



STUDENT CONSULTING PROJECTS

Michael G. Foster School of Business

Master of Supply Chain Management Program

PROJECT OVERVIEW

A team of Master of Supply Chain Management (MSCM) students can help your company tackle supply chain and other operational issues.

MSCM students can effectively analyze data, build decision models, and make actionable recommendations to improve your business. They can address challenges in sourcing, operations, and logistics management processes needed to efficiently manage the flow of goods and services. Students use their prior experience and new MSCM skills to acquire career-building experience while solving a business challenge for your company. A win-win!

PROJECT TOPICS

Through this program the sponsoring companies gain valuable insights on their business. Project topics include:

Strategy: Supply chain audit, mapping and benchmarking, global network design

Planning: Forecasting and demand planning, capacity analysis, sales and operations planning

Distribution: Inventory optimization, warehouse location and efficiency, omni-channel management, transportation and logistics decisions

Mfg./Service: Production planning, service systems design, wait time analysis, staffing plans

Sourcing: Make vs. buy analysis, supplier selection process, auctions, scorecards, contracts, CSR benchmarking, procurement

Process Improvement: Lean and Six Sigma, re-engineering, decision support systems, spreadsheet modeling, software selection, project planning, collaborative processes, carbon footprint reduction

DATES & DETAILS

Project Term: Spring Quarter

Team: 5-6 MSCM Students

Application Deadline: January 15

Introduce Projects to Students: Mid-February

Sponsors Advised of Team Assignment: March 6

Project Kick-Off/Working Dinner: March 30

Final Presentations: June 1 - 8

Project Fee: \$3,500 - Payable upon project completion

SELECT 2019 PROJECTS

Created a warehouse slotting tool to improve capacity for high-volume products for a major beverage distributor.

Developed an inventory management strategy for safety stocks and forecasting for a medical device manufacturer.

Created a production planning tool for a marine equipment manufacturer to both reduce overtime and better respond to customer demand.

Analyzed two years of sales and purchase order history of a major electronics distributor to make stocking recommendations to increase inventory turns and fill orders more quickly.

Conducted an analysis of annual material use and shipping patterns for a regional utility and made recommendations on drop-ship vs distribution center.

Identified supply risks on single sourced commodities and developed a model to weight those risks as an input to the supplier selection process.

Made strategic recommendations on implementation of Application Programming Interface (API) for a multinational third-party logistics (3PL) provider.

Contact us and learn how a team of Foster MSCM students could help you improve your competitiveness!

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foster.uw.edu/mscm/projects

UW Foster - Master in Supply Chain Management Program

Student Consulting Projects

*The capstone project is conducted along with three academic classes in spring quarter, giving each team member approximately eight hours per week to devote to the project.**

What Makes a Good Project?

The project should be of value to you and your organization. If nothing comes immediately to mind, you might consider issues or challenges on the back burner because you have not had the time or resources to address them. Take a look at the functional areas and topics listed below to get some ideas. We would be glad to talk with you about your possible projects. In the meantime, this information will provide further guidance.

Required:

- Strong support from company management
- Sponsor available for weekly check-in
- Can be completed in the eight weeks allotted* (See above)
- Requires no more than four site visits
- Sponsor company can readily provide access to data and other resources
- Deliverables include actionable recommendations

Fits into one or more of these subject areas:

- Strategy: Supply chain audit, mapping and benchmarking; global network design
- Planning: Forecasting and demand planning, capacity analysis, sales & operations planning
- Distribution: Inventory optimization, warehouse location and efficiency, omnichannel management, transportation and logistics decisions
- Manufacturing and Service: Production planning, service systems design, wait-time analysis, staffing plans
- Sourcing: Make vs. buy analysis, supplier selection process, auctions, scorecards, contracts, CSR benchmarking, procurement
- Process Improvement: Lean and Six Sigma, reengineering, decision support systems, spreadsheet modeling, software selection, project planning, collaborative processes, carbon footprint reduction

Even better if:

- It has large, readily-available, data sets
- It's suitable for Six Sigma problem solving methodologies
- There is a strong likelihood that at least some recommendations will be implemented

Sponsor time commitment:

Depending on the scope and nature of the project, you should plan on an hour per week minimum once the project is underway. More time will be required at the beginning to get the scope settled and host a site visit. Please see front of this flyer and the website for key dates and a timeline from project selection to final presentations.

For more information, or to discuss your project idea, please contact:

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