



Career Focus - LOGISTICS MANAGER

Dear students

Every time someone orders fresh flowers for delivery, food to fill the shelves of a shop, or medical supplies to stock a hospital, experienced professionals are at work behind the scenes. Their focus is making sure products get from manufacturer to seller to customer – from where they are to where they need to be, when they need to be there! That's called LOGISTICS!

A career in logistics and distribution may suit you if you enjoy coordinating and overseeing a process to its completion. You may not realize it, but logisticians are everywhere!

Lets learn more about this exciting career.

-Martina



WHAT IS LOGISTICS ?

Logistics management is the part of supply chain management that plans, implements, and controls the efficient, effective forward, and reverse flow and storage of goods, services, and related information between the point of origin and the point of consumption in order to meet customer's requirements.

Logistics is one of the most important career fields in the world. Without the planning and execution of the distribution of resources, society as we know it would cease to function and food shortages would cause chaos around the world.

Every company uses logistics even though full-time logistics managers may not be employed. The work of a logistician begins with bringing in the supplies and raw materials necessary for a business or organization to operate. Inbound logistics are then used in conjunction with outbound logistics to distribute products or services where they are in demand.

Inside this issue:

WHAT IS LOGISTICS?	1
REASONS TO FOLLOW A CAREER IN LOGISTICS	2
DUTIES OF A LOGISTIC MANAGER	3
REQUIREMENTS	4



REASONS TO FOLLOW A CAREER IN LOGISTICS

If you are thinking about a career change, the field of logistics has much to offer.

Following are a few reasons to consider a career in logistics:

- **New opportunities are opening in logistics.**

As the global economy has expanded, logistics has become increasingly important. Outsourcing has provided new challenges and new opportunities in logistics.

- **Jobs are available in logistics for people of all education levels.**

Logistics may seem like a complicated job that requires an advanced degree, but this depends on which facet of logistics you enter. Truck drivers, warehouse workers and forklift operators are all part of the logistics team, but they are organized and directed by mid-level managers and experienced logistics executives.

- **Advancement opportunities in logistics are plentiful.**

Because logistics has so many facets and levels, opportunities for advancement are always available. In addition, the logistics industry tends to promote and train low-level employees to high-level positions rather than hire from the outside. Promotions are commonplace, and the hardest working and most innovative individuals can advance quickly.

- **Logistics careers can be started anywhere.**

Unlike some careers that require you to relocate to a specific area or region, careers in logistics can begin anywhere. Nearly every company and organization has a need for logistics workers and managers.

- **Logistics is a stepping stone into the field of international business.**

Many people who begin a career in logistics find that they quickly gain enough experience with international business to develop new skills or open new opportunities. Learning a second language is much easier when you are working with people who speak that language. In addition, it may be possible to relocate to other countries temporarily or permanently.



DUTIES OF A LOGISTIC MANAGER

Their key task is to organise the safe and efficient storage and distribution of goods, and to ensure that orders are satisfied correctly. Their responsibilities include organising shipments, coordinating drivers, vehicles, loads and journeys, operating IT systems, negotiating and agreeing contracts, developing and confirming schedules, planning for and negotiating technical difficulties, preparing paperwork for regulatory bodies, liaising and managing staff and implementing health and safety standards.

Logistics managers control and coordinate the ordering and dispatching of goods. Other duties include developing new business for the company, analysing and solving any logistical problems within the company, forecasting stock levels, coordinating deliveries according to schedules and calculating transportation costs.

They also manage and oversee staff, and may be involved in the formulation of company policies that include health and safety procedures, training and recruiting. Another function of a logistics manager is to negotiate and liaise with customers and suppliers regarding product availability, delivery schedules and pricing.

Essentially, their tasks are to negotiate customer contracts, to reduce costs and achieve maximum efficiency, to calculate total supply chain costs in relation to proposed new products, and to determine, in consultation with colleagues, whether or not orders should be put to tender.

They manage, coordinate and control the order cycle and associated information systems, manage the distribution of staff and workforce, develop business plans and keep abreast of new developments likely to affect the future purchase and movement of goods and services.

Working hours can vary depending on the industry and the type of employer. Some jobs can require working evenings and weekends, and others involve shift-work and on-call duties.

Key skills are team-working, managerial skills, the ability to motivate others, interpersonal skills, logical reasoning, numeracy skills, IT skills and the ability to plan ahead and deal with unexpected changes.



REQUIREMENTS

Secondary Education

The minimum requirement for most institutions or technical colleges, is a IGCSE Grade 12, or equivalent qualification.

Compulsory subject

NO Compulsory subjects required

Recommended subjects

Mathematics, Business Studies, Accounting

Tertiary Education

Graduates of any discipline can work in this field, but a business, management or logistics degree would be the most useful. The Department of Marketing and Logistics at NUST (Polytechnic of Namibia)offers programmes in Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

Degree: UNISA, NMMU, US, UJ

Diploma: UJ, UNISA, NMMU, Damelin and Intec

Relevant courses are available through the **The Namibian -German Centre for Logistics** : Tel 061 207 2909 - Fax 061 207 2908

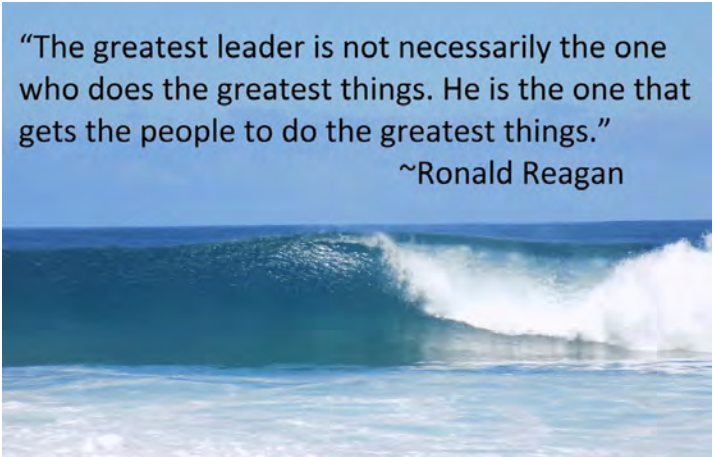
Many graduates learn about logistics through in-company management training schemes, while others move into it from related areas of management .

Skills required

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Teamwork
- Computer skills
- Analytical skills
- Organizational skills

Work Opportunities

- commerce and industry
- supply chain stores
- retailers
- government departments
- mines



“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.”
~Ronald Reagan

“We see our customers as invited guests to a party, and we are the hosts. It’s our job every day to make every important aspect of the customer experience a little bit better.” ~ Jeff Bezos

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