

Logistics and Supply Chain Management @ Unisa

A guide to preparing for career opportunities



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The information in this publication is correct as of 20 February 2026. Visit the Unisa Counselling and Career Development [downloads page](#) to check for updates.

Please check the Unisa qualifications webpage (<http://www.unisa.ac.za/qualifications>) regularly for updates related to available qualifications and the admission requirements to study.

How will this brochure help you?

- It will help you to understand the logistics and supply chain management career field.
- It will help you to identify career opportunities related to logistics and supply chain management.
- It will help you to consider how you will prepare for career opportunities in this career field.
- It will help you gain more information about the skills needed in this career field.
- It will provide you with some insight into what studying logistics and supply chain management involves.
- It will assist you to find qualifications related to logistics and supply chain management offered by Unisa.

What problems do you want to solve

“Don’t ask kids what they want to be when they grow up but what problems they want to solve. This changes the conversation from who do I want to work for, to what do I need to learn to be able to do that.”

Jaime Casap, Google Global Education Evangelist

One way to think about your career is by focusing on the **problems you care about**, not only on job titles. This shifts the question from “*What do I want to become?*” to “*What do I want to contribute?*”

Activity

1. Write down some problems or challenges you care about — in your family, community, South Africa, Africa, or the world.
2. Think about how you might contribute to solving them.
3. Ask: *What skills or knowledge would I need to prepare myself for that role?*

Example:

You may want to address the challenge of ensuring that essential goods such as food, medicine, or energy reach communities efficiently and affordably.

Think about the different individuals who can contribute to solving this challenge: logistics managers, supply chain analysts, procurement specialists, transport planners, warehouse managers, data analysts, policy makers, and sustainability officers.

As a logistics or supply chain professional, you may design systems that improve the movement of goods from suppliers to consumers. A supply chain analyst might use data to reduce delays, costs, and waste. A procurement specialist could source materials responsibly and cost-effectively. A transport planner ensures efficient routing and distribution, while a sustainability officer works to reduce environmental impact across the supply chain. Policymakers and regulators create frameworks that support fair trade and efficient distribution.

Together, these roles demonstrate that solving complex distribution and resource challenges requires coordination across multiple sectors and that a background in logistics and supply chain management positions you to contribute meaningfully to economic growth, sustainability, and improved quality of life.

Understanding logistics and supply chain management

Before you start: Why choose logistics and supply chain management?

Before considering pursuing this field of study, here are some basic questions you can ask yourself:

- Why are you interested in studying logistics and supply chain management?
- Where does your interest come from?
- Where are you hoping to be in five years? In ten years?

- What opportunities are you hoping to prepare for by completing a qualification in this field?

What is logistics and supply chain management?

Supply chain management (SCM) involves managing the flow of goods, services, information, and finances from raw materials to the final consumer. It includes sourcing, production, inventory management, transportation, distribution, and customer delivery.

Effective supply chain management helps organisations:

- Reduce costs
- Improve efficiency
- Respond quickly to demand changes
- Improve customer satisfaction
- Increase sustainability and reduce waste

Logistics is a key component of supply chain management. It focuses specifically on the efficient movement and storage of goods. This includes transportation, warehousing, packaging, inventory control, and delivery. This ensures that the right product reaches the right place at the right time.

Find out more

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZPO5RclZEo>
- <https://www.dovetail.co.za/what-is-logistics-all-you-need-to-know-about-logistics-management/>
- <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/scm.asp>
- <https://searcherp.techtarget.com/definition/supply-chain-management-SCM>

Skills needed for a career in logistics and supply chain management

- Analytical and data interpretation skills
- Project management ability
- Financial and cost management understanding

- Strategic planning and decision-making
- Problem-solving skills
- Technological competence (analytics, AI, automation, ERP systems, IoT)
- Understanding of global trade and economic systems
- Knowledge of legal and regulatory frameworks
- Business ethics and sustainability awareness
- Strong communication and negotiation skills
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Leadership and change management
- Time management and organisational skills
- Customer-focused thinking

Opportunities in logistics and supply chain management

Depending on your qualification(s) and experience, these are some of the job titles you could explore.

Job opportunities and work environments

Possible job titles

Planning and Analysis

- Supply Chain Planner
- Demand and Supply Planner
- Supply Chain Analyst
- Transport Analyst
- Inbound Logistics Analyst

Procurement and Purchasing

- Procurement Officer
- Procurement Manager
- Purchasing Manager

- Retail Buyer
- Logistics Buyer

Operations and Distribution

- Logistics Manager
- Operations Manager
- Warehouse Manager
- Distribution Centre Manager
- Fleet Manager
- Transport Manager
- Production Manager

Coordination and Administration

- Supply Chain Coordinator
- Transport Controller
- Shipping Manager
- Export Manager
- Logistics Scheduler
- Depot Distribution Officer

Strategic and Leadership Roles

- Supply Chain Manager
- Regional Operations Director
- Project Manager
- Operations Director

Possible work environments

Graduates may work in:

- Manufacturing and production companies
- Retail and wholesale organisations
- Logistics and distribution firms
- Transport and freight companies
- Government departments (local, provincial, national)
- Consulting firms

- International trade organisations
- E-commerce businesses
- Self-employment or entrepreneurship

Logistics and supply chain management are not limited to warehouses and trucks. They are about designing systems that move resources efficiently, support economic growth, reduce waste, and ensure that communities have access to the goods and services they need.

Exploring and researching careers

Making informed career decisions means going beyond what you already know. Career research helps you explore opportunities in public administration and management, understand what employers are looking for, and identify the steps you can take to prepare yourself.

Try this:

Here are some simple activities to help you explore opportunities in logistics and supply chain management. Choose 2–3 to start with:

1. Online search

Search “career in logistics and supply chain management South Africa” or “entry-level jobs related to logistics and supply chain management” and make a list of the qualifications and skills mentioned.

2. Occupational information websites

Visit the South African Department of Higher Education and Training’s [National Career Advice Portal](#). Search for specific job titles and read about work activities, skills, and job outlook.

3. Job search portals

Check portals like [Indeed](#), [Career Junction](#) or [PNet](#). Type in specific job titles to see which employers are currently hiring and the requirements.

4. LinkedIn

[Search for Unisa alumni](#) who studied logistics and supply chain management to see where they work. What career paths do they follow?

5. AI tools

Use ChatGPT or Google Gemini to ask: “What are emerging careers in supply chain and public management in South Africa?” Compare the results with what you see on job portals.

6. **Talk to others**

Set up an informal chat with someone working in the field or at an organisation you are interested in to learn more about their career journey and daily work.

7. **Attend a careers fair**

When Unisa or professional organisations host career fairs, look for employers related to public administration and management. Prepare 2–3 questions to ask them about entry routes into the profession.

8. **Join a professional organisation or network**

It is not mandatory to belong to a professional body, however, these bodies provide opportunities for members to develop their knowledge and skills, as well as expand one's network. The following professional bodies are related to the field of supply chain management and logistics:

SAPICS: <https://www.sapics.org/>

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport: <http://ciltsa.org.za/>

9. **Volunteering**

Look for volunteering or vacation work opportunities. Note the skills you develop through these experiences.

For more detailed steps and extra activities, see our [Career Research brochure](#).

Preparing while you study

Many students believe that a degree will lead directly to a specific job. In reality, your career path is shaped by more than your major. It is also about the **skills you build, the experiences you gain, and how you prepare along the way**. While you study, there are many things you can do to get ready for opportunities.

Your degree is one part of your career journey. By building skills, gaining experience, keeping a portfolio, and investing in your confidence, you'll be better prepared for opportunities during and after your studies.

Develop your transferable skills

Your studies give you subject knowledge and valuable skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, working independently, and adapting to new situations. Reflect on what you're learning and practise explaining these skills in ways that employers will understand.

Activity

- List three skills you've strengthened this year and one example of how you've used each.
- List three skills you intend to strengthen and how you plan on doing so.

Build a career portfolio

A portfolio helps you keep track of your achievements, experiences, and goals. Include your skills, certificates, volunteering, work experience, and career ideas. Over time, this will become a powerful tool for applications and interviews.

Useful resource

- [Unisa Career Portfolio](#)

Gain experience (volunteering or part-time work)

Getting experience outside your coursework helps you explore fields of interest, build networks, and develop workplace skills. Volunteering is especially valuable when done responsibly and with respect for the community.

Think about

- Which organisations could benefit from your skills?
- What could you gain in return (skills, networks, insights)?
- How will this experience link to your career goals?

Enhance your employability

Employability means your ability to get, keep, and grow in fulfilling work. Today's careers are flexible: people change jobs and industries often, and success can mean many different things. You can boost your employability by:

- Managing your personal brand (how others see your professionalism).
- Developing job search skills (CVs, cover letters, interviews, networking).
- Exploring flexible career paths and lifelong learning opportunities.

Useful resources

- [Unisa Prepare for Job Opportunities](#)
- [Counselling and Career Development YouTube channel](#)
- [PNet Grad Pack](#)
- [GradNext](#)

Grow your self-confidence

Believing in your ability to succeed is just as important as skills and knowledge. Low self-confidence can hold you back from studying effectively, applying for opportunities, or connecting with others.

Ways to strengthen your confidence

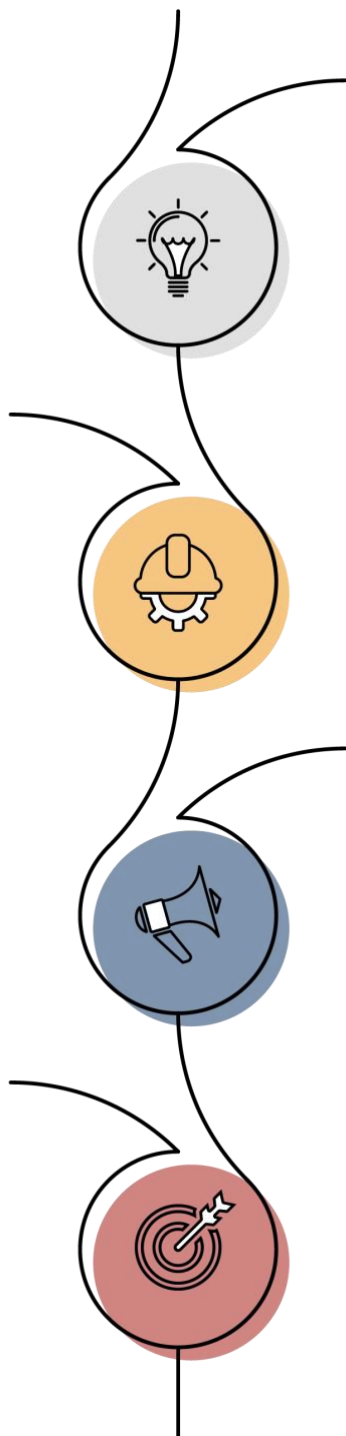
- Focus on your strengths and successes.
- Ask for help when needed: it's a sign of strength, not weakness.
- Practise self-talk that encourages growth instead of fear.

Remember: confidence grows with action. The more you try, the more you'll believe in yourself.

Your roadmap to success

Embarking on a career journey while studying can feel exciting and overwhelming. This roadmap will guide you year by year, helping you to stay intentional, informed, and adaptable.

Careers are rarely straight lines. Think of this roadmap as a flexible guide: you can move between stages depending on your opportunities and goals.



Year 1: Explore and build foundations

- Reflect on your interests, strengths, and career goals.
- Research career paths linked to your qualification.
- Plan your modules and think about postgraduate options.
- Identify key employability skills to develop.
- Create a basic CV and LinkedIn profile.
- Join a student or professional organisation.

Year 2: Grow and gain experience

- Focus on excelling in your studies.
- Apply for internships, part-time jobs, or volunteer work.
- Attend workshops, webinars, or conferences.
- Gain certifications (if relevant).
- Expand your professional network.
- Update your CV and portfolio with new experiences.

Year 3: Refine and specialise

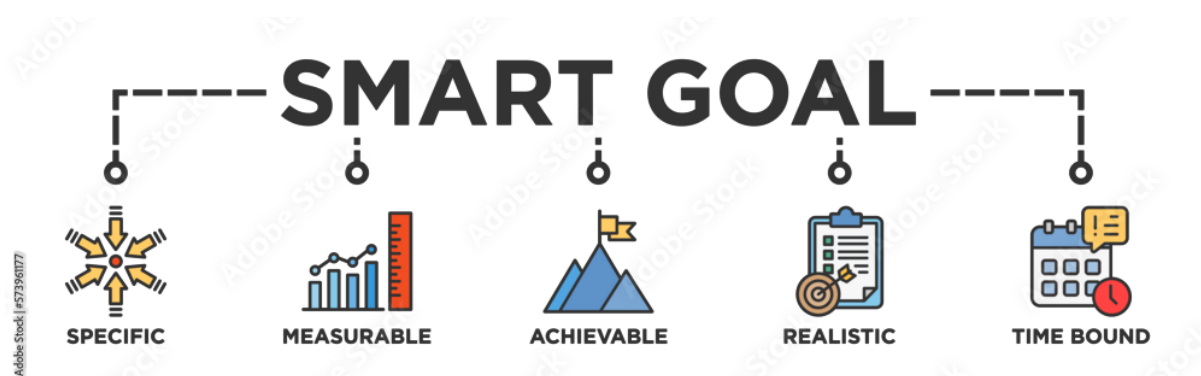
- Revisit your career goals and explore specialisations.
- Connect with alumni and seek mentorship.
- Strengthen your professional presence (LinkedIn, portfolio, personal website).
- Practise with mock interviews and improve communication skills.
- Contribute to professional discussions online or at events.

Final Year: Launch your career

- Start an intentional job search (LinkedIn, job boards, company websites).
- Tailor your CV and cover letters for each application.
- Practise interviews and refine your elevator pitch.
- Attend career fairs and networking events.
- Evaluate and negotiate job offers with guidance from mentors.
- Commit to lifelong learning and professional development.

My career learning plan: Next steps

Your next step is to plan how you will get the information that you still need to make optimal career decisions. Use SMART goals to help you plan your career research.



S – Specific: What exactly do I want to find out?

M – Measurable: How will I know I've done it?

A – Achievable: Can I realistically do this step?

R – Relevant: Does this help me make better career decisions?

T – Time-bound: By when will I do it?

What career questions do I still need answers to?

My career question	What steps will I take?	By when?	Who/what can help me?	Done?	What's next?
E.g. What jobs can I do with a degree in logistics?	Search LinkedIn profiles of Unisa logistics graduates	15 Oct	LinkedIn, Alumni page	Yes	Connect with 3 alumni

Career planning is not about having all the answers right now. It is about staying curious, setting small goals, and building momentum.

Study opportunities at Unisa

Undergraduate qualifications

- [Bachelor of Administration \(98315 - BAD\)](#)
- [Bachelor of Business Administration \(98316 - BBA\)](#)
- [Bachelor of Commerce \(98314 - GEN\)](#)
- [Bachelor of Commerce in Public Procurement Management \(98767 - PPM\)](#)
- [Bachelor of Commerce in Supply Chain and Operations Management \(98766 - SCM\)](#)
- [Bachelor of Commerce in Transport and Logistics \(98313 - TRL\)](#)

If you do not meet the admission requirements for the undergraduate qualifications in the College of Economic and Management Sciences, then you will need to explore the option of applying for a Higher Certificate offered in the College of Economic and Management Sciences. Completing a relevant Higher Certificate programme will enable you to meet the requirements for a diploma or degree.

Visit the Unisa website at <http://www.unisa.ac.za/qualifications> for more information about the admission requirements for these degrees.

Postgraduate qualifications

Postgraduate diploma

- [Postgraduate Diploma in Transport and Logistics \(98213\)](#)

Honours degrees

- [Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Logistics \(98453\)](#)
- [Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Transport Economics \(98464\)](#)

Master's and PhD

- [Master of Commerce in Business Management \(Supply chain management-purchasing\) \(98582 - SUP\)](#)
- [Master of Commerce in Logistics \(98584\)](#)
- [Master of Commerce in Transport Economics \(98586\)](#)
- [Doctor of Philosophy in Management Studies \(Logistics, Transport Economics, Purchasing and Supply Chain\) \(90021 - SUP\)](#)

Read more about the Research Focus Areas [here](#).

Frequently asked questions

I did not complete mathematics at matric level – can I study logistics and supply chain management related qualifications at Unisa?

If you do not meet admission requirements for the undergraduate qualification in the College of Economic and Management Sciences, then you will need to explore the option of applying for a Higher Certificate offered in the College of Economic and Management Sciences.

Completing a relevant Higher Certificate programme will enable you to meet the requirements for a diploma or degree.

Which qualification should I choose?

The qualification you choose will help you to prepare for further career opportunities. When considering which qualification to start with, you need to reflect on which career and further study opportunities you wish to prepare for.

Qualification	Subjects
Bachelor of Administration	Public administration and Business management (select supply chain modules) or transport management
Bachelor of Business Administration	Two major subjects: Business Management and Transport Management
Bachelor of Commerce	Major 1: Choose one of Business Management, Economics, Financial Accounting Major 2: Transport economics or Logistics
Bachelor of Commerce in Supply Chain and Operations Management	Business Management with a focus on supply chain and operations management
Bachelor of Commerce in Transport and Logistics Management	Transport Management
Bachelor of Commerce in Public Procurement Management	Public Administration and Business Management

Your career research, as discussed in this brochure, will help you make an effective decision in terms of which qualification to start with.

Counselling and career development services at Unisa

The Unisa Directorate for Counselling and Career Development offers career, academic, and personal counselling services to Unisa students and the broader community. You can talk to a counsellor about:

- **Career decisions.** I am not sure which career path to follow; I don't know which qualification would be best; I want to change my career direction...
- **Career information.** How can I find out more about a career in ...
- **Employability.** How do I market myself to employers? How can I look for work? How can I compile an effective CV? How do I go about networking with others? How do I put together my career portfolio? How can I meet potential employers? How can I improve my interview skills?)
- **My studies at Unisa.** How can I get started with my studies? How do I plan my studies? How can I study more effectively? I don't feel motivated to continue with my studies... I feel worried about preparing for/ writing the exams. I failed my exams – what now? I need to improve my reading/ writing/ numeracy skills
- **Personal issues and mental health.** How can I have better relationships with others? How can I cope more effectively with issues that impact my studies?

Contact us

- Send an email to counselling@unisa.ac.za.
- Make an appointment to see a counsellor:
 - [In-person at a Unisa Centre](#)
 - [Online \(on MS Teams\)](#)

Further self-help resources for career, academic and personal development

Our website: www.unisa.ac.za/counselling

Our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/unisacareers