



CDMP Applied Data Management Laboratory — Master Program Guide

Program architecture, learning rules, lab design standard and build specification

CDMP DMBOK Mastery Lab • Applied Learning Companion Program

Source boundary: DMBOK concept scope for Chapters 1–17 is controlled by Main 00A — CDMP DMBOK Mastery Lab — and the relevant DMBOK chapter PDFs stored inside Main 00A's chapter-study folders. Meridian scenarios, software choices, schemas and synthetic datasets are instructional implementation designs; they are not presented as DAMA-prescribed architectures.

1	2	3	4	5
STUDY DMBOK Understand the theory	TRAIN TECHNOLOGY Learn the tool skill	APPLY IN MERIDIAN Do the lab	PROVE & EXPLAIN Capture evidence	DMBOK DEBRIEF Connect back to exam

RECALL • COMPARE • BREAK IT • REPAIR IT • REBUILD WITHOUT THE SCRIPT

The lab is successful only when you can explain both the technical action and the Data Management reason behind it.

1. Program mission

Create durable CDMP understanding by repeatedly converting theory into observable work. The program is designed to prevent two common failure modes: “I can recognize the definition but cannot explain what it means in a company,” and “I can follow a technical tutorial but do not understand the Data Management reason for the action.” The applied lab therefore requires both conceptual explanation and practical evidence.

2. Learning architecture

Layer	Question it answers	Primary outputs
DMBOK Mastery Lab	What does DAMA mean? What must I distinguish and retrieve?	Guides, maps, battle cards, scenarios, MCQs, recall.
Technology Training & Competency Roadmap	Can I use the underlying tools without copying blindly?	Competency roadmap, target depth, readiness gates and user-selected outside training resources; lab scripts are

Layer	Question it answers	Primary outputs
		application scaffolding, not a substitute for learning the technology.
Meridian Casebook	What company am I managing and why does the data exist?	Processes, systems, domains, roles, defects, incidents.
Chapter Applied Labs	Can I make this chapter concept happen in a real environment?	SQL/Python, diagrams, policies, registers, decisions, metrics.
Cross-Chapter Capstones	Can I reason when several Knowledge Areas are simultaneously relevant?	Integrated investigations and staged remediation.
Evidence & Journal	Can I prove and explain what I did?	Screenshots, artifacts, reflections, before/after results.

3. The lab types

Lab type	Best for	Examples
Technical build	Concepts that become clearer when an object is actually created.	Model → PostgreSQL schema; warehouse star schema; roles/views.
Diagnostic / break-it	Concepts whose importance is felt when something fails.	Orphan rows, broken source format, wrong access, duplicate masters.
Management artifact	Concepts expressed through decisions, accountability and documented rules.	Governance charter, retention schedule, maturity assessment.
Decision / dilemma	Concepts where judgment matters more than code.	Ethics, governance escalation, change resistance.
Observation / trace	Concepts about relationships, movement and context.	Architecture, lineage, metadata, source-to-target mapping.
Cross-domain incident	Concepts that must coordinate in practice.	Untraceable KPI, Customer 360 conflict, sensitive-data exposure.

4. Mandatory lab sequence

Stage	Standard
A. DMBOK concept target	State exactly what chapter concepts the lab is meant to make concrete. Do not expand beyond the chapter silently.
B. Business situation	Explain the Meridian process and decision that produced the problem. Data never appears without a business reason.
C. Technology prerequisite gate	List what SQL/Python/PostgreSQL/DBEaver knowledge is needed. If the skill is not yet learned, use the Technology Competency Roadmap to identify the requirement and train it with a learner-selected resource before continuing.
D. Predict before touching the tool	Require the learner to state what they expect to find or what should happen. Prediction exposes understanding before feedback.

Stage	Standard
E. Perform	Carry out the technical, management or decision work.
F. Interpret	Explain output, not merely screenshot it.
G. Break / vary / counterexample	Where safe and relevant, change one assumption or inject a defect so the learner sees why the concept matters.
H. Repair	Fix the problem using the chapter concept and record why the action fits.
I. Rebuild independently	Recreate the important portion without following the original line-by-line instructions.
J. Evidence	Save scripts, query results, decision records, diagrams, before/after metrics and concise notes.
K. DMBOK Debrief	Translate the experience back to DAMA language and distinguish neighboring concepts.
L. Retrieval / scenario check	Finish with a short closed-book explanation or scenario question.

5. Script-independence standard

 **Principle:** A script can accelerate practice, but a script you cannot explain is not mastery.

- First pass: annotate every important line or clause in plain language.
- Second pass: change inputs, filters, table names, conditions or output so you learn what is essential versus incidental.
- Third pass: predict at least one result before execution.
- Fourth pass: rebuild a smaller equivalent from a blank editor.
- Fifth pass: explain the business/Data Management purpose without referring to the syntax.
- For long setup or boilerplate code, independence is judged on the learning-critical portion rather than memorizing boilerplate.

6. Scope controls

In scope	Out of scope unless later required
Relational SQL and database concepts that support DMBOK understanding.	Production database clustering, HA engineering, deep tuning, replication administration.
Python scripting and pandas for profiling, transformation, reconciliation and repeatability.	Application development frameworks, algorithm-heavy CS, advanced package engineering.
Local workstation setup and reproducibility.	Complex cloud architecture, Kubernetes, enterprise CI/CD.
Light BI and metadata platforms when a chapter gains learning value.	Tool certification or product-feature memorization disconnected from DAMA.
Synthetic data and safe simulated incidents.	Real PII, real credentials, real employer data or unsafe production experiments.

7. Evidence standard

Every completed lab must leave enough evidence to answer three questions: What existed before? What did you do or decide? What changed or what did you learn? Evidence should be lightweight but inspectable. A screenshot alone is rarely sufficient because it often hides the exact logic. Prefer source scripts, structured registers and before/after outputs, with screenshots used as visual support.

Evidence type	Examples	What it proves
Executable logic	SQL, Python, DDL, validation queries	Exactly what operation or test was performed.
Configuration/object evidence	Schema/table definitions, roles, view DDL	What the environment actually contains.
Business artifact	Policy, decision log, RACI, glossary, retention rule	How Data Management decisions are operationalized.
Result evidence	Query output, quality score, reconciliation, dashboard	What happened or what was discovered.
Interpretation	Lab journal / DMBOK debrief	That the learner understands the meaning rather than only the procedure.

8. Lab difficulty progression

Level	Scaffolding	Expectation
Guided	Detailed steps and hints.	Understand and explain each action.
Faded guidance	Milestones and checks; fewer commands.	Choose the commands/techniques yourself.
Diagnostic	Problem statement and evidence only.	Investigate, identify cause, propose and perform repair.
Cross-domain	Ambiguous real-world case.	Identify lead/supporting DMBOK areas and sequence the response.
Independent capstone	Business objective, constraints and acceptance criteria.	Design the work, produce evidence and defend decisions.

9. How chapter labs are built safely

1. Read the relevant DMBOK chapter fully and update the chapter blueprint.
2. Identify concepts that benefit from doing, observing, deciding or diagnosing.
3. Select the minimum technology needed to make the concept visible.
4. Check the Technology Competency Roadmap prerequisite gate.
5. Create the Meridian business situation and synthetic data needed.
6. Write the lab without inventing DAMA rules. Clearly label Meridian design choices as lab-specific.
7. Create the debrief and source map from the same DMBOK chapter.
8. Test all SQL/Python/database actions in the lab environment.
9. Run learner-independence QC: can the learner explain and reproduce the core idea?
10. Produce the visually formatted guide and companion PDF, then inspect both.

10. Completion rubric

Dimension	Not yet	Working	Mastered for this lab
DMBOK explanation	Cannot explain without notes.	Explains main concept with some prompting.	Explains accurately, uses DAMA terminology and distinguishes nearby concepts.
Technical execution	Copies without understanding.	Can modify and rerun.	Can rebuild core work from blank / troubleshoot common failure.
Interpretation	Reports output only.	Explains what output shows.	Connects output to business impact, control and DMBOK meaning.
Evidence	Missing or screenshot-only.	Basic saved artifacts.	Reproducible logic + result + decision/context evidence.
Transfer	Only recognizes exact tutorial.	Handles changed input.	Handles changed fact/scenario and selects the right approach.

11. Program governance and maintenance

- At the main CDMP program level, Main 00A — CDMP DMBOK Mastery Lab — remains the controlling study-system specification for DMBOK source fidelity and exam preparation. Main 00B is this Meridian Applied Data Management Laboratory. Main 00C — CDMP Master Step-by-Step Study & Lab Execution System is the separate execution system that integrates the learner's movement through both systems; Main 00 — START HERE is only the short navigation doorway. This Applied Laboratory also retains its own internal 00A control folder for companion-program build, evidence and QC rules; that internal control area must not be confused with Main 00A. Main 00C controls learner sequence: what to study next, when a technology prerequisite becomes mandatory, when to perform a Meridian lab, what evidence to save and when the learner may advance.
- This Applied Laboratory is a living companion. Update technology versions, lab implementation or company defects when doing so improves learning, but do not silently change DMBOK meaning.
- Keep stable company/entity identifiers so later labs can reuse prior evidence.
- When a recurring learner mistake appears, add a targeted lab variation or break-it exercise instead of merely adding more reading.
- Do not build every possible lab. Each lab must add a distinct learning function.

• 12. Folder architecture and separation rule

- The Applied Laboratory root must stay organized by function rather than exposing every working folder at the top level.
- 00 — START HERE — learner orientation and navigation.
- 00A — Applied Lab Internal Program Control & Build Specification — governing guide plus execution/evidence/QC standard for Main 00B only. Main 00C — CDMP Master Step-by-Step Study & Lab Execution System, outside this folder, controls the learner's integrated sequence across Main 00A and Main 00B. Main 00 — START HERE is only the short navigation doorway.
- Main 00C — CDMP Master Step-by-Step Study & Lab Execution System — lives outside Main 00B as a sibling under the CDMP Master Program folder. It is the learner's linear execution route across Main 00A and Main 00B and inserts technology gates only where the next chapter/lab requires them. Main 00 — START HERE remains the short navigation doorway.

- 01 — Program Curriculum & Roadmaps — the 17-chapter applied curriculum map and future roadmap material.
- 02 — Meridian Company & Casebook — persistent fictional company, systems, roles, data domains, scenarios and defects.
- 03 — Technology Training & Competency Roadmap — technology scope, reasons, depth/readiness rules and user-selected learning areas. The program defines what/why/how deep; the learner may choose outside courses, books, videos or documentation.
- 04 — Lab Environment, Data & Setup — synthetic source data, setup, SQL/Python assets, diagrams, generated outputs and recovery material.
- 05 — Applied Labs — contains 01 — DMBOK Chapter Labs — Chapters 1–17 plus 02 — Cross-Chapter Capstones & Incidents. Individual chapter folders must remain nested here rather than at the program root.
- 06 — Evidence, Portfolio, Trackers & Templates — evidence/journal work plus templates, registers and the master tracker.
- 99 — Reference Sources & Borrowed Patterns — reference-only patterns; not a source of DMBOK meaning.
- Folder-separation rule: new material must be placed under the functional area it belongs to. Do not create new root-level peer folders when the content belongs inside one of the established sections above.
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