

CAREER TIPS FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Courtesy of "What Can I Do With a Major In...?"

- Many job opportunities exist in supply chain management, and they frequently transform as products and the marketplace change. Stay abreast of the field through participation in the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals.
- The supply chain includes: marketing, product design, suppliers, manufacturing, logistics, customers, and reverse logistics. Jobs exist within all of these functions and processes.
- Majors in supply chain management, logistics, transportation, and industrial engineering are particularly helpful to gain entry into this functional area.
- Information technology, analytical, and quantitative skills are important in supply chain management. Develop flexibility, negotiation skills, and the ability to make sound decisions.
- Join student professional organizations and seek campus leadership positions.
- Complete one or more internships to gain related experience.
- Learn to work well on a team and to work effectively with a wide variety of people.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in jobs of interest to learn more about which functional areas and work environments are most appealing.
- Some organizations may not have a "logistics" department. Also look for positions in operations, manufacturing, purchasing, or marketing.
- Be willing to relocate to have more job opportunities.
- Develop and utilize a personal network of contacts. Once in a position, find a mentor.
- Research relevant industry credentials such as the Certified Purchasing Manager (CPM) and Certification in Production and Inventory Management (CPIM).
- Many professionals start their supply chain management careers as analysts. Consider earning an MBA after gaining a few years of work experience to reach the highest levels.