



Comma Blueprint 2025: AI Founders Bootcamp

Overview:

This equity free program is geared towards operators who are still in their operating roles and are looking to leave their day job in the next ~3 to 6 months to start a company or have recently left their job in the last 3 months and haven't raised any funding yet.

Our goal with the program is focused on the needs of operators during the last 6 months before they're about to start a company and the first 6 months after leaving their job. We want to keep this program short and sweet. This will be a 2 month program with 6 sessions with 3 in-person sessions at the Thrive Capital Office in New York City. [Application is here.](#)

We did our first cohort last summer and this spring's cohort will have an AI focus with participants getting free credits with OpenAI and an AI specific session as well.

Application deadline is March 9, 2025. Our first session to kickoff is on March 19, 2025 from 6pm-8pm.

Target Demographic:

Ideal participants in the program are folks who are already ideating, talking to potential cofounders and are trying to figure out when is the best time to go full time on their business. In the last 4 years, we would always get questions from different operators that we hope to answer through this program:

- When is the best time to leave my job to raise money?
- How should I think about market selection and what ideas to go after?
- Where do I find cofounders? Should I work with my friends?
- Should I raise a pre-seed vs seed vs friends and family? Should I do an accelerator?

This is geared towards folks who are still in their day jobs as operators and looking to leave to start a company in the next 6-12 months. Folks who have recently left in the last 3-6 months are also welcome to apply if they're actively thinking of starting something.

2025 Program

First Session: Ideation Workshop with Thrive Capital's Head of Research & Incubations.



Second Session: Journey from Operator to Pre-seed to Seed - Hear from one of our Comma portfolio founders who recently took the leap to start their own company.

Third Session: Building with AI Workshop with OpenAI.

Fourth Session: Scaling from Seed to Series B and Beyond - Hear from one of our Comma portfolio founders on the journey from Seed to building in hypergrowth.

Final Session: Pitch Day - Pitch your idea to the group to get feedback.

Alumni Session: Shortly after Pitch Day, we will be hosting an alumni reunion which will include last year's participants from the Comma Blueprint program as well.

What will make this program stand out and be different?

1. We want to bring in speakers and mentors who are most valuable to operators at this stage including founders who just left their jobs and have successfully raised preseed/seed rounds, experts in industries that are interesting to the cohort of operators, VCs who can give them raw feedback and thoughts and more.
2. We want to use the sessions for folks to do actual work and get actual feedback on their ideas and how they're thinking about things and to help them with actual tactical work (getting the first customers, finding a cofounder, improving their storytelling, helping them build their network, etc.). We want to see how we can help folks accelerate their progress as they think about what's next for them.
3. We want to build a very tight knit community and group which will be facilitated through the in person component that will be a part of the program.