

Expectations of Students' Technical Capabilities Business Intelligence Program

Students should expect that they will have to do more work at home than just the material covered in class. Depending on their technical skills entering the program, they may find this to be a significant time commitment. Additional skills/reading/practice include, but are far from limited to:

- **Computer literacy** to at least an intermediate level. The ability to download .iso files, mount them, install Operating Systems, install Applications (meaningfully, not just click-through installs), understand file locations, storage locations, naming conventions.
- **Virtualization.** Students are very likely to find that many development environments are using virtualized environments to separate and protect data. Data is divided between production, test and development environments. Labs are also taught using VM's in order to provide rollback support and allow each student to have their own environment. Students must be able to create the development environment that they will be using. This speaks to the area of computer literacy as well. They must be able to design and build the component technical environment required to create their product. From initial O/S install, to network and ID dependencies (AD DS), to SQL Server, BI Toolsets, SharePoint and MS Office.
- **Database Literacy.** Students may not be as strong entering the program in this area so an introduction to both database design (relational) as well as SQL Administration will be provided. There will be a requirement for less experienced students to take concurrent skill-building courses such as T-SQL syntax, or database design specific to MS SQL Server.
- **Analytical Ability.** Some resources will be provided to assist students in developing analytical skills, but this program is NOT an Analyst course. At the very least, students should have advanced Excel skills and/or the commitment to learn these skills during the program. They will be resourced on both if required.
- **Self-Directed Learner.** The most critical skill of all is the ability to learn how to learn. Students will be exposed to all aspects of the Kimball lifecycle and have an opportunity to work using all the tools required for the project. It will NOT be enough. Students will, depending on their level of competency in the areas above, need to fill "gaps" that only they themselves can identify. They should use all available resources. The instructor during class hours, online support, reference libraries, complete case-studies that can be downloaded, software resources, industry forums, events, contacts. There will be no shortage of these resources and students should expect to make use of them for their entire career.