

Career Profile: Supply and Distribution Manager

A supply and distribution manager plans, administers and reviews the supply, storage and distribution of equipment, materials and goods used and produced by an organisation.

As a Supply and Distribution Manager, you would be expected to handle responsibilities such as:

- developing policies, plans and strategies for purchasing, storage and distribution strategies,
- preparing and implementing plans to maintain required stock levels at minimum cost,
- negotiating contracts with suitable suppliers to meet quality, cost and delivery requirements,
- monitoring and reviewing systems for storage and inventory(stock levels) to ensure that supply requirements can be fulfilled and to control stock levels,
- overseeing recording systems to ensure that all movements of supplies and finished goods are captured, and ensuring timely re-ordering and re-stocking,
- liaising with other departments and customers about supply and delivery of goods,
- managing fleet maintenance,
- directing the recording of purchase, storage and distribution transactions,
- managing the activities and performance of staff.

An interesting development related to supply and distribution, which is a relatively new development for South Africa, is strategic supply management. As well as the traditional functions of procurement and logistics, it also includes the entire supply chain from planning through to sourcing, making and delivering goods and services. It could well open up broader career opportunities for the future, not only among manufacturers and retailers but any organisation that sources, sells or moves goods or services on a large scale.

Education Requirements

National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in supply and distribution management students are advised to select English, Mathematics, and to add to this a selection from the designated subjects. These are subjects that are particularly suitable for tertiary study.

Bachelor Degree

A three year degree programme that focuses on developing knowledge and skills for entry into careers in the field of logistics and supply chain management.

Offered at:

- [University of Johannesburg](#)¹ (Department of Transport and Supply Chain Management)
- [University of Pretoria](#)² (Department of Business Management)
- [University of South Africa \(UNISA\)](#)³ (College of Economic and Management Sciences)
- [University of Venda](#)⁴ (Department of Business Management)
- [University of the Witwatersrand](#)⁵ (Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management)

National Diploma / BTech

The National Diploma is a three year course which includes gaining practical experience. The diploma is a pre-requisite for admission to a Bachelor of Technology – Btech degree National Diploma and Bachelor of Technology Logistics are offered at both these universities of technology:

- [Tshwane University of Technology](#)⁶ (Department of Marketing, Logistics and Sport Management)
- [Vaal University of Technology](#)⁷ (Faculty of Management Sciences, Logistics Management)

Admission Requirements

As admission requirements vary from one institution to another, find out what the specific requirements are by checking on the website and contacting the university if you have any queries.

Possible Employers

- Mining groups, e.g. AngloGold Ashanti
- Whole and retail organisations, e.g. Woolworths, Shoprite

¹ <http://www.uj.ac.za/FieldsOfStudy/Undergraduate/Degrees/BComLogisticsManagement/tabid/13280/Default.aspx>

² <http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=1055>

³ http://brochure.unisa.ac.za/brochure/showprev.aspx?d=1_3_2&f=p_02011LOG

⁴ http://www.univen.ac.za/management_sciences/bis_management_programmes.html%20

⁵ <http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/CLM/>

⁶ <http://www.tut.ac.za/Students/facultiesdepartments/managementsciences/departments/marketing/Pages/default.aspx>

⁷ http://www.vut.ac.za/new/images/stories/logistics_manag.pdf

- Manufacturers
- Supply Chain Management companies, e.g. Barloworld Logistics

Find out more

Find out more about supply chain management:

- This [case study](#)⁸ provides some insight into the supply chain process.
- [University of Johannesburg](#)⁹ has a booklet on careers in management that includes information on supply and distribution.
- This [brochure](#)¹⁰ for a programme on supply chain management provides a useful overview of supply chain management.
- The [Barloworld](#)¹¹ website provides information on logistics.
- The [Shoprite](#)¹² website provides an overview of the role supply chain management plays in the Group.
- This [example](#)¹³ shows the importance of supply chain management for the gold mining industry.

⁸ <http://www.datascope.co.za/CONTENT/LAACaseStudy.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.uj.ac.za/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VTLUGUQDYwY%3D&tabid=9525>

¹⁰ http://www.gibs.co.za/uploads/documents/0_SupplyChain.pdf

¹¹ <http://www.barloworld-logistics.com/bwlogistics/content/en/global-who-we-are>

¹² <http://www.shopriteholdings.co.za/pages/1019812640/about-our-company/Supply-Chain-Management.asp>

¹³ <http://www.anglogoldashanti.co.za/Careers/Career+Choices/Supply+Chain+Management.htm>

Are you suited to this career?

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this career.

QUIZ	YES	NO
Do you plan and organize your work?		
Do you anticipate and prepare for tasks in advance?		
Do you work accurately and attend to detail?		
Do you refer to a broader framework to help you make sense of the detail?		
Do you work well with other people?		
Would you say that you have good judgement?		
Do you express you ideas clearly in both speech and writing?		
Do you enjoy coordinating activities?		
Are you computer literate?		
Are you able to work independently and as part of a team?		

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is a career to consider.