

Overview of Operations and Supply Chain Management

What is Operations and Supply Chain Management?

Operations Management is the functional area of business primarily devoted to the planning, creation, and management of an organization's resources and processes that create products or services. The set of resources includes an organization's work force, equipment, information, distribution system and materials, all of which typically represent a significant portion of an organization's total costs and controllable assets. In both manufacturing and service organizations, the Operations Management function has the responsibility for the evolution of the environment from which the organization's product or service is created. At its core, operations and supply chain management transform inputs into outputs.

Operations Career Opportunities Examples – Operations is everywhere!

- *Services*
 - *Forecasting*
 - *Quality*
 - *Logistics*
- *Production Development*
- *Technology Management*
- *Healthcare*
- *Hospitality*
- *System Design*
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Organizations to Join

- APICS – National Organization
- MBA Operations Club – While undergraduates are not eligible for membership in this club, they are invited to attend guest speaker and other events.

Professional Certifications

- The Association for Operations Management Professionals (APICS) offers several certification options. To learn more, go to <http://www.apics.org/careers-education-professional-development/certification>.

Concentration Requirements and Electives – Students interested in pursuing a concentration and career path in operations and supply chain management are encouraged to begin the MGT 2250, MGT 2251, and MGT 3501 sequence early. MGT 3501, the introduction to operations, is a very broad course. Students who are interested in operations, but are discouraged by MGT 3501 should consider taking MGT 4366 (Service Operations Management) or MGT 4401 (Supply Chain Modeling) before changing concentrations.

- **Group A** – Required to select 4 for operations concentration
- **Group B** – Required to select 2 electives for operations concentration

**Concentration electives are subject to change. Please go to <http://scheller.gatech.edu> for the most update list of electives.

Operations and Supply Chain Management versus Industrial Engineering

- **Operations Managers**– Operations management relates to daily life practices. Needs are shaped by a company, consumer or marketing competition. *(For example, why are people waiting in line at Starbucks? How does Starbucks prepare to handle lines, products and customers? Are they doing better than their competition?) How do these activities in operations provide an edge in profitability and sales growth?* Operations and supply chain professionals are not just focused on technical details, but rather the broader concepts and ‘big picture’ outcomes. Professionals in this field have a broad understanding of the relationship between the different business functional areas and are able to communicate across all areas of business.
- **Industrial Engineering** – Industrial engineers are focused more on technicality of problem solving, i.e., they are the problem solvers of a complex system. They typically focus on the instrumentation.