



## Supply chain management as a career

Since its inception, the field of supply chain management has become extremely important to firms in an increasingly competitive marketplace. The supply chain offers a magnitude of job opportunities ranging from a picker in a warehouse or an inventory clerk to a top management position. It is a key area in most firms with an application across a wide range of industries.

The world is changing at an increasingly fast pace and so is the supply chain management profession. Thirty years ago, the term supply chain management did not exist. The core elements of the supply chain were done by different people in different departments without any specialisation or coordination. Purchasing was in the hands of the warehouse manager and the secretary; stores were under the control of the production manager while transport and marketing was done by the commercial manager. Technical staff acted as lead buyers while the finance department decided how much money was available for purchasing.

This scenario is inconceivable today. The whole process is customer-focused and the whole process from the sourcing of raw materials up to the delivery of a final product to the consumer is managed as one process. It is a systems approach to managing the entire flow of materials, information, services and finance from raw materials suppliers through factories and warehouses to the end user.



The holder of the BCom Option: Supply Chain Management degree has a wide variety of opportunities in the following careers (to name a few): supply chain analyst, supply chain strategist, buyer, customer service manager, inventory manager, warehousing manager, distribution manager, transport manager, demand planner and logistics manager.

## BCom Option: Supply Chain Management

The purpose of this degree option is to equip students of supply chain management with the ability to participate in functional management within an integrated supply chain. This includes the disciplines of supply management, production and operations management, warehousing, transport management and supply chain strategy.

Undergraduate training takes place over a minimum period of three years (six semesters) and is compiled in such a way that the student is properly trained in the key areas of the supply chain in order to develop a career in almost any supply chain management field.

A foundation of basic management principles is provided in the first year followed by more advanced modules in Purchasing and Supply Management, Production and Operations Management, Warehousing and Transport Management, Logistics Management, Project Management, Human Resource Management, Strategic Management and Supply Chain Strategy in the second and third year.

## Admission requirements

- A National Senior Certificate with the following scores:
  - Mathematics – 4 (50–59%)
  - Afrikaans or English – 5 (60–69%)
- Appropriate combinations of recognised NSC subjects for admission to degree studies
- An admission point score (APS) of 30 (Life Orientation is excluded when calculating the APS)

## Curriculum

### First year

The first year is the same as for the major fields. The curriculum for the first year is compiled from Business Management, Economics, Financial Accounting, Statistics, Marketing Management, Informatics and Communication Management with no elective modules.

### Second year

Modules include: Logistics Management, Purchasing and Supply Management, Production and Operations Management, Project Management, Business Law and Financial Management.

### Third year

Modules include: Warehousing Management, Transport Management, Supply Chain Strategy, Human Resource Management, Negotiation Skills, Strategic Management, International Business, E-commerce and E-business.

## Postgraduate programmes

- BComHons Business Management
- MCom Business Management
- MPhil Business Management Option:
  - Responsible Leadership
  - Supply Chain Management
- MPhil Entrepreneurship
- DCom Business Management
- PhD Business Management
- PhD Entrepreneurship

## For more information

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