

Introduction to Capstones

Congratulations on progressing to your final course. You have put forth a lot of effort and sacrifice to get this far. You are almost done. This is your final course in the SCLM major. This capstone course will pull together the concepts and strategies that you have covered in your previous SCLM courses. Hopefully you have saved some of your SCLM projects. Your capstone project will focus on some of those projects.

What is a capstone? Merriam-Webster defines a capstone as a crowning achievement, the highpoint. A Capstone Course is a project, it's often called a Capstone Project and it is different for every degree that requires it. It is basically a class where the ultimate goal is to have a research paper by the end which shows what you have learned during your degree program. Capstone courses are designed to give students the chance to apply the knowledge they have acquired throughout their education to real-world situations, and to encapsulate all the learning objectives of a student's major. Students usually take capstone courses during the final semester of their senior year in college.

The project is to pick a transportation/logistics company and perform a comprehensive analysis. You have already accomplished some of this in previous SCLM courses:

- SCLM 329, Fiscal Management for Supply Chain Management, Assignment 6.1/6.2 (Presentation/Report). The assignment was to write a financial analysis report of the company you have researched in this class that discusses the solvency and profitability of this company in comparison to the industry the company you are analyzing is in.
- SCLM 426, Management and the International Organization, Assignment 6.1. Prepare a formal proposal/presentation for the Board of Directors to expand the scope of your organization – specifically, international diversification. The segment of this proposal encompasses risk management and reviews your outlook for this company in respect to:
 - Evidence of your ability to create, interpret, and apply data analysis used to make business decisions
 - Evidence of your ability to create, interpret, and apply financial ratios
 - Evidence of your ability to create, interpret, and apply critical thinking models
- SCLM 436, Introduction to Supply Chain and Logistics Management, Assignment 6.1/6.2 (Paper/Presentation). You completed a formal project by formulating information pertaining to the following:
 - An aspect of supply chain and logistics that you are interested in and/or
 - How supply chain and logistics are related, yet different and/or
 - Key activities in supply chain and logistics and/or
 - Ethics and social responsibility in supply chain and logistics management
- SCLM 446, Global Logistics and Transportation, Assignment 6.1/6.2 (Paper/Presentation). This term you have been researching how the various

transportation modes compare and contrast with each other specifically relating to economics, cost structure, transportation pricing, governmental actions, legal considerations, and damage prevention (should consider aviation, rail, road, off-road, ship, pipelines, cable, space). Each week you were assigned to research certain areas. Now it is time to assemble your weekly research into a research paper. The last portion of your paper should be an analysis of your research. What did you find out?

- SCLM 466, Supply Chain Management Financial, Economics, Capital, Cash and Legal Considerations, Assignment 6.1 (Paper). This project had you compare and contrast the cost, capital, and cash considerations of the following transportation modes; aviation, rail, road, off-road, ship, pipelines, cable, and space.

The goal is to take your previous work and consolidate it into an organized research paper. This will not be an easy task. Yes, this assignment will take additional research. It will take some time to collect your old projects, familiarize yourself with your projects and proceed with the capstone.

Let's get started. Review the papers you wrote for these previous assignments. The program has changed over the years. You may not have your work from these assignments. If not, you will have to start your research. Pick a transportation/logistics company to perform a comprehensive analysis. Pick a company that interests you, DO NOT use the company you used in previous courses. This could be a company that currently employs you or a company that you would like to work for. Possible companies could be Union Pacific, CSX Corp, Norfolk Southern, Kansas City Southern, Canadian Pacific, Canadian National, Werner Trucking, YRC, JB Hunt, Con-Way, Knight, Land Star System, Heartland Express, Arkansas Best, UPS, Federal Express, Ryder, C.H. Robinson, DHL, Hub Group, Horizon Lines, or any of the airlines companies such as Delta, American Airlines, Southwest, Jet Blue, UAL, or Lufthansa. Pick a Fortune 500 or Fortune 100 company. It is easier to research one of these publicly traded companies. Fortune 500 companies can be found at: <https://fortune.com/global500/2019/search/>

Follow your syllabus instructions once you have located your previous assignments and chosen a company to research.

Best of luck and enjoy this milestone course!



Dr. Rick Pennington, CSCP

SCLM Program Director