100 Week Sprint

Curated from peers at leading MBA programs. Real tools. Real use cases.

This content has been created through other students' thoughtful input. Tools are evolving ALL THE TIME! Please send any/all suggestions to coach@100weeksprint.com for any tools that we should include and/or new categories that are relevant for MBA students.

General AI Assistants

- **Claude (Anthropic) —** The most frequently recommended AI among peers. Used for writing, research synthesis, brainstorming, and editing. Paid versions are significantly better than free.
- **ChatGPT (OpenAI) —** All-purpose assistant for essays, concept explanation, and problem-solving. Widely used alongside Claude for brainstorming, understanding definitions, and editing writing.
- **Gemini (Google) —** Best for generating practice quizzes to self-test on course material, including multiple choice question sets.

Research & Study

- **NotebookLM (Google) —** Highly recommended by multiple peers. Upload case materials and readings for AI-generated audio summaries in podcast format. A popular workflow: deep-read a case the night before, then listen to the audio overview in the morning to catch anything missed. Also widely used for information synthesis and slide creation.
- **Claude / ChatGPT for studying —** Create study guides, walk through example problems, and explain concepts in plain language. Peers consistently flag this as the biggest shift in how they study compared to undergrad.

Meeting & Note-Taking

- **Granola —** Top-rated AI meeting note-taker recommended by multiple peers. Lets you stay fully present on calls while it captures everything for future reference.
- **Notion AI —** Class notes, to-dos, and writing in one workspace with built-in AI assistance. Widely used for keeping coursework organized alongside daily tasks.

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Spreadsheets & Productivity

- **Claude in Excel —** AI directly embedded in Excel for financial modeling and data work. Described as “fantastic” by multiple peers, particularly those in finance and corporate development roles.
- **Shortcut AI —** Alternative AI tool for Excel workflows. Recommended by peers as an excellent complement to Claude in Excel.

Data Analysis & Presentations

- **Tableau / Power BI —** AI-powered data visualization for building interactive dashboards, financial forecasting, and market analysis. Essential for data-driven decision-making coursework.
- **Claude / Gemini for slides —** Peers use Claude and NotebookLM together for information synthesis and slide creation. Beautiful.ai and Gamma are purpose-built AI presentation tools worth exploring.

Networking & Outreach

- **Apollo.io + Hunter.io —** Find targets and email addresses for cold outreach and networking introductions at scale. Between the two, you can find virtually any email needed for a networking or intro message.
- **PitchBook + LinkedIn —** Private market data and professional network for identifying the right targets in finance and corporate development recruiting.
- **PeerView (mypeerview.com) —** Gathers honest feedback from your network and uses AI to surface insights that strengthen your personal brand. Useful for MBA students who want structured, candid input on how they come across to peers, professors, and professional contacts — particularly valuable before recruiting season.

Personal CRM & Relationship Management

- **Dex —** The most widely recommended personal CRM for professional networking. Syncs your LinkedIn network automatically and flags when contacts change jobs — a natural prompt to reach out. Set keep-in-touch reminders per contact so no relationship goes cold. Includes pre-meeting briefs and an interactive network map. Best for LinkedIn-heavy networkers managing a large and growing network.

- **Clay (clay.earth) —** Pulls from your calendar, email, LinkedIn, and Twitter to automatically build and update your contact list. Sends proactive alerts when connections change jobs or appear in the news — giving you natural, timely reasons to reach out. More AI-forward than Dex; best for people who want the tool to surface opportunities rather than manage them manually. Note: also listed under Networking & Outreach for its enrichment and outreach features.
- **Mogul —** A personal CRM built specifically for MBA students. Track everyone you meet — mentors, recruiters, classmates, professors — with fast search across all interactions and a clean contact profile view. Emphasizes strong data privacy (the only personal CRM in its category with the highest privacy certification). Free to start.
- **Notion / Airtable (DIY) —** For those who prefer full control, a custom contact tracker built in Notion or Airtable is a popular free alternative. Templates are widely available. Less automated than dedicated CRM tools, but highly flexible and easily tailored to your recruiting or networking workflow.

Building & Coding ("Vibe Coding")

- **Cursor + Replit —** Preferred AI coding tools for building personal projects, recommended over Lovable/Bolt/n8n. Tip: commit code to a personal GitHub page to build a portfolio.
- **Claude Code + Claude Cowork —** Agentic Claude tools for more complex workflows, file management, and task automation. Called out by multiple peers as standout products worth trying.

Personal Budgeting & Financial Management

- **Monarch Money —** Top-rated budgeting app with behavioral AI that learns your spending patterns over time. Syncs all accounts in one dashboard (checking, savings, credit cards, investments). Great for couples managing finances together. Recommended by CNBC Select as the easiest to use.
- **Cleo —** AI chatbot-style financial coach you can actually talk to. Ask it "Can I afford a vacation this month?" and it analyzes your spending to answer. Fun, conversational tone makes budgeting feel less like a chore. Free to start.
- **YNAB (You Need a Budget) —** Uses machine learning to auto-categorize transactions and applies a zero-based budgeting method (every dollar has a job). Best for MBA students who want to be disciplined about living within a stipend or loan budget. Offers free workshops and guides.
- **Rocket Money —** AI-assisted subscription tracker and bill negotiation tool. Surfaces recurring charges you may have forgotten about and can negotiate lower rates on your

behalf. Useful for identifying and canceling unused subscriptions that pile up during school.

- **Claude / ChatGPT for finance —** General AI assistants are surprisingly useful for personal finance: upload a bank CSV and ask it to categorize spending, explain a 401(k) vs. Roth IRA, decode a financial document from HR, or model loan repayment scenarios. No app required.

Points & Miles Management

- **AwardWallet —** The go-to app for tracking all your loyalty programs in one place — airline miles, hotel points, credit card rewards, rental cars, and more (670+ programs). Sends expiration alerts so you never lose points, and analyzes your credit card spending to tell you which card to use at any merchant. Free version available; Plus is $30/year. Note: does not auto-sync American or United miles.
- **Roame.travel —** Searches 16 airline programs for real-time award flight availability. Shows points required, transfer partners, and which credit cards you already have can cover the booking. Excellent for finding business class redemptions. Paid tier adds route price alerts.
- **Awayz —** Compares live award availability vs. cash rates side-by-side for both flights and hotels, helping you decide when points deliver better value than paying cash. Supports filtering by hotel chain, airline, transferable points programs, and free night certificates.
- **MaxMyPoint —** Best for hotel award tracking. Set alerts for specific properties and dates; get notified the moment a standard room or suite award opens up. Particularly useful for high-demand Hyatt, Marriott, and IHG properties where availability is scarce.
- **The Points Guy (TPG) —** Not an app, but an essential resource. TPG publishes monthly valuations of every major points currency, helping you understand whether a redemption is a good deal. Bookmark it before transferring any points — the difference between a 0.8¢ and 2.0¢ per point redemption is significant over an MBA program.