

Your pathway, mapped week by week.

A 28-PAGE GUIDE · CGAISCM · CERTIFIED GENERATIVE AI FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Every persona expanded, with detailed 90-day roadmaps and the full five-rung maturity ladder. An honest, deep APICS-versus-CGAISCM comparison — plus a supply-chain AI professional development plan template adaptable to all four personas.

INSIDE THIS FIELD GUIDE

- ▶ 4 detailed persona pathways (90-day, week-by-week)
- ▶ 5-rung maturity ladder with self-assessment
- ▶ APICS vs CGAISCM honest deep comparison
- ▶ The supply-chain AI professional development plan template
- ▶ Sample CGAISCM certificate + verification badge

START HERE

How to use this field guide

This is a planning tool. By the last page you should have a persona, a maturity rung, a 90-day roadmap and a one-page development plan — all your own.

Three instruments do the work. The **four personas** give you a week-by-week 90-day roadmap matched to your situation. The **five-rung maturity ladder** tells you honestly where you stand and what unlocks the next level. The **professional development plan template** turns both into a single page you will keep.

Along the way we give an honest, deep comparison of **APICS versus CGAISCM** so you choose the right credential — or the right combination — and we tie the whole pathway back to the fifteen CGAISCM modules.

The fastest route. Jump to “Which persona are you?” (page 4), read that persona’s roadmap, place yourself on the ladder (page 12), then fill the plan (pages 17–19). Everything else is supporting detail.

SECTION 1 · THE PATHWAY MODEL

Persona × ladder × plan

A pathway is not a single staircase — where you start and where you are going both matter. This guide combines three lenses so the route fits you, not an average.

1. Your persona. Where you are starting *from* — analyst, specialist, manager or switcher. It sets the shape of your 90 days.

2. Your maturity rung. How AI-capable you are *today*, from Aware to Transforming. It sets your honest starting altitude.

3. Your development plan. The one page that turns persona plus rung into specific actions, evidence and milestones — adaptable to any of the four personas.

The throughline. All three converge on the same engine: the CGAISCM curriculum and its capstone. The persona decides the order, the ladder decides the pace, the plan keeps you honest.

SECTION 2 · THE 4 PERSONAS

Which persona are you?

Four archetypes cover most supply-chain professionals heading into AI. Find the one that sounds most like your week — its 90-day roadmap is on the page that follows.

The Rising Analyst

You do the reports. You want the judgement work.

The Functional Specialist

You own a function. You want to run AI inside it.

The People Manager

You lead a team. You want to lead its AI adoption.

The Career Switcher

You're coming in from outside. You want a way in.

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90-DAY ROADMAP · WEEK BY WEEK

The Rising Analyst

0–3 years in; pulls reports, chases exceptions, supports planners.

STARTING POINT

TARGET

Tier 1 · Maturity rung 1–2

Tier 2 · rung 3

Goal · Become genuinely AI-fluent and move onto the planner track.

Week	Focus & milestone
MONTH 1 · FOUNDATION	
Week 1	Enrol; start Modules 1–2; use a copilot on one real report
Week 2	Module 3 (forecasting); shadow a planner's exception review
Week 3	LBD: build an AI forecast on real data; compare to today's
Week 4	Module 4 (inventory); document your first before/after win
MONTH 2 · APPLICATION	
Week 5	Take over one recurring report end-to-end with AI
Week 6	LBD: safety-stock challenge; present the finding to your team
Week 7	Module 5; automate a second routine task
Week 8	Milestone: a small portfolio of 2–3 AI-assisted wins
MONTH 3 · CERTIFY & SIGNAL	
Week 9	Practice exam 1; close gaps in the daily live sessions
Week 10	Scope your capstone on a real analyst problem
Week 11	Practice exam 2; finish the capstone
Week 12	Pass; publish badge; open the planner-track conversation

90-DAY ROADMAP · WEEK BY WEEK

The Functional Specialist

Owns a forecast, a category, or a lane; trusted in one function.

STARTING POINT

TARGET

Tier 2-3 · rung 2-3

Tier 4 · rung 4

Goal · Own an AI use case end-to-end and become your team's Super User.

Week	Focus & milestone
MONTH 1 · FOUNDATION	
Week 1	Enrol; pick one high-ROI use case in your function
Week 2	Take the function module (5 logistics / 6 supplier); map the workflow
Week 3	LBD on your function; draft a prompt / agent workflow
Week 4	Pilot the use case with one teammate
MONTH 2 · APPLICATION	
Week 5	Measure before/after; refine the workflow
Week 6	Module 12 (integration); wire the pilot to your data
Week 7	Present to your lead; recruit a second user
Week 8	Milestone: a documented, repeatable use case
MONTH 3 · CERTIFY & SIGNAL	
Week 9	Module 15 (agentic AI); design the next automation step
Week 10	Capstone = your scaled use case
Week 11	Practice exams; run a governance check
Week 12	Certify; publish; pitch yourself as the GenAI lead

90-DAY ROADMAP · WEEK BY WEEK

The People Manager

Leads a team and answers for the numbers; sponsors the work.

STARTING POINT

TARGET

Tier 5 · rung 3

Tier 6 · rung 5

Goal · Lead AI adoption, govern it well, and build the business case.

Week	Focus & milestone
MONTH 1 · FOUNDATION	
Week 1	Enrol; audit the team's stack against the 4-phase model
Week 2	Modules 1–3 for literacy; find the team's biggest blind spot
Week 3	Modules 8 & 11 (risk, governance); draft AI guardrails
Week 4	Pick one team use case; assign an owner
MONTH 2 · APPLICATION	
Week 5	Sponsor the pilot; clear blockers
Week 6	Build the ROI model; add sustainability / CX angle if relevant
Week 7	Review pilot metrics; brief your director
Week 8	Milestone: a governed pilot + an ROI business case
MONTH 3 · CERTIFY & SIGNAL	
Week 9	Module 14 live SME on leadership; plan the rollout
Week 10	Capstone = the team adoption plan
Week 11	Practice exams; finalise the governance policy
Week 12	Certify; present the scale-up case to leadership

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90-DAY ROADMAP · WEEK BY WEEK

The Career Switcher

Coming from ops, data, consulting, the military, or study.

STARTING POINT

TARGET

Pre-tier · rung 1

Tier 1–2 · rung 3

Goal · Build credibility fast and land a first AI supply-chain role.

Week	Focus & milestone
MONTH 1 · FOUNDATION	
Week 1	Enrol; Modules 1–2; learn the SCM vocabulary quickly
Week 2	Modules 3–4; map your transferable skills to SC functions
Week 3	LBD: a forecasting challenge to produce a real artifact
Week 4	Modules 5–6; start a public learning log on LinkedIn
MONTH 2 · APPLICATION	
Week 5	LBD across two functions; assemble a mini-portfolio
Week 6	Modules 8 & 9; do informational interviews with SC pros
Week 7	Module 12; tailor your résumé to a target tier
Week 8	Milestone: 3 portfolio artifacts + a clear target role
MONTH 3 · CERTIFY & SIGNAL	
Week 9	Practice exam 1; run mock interviews
Week 10	Capstone = an end-to-end showcase project
Week 11	Practice exam 2; apply to roles with badge pending
Week 12	Certify; publish badge; lead applications with proof

WHAT EVERY ROADMAP SHARES

The 3-phase spine

Look across all four roadmaps and the same three-phase rhythm appears. Whatever your persona, the shape of a good 90 days is the same — only the content changes.

Month 1 · Foundation. Get AI-literate and use a copilot on real work. The goal is momentum and one documented before/after win — not mastery.

Month 2 · Application. Ship or pilot one real use case in your function. This is the month that produces the evidence everything later depends on.

Month 3 · Certify & signal. Finish the capstone, pass the exam, publish the badge, and make the ask — the raise, the role, or the rollout.

The rule that makes it work. Every fortnight ends in something real — a report automated, a pilot shipped, an artifact published. Pathways fail when learning never becomes evidence.

SECTION 3 · THE 5-RUNG MATURITY LADDER

How AI-capable are you?

Five rungs describe the journey from first awareness to setting strategy. Read each definition and the 'I can' statements, and find the highest rung where every statement is true for you.

1 Aware

You understand why generative AI matters in supply chain and use a copilot occasionally.

- ✓ I can explain what generative AI is and name a use in my function.
- ✓ I have tried a copilot (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini) at least once.

Unlocks next · Start using it in your daily work, not just experiments.

2 Applying

You use AI tools in daily tasks and oversee a model rather than hand-building everything.

- ✓ I use a copilot most weeks for real work.
- ✓ I can oversee an AI forecast and intervene on the exceptions.

Unlocks next · Lead one end-to-end AI use case yourself.

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Lock in the certification your 90-day plan is built around.

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3 Integrating

You lead an AI use case in your function and design prompts or simple agents others reuse.

- ✓ I have shipped at least one AI use case end-to-end.
- ✓ I design prompts or workflows that teammates reuse.

Unlocks next · Connect AI across more than one function and set guardrails.

4 Leading

You orchestrate AI across functions, govern how it is used, and mentor others.

- ✓ I coordinate AI across more than one function.
- ✓ I set guardrails, and colleagues come to me for help.

Unlocks next · Own the strategy and the outcomes, not just the delivery.

5 Transforming

You set enterprise AI strategy for the supply chain and own the outcomes and ROI.

- ✓ I own an AI-in-SCM strategy and answer for its results.
- ✓ I decide where AI is deployed across the organisation.

Unlocks next · You are at the top rung — now you build the next leaders.

PLACE YOURSELF HONESTLY

The self-assessment

Your rung is the highest level at which *every* statement is true for you today. Be honest — most professionals sit at rung 1 or 2 and can reach rung 3 within a single 90-day pathway.

Rung	You are here if...
1 · Aware	You understand why generative AI matters in supply chain and use a copilot occasionally.
2 · Applying	You use AI tools in daily tasks and oversee a model rather than hand-building everything.
3 · Integrating	You lead an AI use case in your function and design prompts or simple agents others reuse.
4 · Leading	You orchestrate AI across functions, govern how it is used, and mentor others.
5 · Transforming	You set enterprise AI strategy for the supply chain and own the outcomes and ROI.

Now set a target. Aim for exactly one rung up in 90 days. One rung, done properly and evidenced, beats two rungs claimed. The next page shows where each persona typically starts and targets.

PERSONA MEETS LADDER

Where each persona climbs

Your persona and your rung combine into a target. Here is the typical start-and-target for each of the four personas — a sanity check against your own plan.

Persona	Starts at	Targets	How they climb
The Rising Analyst	Rung 1–2	Rung 3	Foundation + first shipped use case
The Functional Specialist	Rung 2–3	Rung 4	Own a use case, then orchestrate across functions
The People Manager	Rung 3	Rung 5	Govern, sponsor, and set the adoption strategy
The Career Switcher	Rung 1	Rung 3	Vocabulary, artifacts, then a shipped capstone

Read it as permission. Nobody expects an analyst to reach rung 5 in a quarter. The pathway is a sequence of honest single-rung moves — sustainable, and far more convincing to an employer.

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SECTION 4 · THE HONEST COMPARISON

What APICS / ASCM actually is

The most common question on this pathway is “APICS or CGAISC?” To answer it honestly, you first need to know what APICS is — and to respect it. It is excellent at what it does.

What APICS / ASCM is. APICS — now under the Association for Supply Chain Management (ASCM) — is the most globally recognised supply-chain body. Its credentials are the de facto standard in manufacturing, distribution, retail and consulting.

CPIM. Certified in Planning and Inventory Management. The ‘four walls’ credential: production, inventory, MRP, master planning and execution inside the organisation. Restructured to Part 1 + Part 2.

CSCP. Certified Supply Chain Professional. End-to-end mastery from the supplier’s supplier to the customer’s customer — globalisation, logistics, risk. One exam; favoured for management tracks.

CLTD & CTSC. Logistics, transportation and distribution (CLTD); and supply-chain transformation and strategy (CTSC). Specialist extensions of the same body of knowledge.

THE DEEP COMPARISON

APICS vs CGAISC, line by line

Dimension	APICS / ASCM	CGAISC (GSDC)
Governing body	ASCM (formerly APICS)	GSDC
Core focus	Classic SCM body of knowledge	Generative AI applied across SCM
AI depth	Minimal; AI is only emerging in content	Built entirely around generative & agentic AI
Format	Self/instructor study + proctored exam	Self-paced + daily live GSDC Studio + hands-on
Hands-on tools	Conceptual; not tool-centric	30+ live AI tools (ChatGPT, Claude, AI Studio)
Mentorship	Via chapters / partners (varies)	1-on-1 SME + daily live sessions
Exam	CPIM Part 1+2 / CSCP one exam (Pearson VUE)	40 MCQ, 90 min, 65%, online, free retake
Recognition	De facto global standard, decades of equity	Newer AI-specialist credential; verifiable badge
Renewal	75 professional-development points / 5 yrs	5-year validity
Cost model	Per-exam fees + annual ASCM membership	One-time certification (see enrolment)
Best for	Operations fundamentals & manufacturing depth	Putting GenAI into real SCM decisions now

Comparison reflects publicly described program characteristics in 2026 and is a fair, high-level guide rather than an exhaustive audit. Evaluate each against your own goals.

THE HONEST VERDICT

So which should you choose?

If you need core SCM grounding. APICS CPIM or CSCP is hard to beat — it is the foundational body of knowledge, and employers know exactly what it signals.

If you need AI capability now. CGAISC is built for exactly that: hands-on generative and agentic AI applied to real supply-chain decisions, with live mentorship and a verifiable, five-year credential.

The honest answer for most. They are complementary, not rivals. A strong profile in 2026 pairs a fundamentals credential with CGAISC — the ‘why the system works’ and the ‘how to make it work with AI.’ If you can only do one this quarter and your goal is the AI pivot, start with CGAISC.

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SECTION 5 · THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Your one-page development plan

A pathway you don't write down is a wish. The professional development plan turns your persona, your rung and your roadmap into one page you can re-read every week and show a manager. It adapts to all four personas — only the contents change.

Why one page. Long plans get abandoned. The template is eight short headings on a single page, by design, so you actually keep it current.

How it adapts. The analyst's plan targets a planner role; the manager's targets a governed rollout. Same eight headings, different answers — shown on page 19.

Copy these eight headings into a single page and fill them in. The plan is deliberately short — a development plan you will actually re-read beats a detailed one you abandon.

COPY THIS ONTO ONE PAGE

The PDP template

1. Snapshot

Current role, tier, maturity rung, location, industry.

2. Target

Target role / tier and rung, with a date (90 days and 12 months).

3. Skill gaps

The 3–5 specific capabilities between you and the target.

4. Learning plan

The CGAISCM modules and Learn-by-Doing challenges that close each gap.

5. Evidence

The artifacts you will produce — use cases, the capstone, a portfolio.

6. Milestones

30 / 60 / 90-day checkpoints with a clear 'done' for each.

7. Metrics

How you will measure progress: a shipped use case, a re-band, a passed exam.

8. Support & cadence

Your mentor / manager and how often you review (weekly is best).

THE SAME TEMPLATE, FOUR WAYS

The plan, filled by persona

The template flexes to each persona. Here are the headline answers for the four — the Target, the biggest gap, and the single piece of evidence each is working toward.

Persona	Target	Headline gap	Headline evidence
The Rising Analyst	Planner role in 12 months	Oversee a forecast model	2–3 AI-assisted reporting wins + capstone
The Functional Specialist	GenAI lead in your function	Design agent workflows	One scaled, documented use case
The People Manager	Director, AI-augmented team	Govern AI use & prove ROI	A governed pilot + ROI business case
The Career Switcher	First SC-AI analyst role	SCM vocabulary + credibility	Portfolio of 3 artifacts + capstone

Your move. Find your persona’s row, then write the full eight-heading version for yourself. Fifteen minutes now saves a directionless quarter later.

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SECTION 6 · THE CURRICULUM AS PATHWAY

The 15 modules as your spine

Every roadmap in this guide runs on the same engine: the fifteen CGAISCM modules, grouped into the three phases your 90 days follow.

Foundation · Modules 1–4. Become AI-literate: what GenAI is, techniques, forecasting, inventory.

Application · Modules 5–10. Apply it function by function: logistics, suppliers, production, risk, CX, sustainability.

Integration & Lead · Modules 11–15. Govern, integrate, apply (capstone), get coached, and move into agentic AI.

The capstone is the hinge. Module 13 is where the pathway stops being study and becomes the portfolio artifact you point to — in a review, an interview, or a board paper.

KNOW YOU'RE MOVING

Milestones & metrics

Three checkpoints keep any pathway honest. If you can tick these at 30, 60 and 90 days, you are on track — whatever your persona.

Checkpoint	What 'done' looks like
Day 30	AI-literate and using a copilot on real work; one before/after win documented.
Day 60	One use case shipped or piloted; a portfolio artifact others can see.
Day 90	Certified, badge published, and a concrete next-step conversation booked.

Measure outcomes, not hours. The metric that matters is not modules watched — it is a use case shipped, a badge published, and a conversation booked.

SECTION 7 · THE PROOF

Your sample certificate

The destination of every pathway in this guide. On passing the exam you receive the globally recognised CGAISCM certificate — verifiable, and valid for five years.



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SHAREABLE & VERIFIABLE

The digital verification badge



With the certificate comes a **verifiable digital badge** — the proof at the end of your pathway. Anyone can confirm it is real in one click, without taking your word for it.

It travels across LinkedIn, your résumé and email signatures, linking back to a verification record tied to your credential ID.

How verification works

1. Earn & issue. Passing the exam issues your badge against a unique credential ID.

2. Share. Add it to your profile or signature; the badge carries metadata about what you proved and when.

3. Verify. Employers click through to confirm authenticity and the 5-year validity window — no guesswork, no forgeable PDFs.

SECTION 8 · PATHWAY PITFALLS

Four ways pathways stall

Learning without shipping. Watching modules is not progress. Every fortnight should produce one real artifact.

Skipping the maturity check. Aiming two rungs above where you are wastes the quarter. Move one rung, well.

Going it alone. Use the live sessions and SME connects. The people who finish are the ones who show up.

Certifying in silence. A credential nobody knows about changes nothing. Publish the badge and make the ask.

The pattern behind all four. Effort without evidence. Every stalled pathway has plenty of activity and nothing to show; every successful one ends each fortnight with a real artifact.

SECTION 9 · YOUR MOVE

Your first 7 days

The hardest part of any pathway is the first week. Here is a seven-day quick start so the decision becomes motion before momentum fades.

Day	Action
Day 1	Find your persona and your maturity rung in this guide.
Day 2	Write your one-page PDP using the eight headings.
Day 3	Enrol and start Module 1.
Day 4	Use a copilot on one real task at work today.
Day 5	Pick the single use case you will ship in 90 days.
Days 6–7	Book the live sessions into your calendar and tell your manager your plan.

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SECTION 10 · COMMON QUESTIONS

Pathway FAQ

Do I need to code? No. The pathway and the Learn-by-Doing challenges are designed for supply-chain professionals, not engineers.

What's the prerequisite? Basic supply-chain familiarity. The Career-Switcher pathway covers the vocabulary if you are newer.

How long does it take? The pathways are built around 90 days alongside a full-time job, using the self-paced modules and daily live sessions.

Is the exam hard? 40 questions, 90 minutes, 65% to pass, with two practice exams and a complimentary retake. Doing the challenges is the best preparation.

Can I combine it with APICS? Yes — many professionals pair a fundamentals credential with CGAISCM. They cover different ground.

SECTION 11 · REFERENCE

Glossary & quick reference

The terms used across this field guide and the wider CGAISCM series.

Persona — A career archetype used to tailor the pathway to your situation.

Maturity rung — Your current level of AI capability, from Aware (1) to Transforming (5).

Tier — Your pay/role band in the AI-era supply chain (see the Jobs & Salary guides).

PDP — Professional Development Plan — the one-page template at the heart of this guide.

Capstone — The applied CGAISCM project that turns learning into portable evidence.

LBD — Learn-by-Doing — the hands-on, AI-powered challenge shipped with each lesson.

ONE LAST WORD & THE RECEIPTS

The pathway starts when you do

You now have a persona, a maturity ladder, an honest comparison, a one-page plan and a seven-day start. The map is complete; only the first step is missing — and that one is yours.

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Sources & methodology

ASCM / APICS official materials (2026). CPIM, CSCP, CLTD and CTSC scope, exam structure and recertification (75 points / 5 years).

Pearson VUE (2026). APICS exam delivery and scheduling detail.

Supply-chain certification guides (2025–26). Comparative positioning of CPIM and CSCP; certification salary premia (10–23%).

GSDC CGAISCM program pages. CGAISCM format, exam, live sessions, hands-on tools and validity.

Comparative and certification details reflect publicly described 2025–2026 program characteristics and may change; verify against current sources. Personas, the maturity ladder and the plan are GSDC's framework for navigating AI-era supply-chain careers.