

The Value of Professional Supply Chain Certification Programs

Professional certifications today are one of the best and most effective mechanisms to assess the knowledge, skills and experience needed to perform a specific role. The growing number of supply chain certification programs now available internationally provides new opportunities for professionals to advance their careers.

Professional certification programs provide validation and recognition of the individual knowledge required for a specific role or profession. They certify the demonstrated knowledge, vocabulary and understanding.

For employers, professional certification programs support employee retention while ensuring that they have the latest, most relevant knowledge and skills they need in order to do their jobs. Additionally the programs generate a common vocabulary across the entire global supply chain, between functional departments, suppliers and customers and even software vendors. More and more universities across the globe have recently integrated the body of knowledge of professional supply chain certifications into their curriculum to support their international students in pursuing an international career in supply chain management.

This overview aims to provide a basic understanding of the type of certifications available as well as information about content and requirements for the completion of the program.



APICS (Now part of ASCM - Association for Supply Chain Management): The APICS brand is globally recognized as the top provider of supply chain credentials, including:

- **Certified in Production and Inventory Management (CPIM):** Candidates typically learn the basics of production and inventory management, such as the required terminology, concepts, demand planning and management, procurement, scheduling, continuous improvement.
- **Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP):** The program focuses on improving a professional's expertise in the field of global supply chain management in areas such as customer relations, information technology enablement, logistics and international trade.
- **Certified in Logistics, Transportation and Distribution (CLTD):** The program validates a professional's expertise in logistics, transportation and distribution.
- **SCOR Professional Endorsement (SCOR-P):** The APICS SCOR-P certification enables candidates to work with the SCOR (Supply Chain Operations Reference) model and to standardize performance metrics, create best practices that affect supply chain performance, and the management of critical supply chain resources.



DDI (Demand Driven Institute): Demand Driven Institute (DDI) programs and endorsements are a complementary addition to the suite of APICS certification programs.

- **Demand Driven Fundamentals Professional™ (DDFP™):** Designed to demonstrate the conceptual differences between conventional supply chain approaches dominated by MPS, MRP, DRP and the emerging flow-based approaches including the Demand Driven Adaptive Enterprise (DDAE) Model.
- **Demand Driven Planner Professional™ (DDPP™):** Designed for planning, purchasing and supply chain personnel responsible for implementing and maintaining a DDMRP implementation.
- **Demand Driven Leader Professional™ (DDLPP™):** Equips senior and mid-level operations and supply chain managers with the ability to design, implement and sustain a Demand Driven Operating Model (DDOM) including capability parameter settings through Demand Driven S&OP.
- **Demand Driven Supply Chain Professional™ (DDSCP™):** Fellowship level endorsement to testify the proven ability of a professional to successfully apply Demand Driven concepts at the operational and tactical levels creating sustained value for an enterprise through that application.
- **Adaptive Systemic Thinking Professional (ASTP)™:** Earned by an individual who can demonstrate the use and communication of the Adaptive Systemic Thinking processes.





ISCEA (International Supply Chain Education Alliance) conducts many workshops to improve the knowledge of Manufacturing and Service industry professionals worldwide.

- **Certified Supply Chain Analyst (CSCA):** Provides a comprehensive introduction into the field of supply chain management, strategy, design, implementation and innovation, such as DDMRP. Prepares the participant to become an analyst of the end-to-end supply chain.



The **CSCMP (Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals)** is providing networking, career development, and educational opportunities to the logistics and supply chain management community.

- The **SCPro Supply Chain Management Certification** is offered by the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP). SCPro certification is a three-level certification process that validates a professional's ability to assess business challenges and effectively implement improvements in the area of supply chain management.
 - **Level One:** Consists of 8 modules and demonstrates a solid foundation of knowledge in all areas of supply chain management.
 - **Level Two:** Covers the analysis and application of supply chain challenges.
 - **Level Three:** Requires candidates to perform hands-on analysis within a working environment and to create a detailed project plan that generates results such as increase in ROI, cost reductions and improvements.



Institute of Business Forecasting & Planning

IBF (Institute of Business Forecasting & Planning) is known for two levels of certification:

- **Certified Professional Forecaster (CPF):** Helps candidates to acquire knowledge about Demand Planning, Forecasting, and S&OP, Data Management and time Series Forecasting Modeling and Reporting, Presenting, New Product Forecasting and Planning.
- **Advanced Certified Professional Forecaster (ACPF):** Helps candidates in addition to the CPF content to deepen their knowledge about Advanced Forecast Modeling and Technology and Worst Practices in Forecasting & Planning.



ISM (Institute of Supply Management) is one of the largest global organizations focused on improving procurement and supply management and provides 2 certification programs:

- **Certified Professional in Supply Management (CPSM):** Helps candidates become experts in critical areas of supply chain management such as sustainability, strategic sourcing and forecasting.
- **Certified Professional in Supplier Diversity (CPSD):** Is best for professionals who participate in the development of supplier diversity initiatives.



If a candidate is seriously interested in supply chain management, certification is a great option to advance their career.

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