Supply Chain Professional Pathway

Pathway Overview

The Supply Chain Professional Pathway is a focused series of courses coupled with extra-curricular enrichment activities related to the operations, logistics, and supply chain field that is intended to give interested students a higher level of preparation for entering that field upon graduation.

What is Supply Chain Management? As defined by the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, *Supply Chain Management* includes operations and logistics, and ... *encompasses the planning and management of all activities involved in sourcing and procurement, conversion, and all logistics management activities. Importantly, it also includes coordination and collaboration with channel partners, which can be suppliers, intermediaries, third party service providers, and customers. In essence, supply chain management integrates supply and demand management within and across companies.*

Supply Chain Management is thus concerned with the creation and performance of an aligned network of organizations that produce, procure, house, and transport personnel, materials, goods, information, and services to the intended recipient, location, or market.

Supply Chain Pathway – Four Key Building Blocks

General goals of the Supply Chain Professional Pathway are listed below; the focus is not merely academic, but heavily experiential in nature.

Gain academic and professional knowledge and skills in procurement, distribution, transportation, logistics, inventory, customer service, and other important aspects of supply chain management.

Obtain experience in and exposure to the supply chain management field in order to prepare for positions such as purchasing and supplier management, manufacturing, inventory management, transport management, distribution, business integration, warehousing management, quality management, customer service management, information management, import/export, and logistics management.

Become well equipped to take certification exams in the supply chain field, once any other prerequisites such as work experience are fulfilled. Professional organizations offering certification include APICS – The Association for Operations Management, AST&L - the American Society of Transportation & Logistics, and PMI – the Project Management Institute.

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1 See: http://cscmp.org/aboutcscmp/definitions.asp
Supply Chain Professional Pathway

These goals are supported by four primary building blocks: (1) focused Academic Specialization, (2) experience through Business Internship, (3) relationship with a Career Mentor, and (4) related Development in the Professional World.

A – Academic Specialization

The Supply Chain Professional Pathway consists of 24 credit hours (eight courses) from among the student’s Business and general electives. These courses focus on the operations, logistics, and supply chain field. Four of the courses are required of all Supply Chain Professional Pathway members; the remaining four courses may be chosen from a list of approved pathway electives. Pathway courses are summarized in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BADM 323</td>
<td>Quality Management</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BADM 429</td>
<td>Supply Chain Management</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BADM 324</td>
<td>Purchasing and Materials Management</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BADM 421</td>
<td>Logistics Management</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives (Four)²</td>
<td>Selected from an approved list, or any course with permission</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B – Business Internship

Supply Chain Pathway participants will be strongly encouraged to take part in an industry internship. This supervised work experience in a position related to the supply chain career objective that permits students to obtain exposure to and experience in their chosen career field. It is fulfilled at the Junior or Senior level via BADM 450, and is a permitted elective.

C – Career Mentor

Students will be introduced to the Citadel School of Business Mentor Program, and encouraged to choose a mentor. The mentor will ideally be closely matched to their chosen pathway one with experience in the field that the student wishes to pursue. The intent is that students will be matched with career professionals who can advise them on practical matters relative to pursuing their desired career path.

²Four electives are chosen from a list of approved electives such as Project Management, Negotiations, and International Business. In consultation with your faculty pathway advisor, other courses may be selected from any discipline that will strengthen your skill set for this professional pathway.
Development in the Professional World

Continuous learning and improvement through professional development is an essential part of practice in the business world. A primary avenue for such development is for students to participate actively in professional associations. Students in the Supply Chain Professional Pathway have access to and are encouraged to take part in professional associations and clubs.

Professional Associations available to students include

- CSCMP – Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals.
- APICS – The Association for Operations Management.
- ASTL – The American Society of Transportation and Logistics.
- ISM – The Institute for Supply Management.

Student Clubs available to students include

- The Supply Chain Management Club – affiliated with CSCMP
- The Citadel Student Port – affiliated with the Charleston Propeller Club.

Pathway Scholar Opportunities

Supply Chain Professional Pathway students will be eligible to compete to become Career Pathway Scholars in the Supply Chain area. Pathway scholars will, in addition to the other benefits of being a pathway student, be granted professional development funds (currently $1,000 per year to a maximum of $3,000 total) to be used to support enrichment activities as pathway scholars.

The pathway scholar funds are limited, and will be awarded through a competitive application process.

The application of these funds will be made pursuant to the approval of the student’s pathway advisor, and if not spent on approved expenditures by the end of the student’s senior year will revert to the pathway scholar’s fund pool to be allocated to subsequent scholars.

Examples of pathway scholar funds expenditures:

- Attendance at operations, logistics, and supply chain related professional conferences.
- Support for summer study/internships (e.g. living expenses to support a summer internship in NY).
- Purchase of technology supporting operations, logistics, and supply chain careers.
- Professional certification related costs (e.g. CSCP exam, CPIM exam, CAPM, etc.).
Supply Chain Professional Pathway

Career Field Outlook

Among the careers this program can help you attain are several for which the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates they expect moderate to substantial growth in this decade\(^3\). Representative data is at Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>2014 Mean Pay(^4)</th>
<th>Sector Expected Growth 2012-22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General and Operations Managers</td>
<td>$145,850</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Production Managers</td>
<td>$99,370</td>
<td>stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logisticians</td>
<td>$76,330</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Analysts</td>
<td>$89,990</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing Managers</td>
<td>$125,110</td>
<td>stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers</td>
<td>$111,160</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This professional specialty provides students the opportunity to understand modern global supply chain management, which requires a multidisciplinary and cross-functional approach that transcends the traditional functional boundaries and management disciplines that characterize many organizations.

Contacts

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\(^3\)http://www.bls.gov/ooh/about/projections-overview.htm accessed September 27, 2014