

Expectations of Students' Technical Capabilities Database Administrator Program

Students should expect that they will have to do more work after class hours (at home or at school) 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, and naming conventions.
- **Virtualization.** Students will 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 work on and sometimes create their virtual development environment. 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 (Windows and Linux), to the network, to Oracle Applications and Database, SQL Server, as well as MS Office.
- **Database Literacy.** Students may not be as strong entering the program in this area and will gain an understanding of both database design (relational) and database languages (SQL / PL/SQL). An understanding of file system navigation – location and transfer of files is crucial.
- **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 a large amount of database concepts, terms, and acronyms during the opportunity to work with an assortment of database tools required for their development. 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, tutorials, 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.