoming students

Support MBA and undergraduate preparation and review.

→

IMPROVE

Adaptive practice

Pilot Mastery Practice without replacing current quiz modes.

→

EXTEND

Future series

Consider Equity Analysis or Capital Structure next.

05 · PRODUCTION MODEL

The larger lesson is the economics of creation.

FACULTY
Expertise + direction

+

EXISTING
Notes + quizzes

+

AI-ASSISTED
Drafting + building

=

REUSABLE
Learning system

FACULTY ON-CAMERA RECORDING TIME

≈ 2.5 hours

Nineteen short videos were recorded in a PowerPoint-first workflow designed for clean takes and minimal editing.

FACULTY REFLECTION

Creating the Boot Camp changed how I think about the cost-to-benefit ratio of online education. I saw how much a faculty member can now produce by combining subject-matter expertise with AI at remarkably low cost.

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Faculty remained responsible for

- Learning goals, sequencing, examples, and teaching voice
- Source lectures, quiz material, and decision rules
- Recording, review, deployment choices, and student use

AI accelerated

- Drafting and organizing scripts, slides, and notes
- Building the website, quiz engine, analytics, and VB integration
- Consistency checks, revisions, and repeatable workflows for future updates

GRANT STEWARDSHIP

Funding supported both creation and continued student access.

Grant funds were used for platform development with Codex, an AI-assisted development tool, and to fund the student-facing VB tutor.

BUILT AND OPERATING

Codex + VB

Development support helped turn faculty materials into a complete platform; VB extends that support on demand.

REMAINING CAPACITY

Sustain or expand

Remaining funds can continue VB, seed a new series in Equity Analysis or Capital Structure, or support both.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
Boone's Finance Boot Camp was made possible by support from the Montague family and the Texas A&M Center for Teaching Excellence through the Montague-Center for Teaching Excellence Scholar Award. I am deeply grateful for their confidence in this project and for the opportunity to turn it into a resource for students and faculty.

Explore the Boot Camp