Supply chain management (SCM) involves the flow of goods, materials and information of a product as it moves through the stages of supplying raw materials, production and manufacturing, distribution by wholesalers and retailers, and finally reaching the end consumer. Not only does this interdisciplinary field involve the planning, sourcing, production, logistics and inventory management of any given product or service, but it also draws heavily from several areas such as operations, procurement, logistics, marketing, information systems and strategy. Supply chain professionals contribute significantly to maximizing revenues and enhancing customer satisfaction and sustainability, while minimizing costs, waste and organizational risk.

Possible Career Options

- Procurement manager
- Supplier relations specialist
- Sustainable sourcing manager
- Demand planning manager
- Logistics manager
- Supply chain risk manager
- Distribution manager
- Supply chain analyst
Possible Employers

- Consulting Firms
- Fast-Moving Consumer Goods Companies
- Manufacturing Industries
- Colleges/Universities
- Service Providing Companies

Skills Required

- Problem-solving skills
- Negotiation skills
- Time management
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Ability to interpret data
- Ability to work independently or as part of a team

Personal Attributes

- Capacity for analytical and logical thinking
- Flexibility
- Skills with numbers
- Resourceful
- Capacity for detail and order
- Forward thinking

Ways to Get Experience

- Doing an internship
- Working part-time or volunteering in supply chain management at a company
- Volunteering as a research assistant in a university’s supply chain/business department
- Develop technical skills by attending conferences and reading books and articles
- Attend workshops related to the field