



Why Every Supply Chain Professional Needs the APICS CSCP February 17, 2016 Webinar

Thank you to all of our webinar attendees. Below is the list of submitted questions with answers. We are here to support the achievement of your professional designation. If you have additional questions, please contact our staff at pdadmin@apics.org.

Question

As a certified CSCP, can APICS recommend a professional to an American company coming to operate in Nigeria?

Answer

Our partner in South Africa (SAPICS) has held courses in Nigeria. You can find information about them at their website: <http://www.sapics.org/>

Question

I have bought an older version of the CSCP Learning System which has only 4 books. Will that be sufficient to do self-study?

How long is the current CSCP course material/ exam valid?

Would a previous year learning system, still work/be valid towards taking the exam in 2016?

Can I use 2.1 - 2010 version? Is there many changes?

How long is it possible to take the 2015 exam for CSCP outside North America?

I have last year's version of CSCP manuals. Will these manuals be up-to-date until the end of year?

I purchased my CSCP 2015 materials back in March 2015 and would like to know how long I have to write the exam based on the 2015 content. Also if I fail the first time what is the time period to re-take the exam and at what cost?

Can we learn from CSCP 2015 study material and appear for the exam in 2016?

Can I still take the 2015 CSCP exam? I have the 2015 Learning System?

I bought the material two years ago with a friend of mine, DO I need to buy it again?

When is the deadline for taking 2015 CSCP exams?

I have the 2013 version of the LS. Will it still be applicable if I appear for exam this year? Or do you recommend buying new 2016 one?

Answer

in 2014 we did a new job task analysis because of changes in supply chain professions. The CSCP program was extensively updated in 2016. Older versions of the Learning System will no longer be relevant for the current 2016 exam. If you have the 2015 courseware, the exam will be available to you through October 1, 2016, (through the first three exam windows). There is a fee for exam retakes and the information can be found in the bulletins located on the APICS website at: <http://www.apics.org/careers-education-professional-development/certification/bulletins>

**Question**

I noticed that the CSCP Learning System has been updated for 2016. Can the presenter(s) speak to both the volume and nature of the changes to the Learning System over the previous version, and why those changes were made?

How is the 2016 learning system different from the previous version? Just high level difference.

Answer

The 2016 Learning System is the result of a Job Task Analysis (JTA) that we did in 2014. The JTA was a survey of thousands of supply chain professionals around the world who told us what they actually do. Because supply chain management is still a growing and changing field, this data allowed us to update the exam and learning system to keep them in alignment with the profession. There are both new topics and a few topics have been eliminated and other topics emphasis is different now.

Question

Do the books content change every year?

Answer

The Learning System is modified annually. At a minimum, we ensure that the Learning System matches any changes to the Exam Content Manual (ECM) and, most years, those changes are minor. We also update any errors or clarify any material that might require it. We also enhance the online Learning System each year. When the ECM has a major update (every three to five years), then the Learning System will get a major update as well. This happened in the 2016 Learning System.

Question

How can I prove the 3 years of supply chain experience? What evidence do I need to present to you? I worked +10 years in procurement.

Answer

The CSCP eligibility application process is a streamlined process that asks individuals to attest based on the APICS Code of Ethics that they have met the requirements for the program without a need to provide further information. However, if a candidate is selected randomly for audit of their eligibility application, the candidate must provide proof which may include a copy of their resume and job titles held along with applicable employment verification if necessary.

**Question**

Do I need to have prior experience in Supply Chain/ Logistics to be eligible to complete this course?

I'm currently enrolled in a MSU Master Certificate Program and have more than 5 years' experience as an Air Import Supervisor with a Bachelor degree in "Economist in industrial production". Am I eligible to become APICS certified?

What knowledge is required regarding Supply Chain before taking the CSCP?

Answer

To be eligible for the CSCP Certification you must meet one of the following criteria:

- 3 years of related business experience or
- Bachelor's degree or the international equivalent*, or
- CPIM, CFPIM, CIRM, SCOR-P, C.P.M., CSM or CPSM designations

**APICS defines the international equivalent of a Bachelor's degree as the level of study that would qualify an individual for a graduate program in the country where the undergraduate degree was earned.*

Question

What if you majored in Supply Chain Management in College? Will 100 hours still be required for study?

Answer

Probably not, it depends on what your knowledge base really is and how much you're currently are able to apply that knowledge.

Question

Is there a change in the exam in 2016, in terms of time and the number of questions?

Answer

The changes to the 2016 CSCP exam are related to content, not to the amount of time or number of questions. Download the APICS CSCP Exam Bulletin for more details. <http://www.apics.org/careers-education-professional-development/certification/cscp/testing/north-america>

Question

Is there a Fee for 2nd exam if the first is not passed?

Answer

Yes. There is a fee for additional exams. Pricing is located in the bulletins on our website at: <http://www.apics.org/careers-education-professional-development/certification/bulletins>

**Question**

Are there web groups somewhere to help with the studying, or does APICS have a place online where people discuss/study together?

Answer

There are many study groups who gather together to help each of the members as they self-study for the CSCP exam. We've had some study groups internally hear among APICS staff to prepare for the CSCP exam. But we don't offer any special information on those groups, how to organize them and so on, nor do we know where groups are located or meeting, so we can't provide that information either.

There is also the APICS Supply Chain Channel located at the following online link. This is where students and instructors visit for online collaboration. <http://www.supplychainchannel.org/home?PersonID=DFqWxyefvKA%3d>

Question

How much does it cost for the membership? How long does it last?

How much is membership?

What is the cost for an individual membership?

Answer

Membership pricing varies depending on the type of membership you choose. Please visit the APICS website at: <http://www.apics.org/community/membership> for membership pricing. APICS membership is an annual fee.

Question

You mentioned that CSCP is a master of CPIM, I do not have a CPIM certification. Do you see any problem for me going directly to CSCP?

Answer

It depends on your area of focus and where you are in your organization. If you are more of a practitioner, the CPIM certification is better for you. However, you do not need a CPIM to be successful in studying for and passing the CSCP exam.

Question

What is your experience with salary increases for employees who obtain CSCP certification?

What do you think is the average salary of a professional with a graduate degree + 3 years of experience + CSCP?

Answer

APICS reviews individuals who have APICS certifications vs non certified individuals on a quarterly basis. The research has shown that the salary differences vary from 9% to 14% or sometimes higher depending on the group that we are surveying and the companies that they work for.



Question

How does having a CSCP affect your need to continue your secular education? I currently don't have a degree but have spent 15+ years in Materials Planning. Will CSCP still benefit me in my career without a Bachelor's degree?

Answer

Absolutely. We would never discourage a supply chain professional for obtaining formal education, a Bachelor's or Master's degree, for example. However, many of our certified members have found that the CSCP opened doors for them that having a university degree might not have opened. One of the presenters was a practitioner for many years and then went into ERP consulting. This presenter had a Bachelor's in General Studies with a Philosophy minor (the first type of a degree employers are looking for – right? Definitely not!) However, this person had a CFPIM when starting in consulting and earned the CSCP as soon as it came out. In this person's case, whenever his resume was presented to clients, along with other similar resumes of qualified consultants who did not have the certifications, the client invariably said, "Send the one with the APICS Certifications." They never once asked about the degree.

Question

I work as an IT consultant working on ERP implementations. Do clients value IT consultants with APICS Certifications?

Answer

Absolutely. Over the years, ERP systems have incorporated the APICS Body of Knowledge into their systems, from forecasting to planning at all levels, including advanced planning and inventory management. An IT professional who understand how and why the ERP system works and the business processes the ERP supports is invaluable to the clients for whom they work or consult.

Question

Are certifications taught as on-line classroom, in specific locations, or purely on-line? Other?

Where can I learn more about the various learning options mentioned earlier? Either self-directed, classroom training, or corporate/group learning and which may be best for me?

Can you do a combination of study? Can you study both online, but also in the classroom? For example is there networking options available for meeting with other students

Is testing at the local chapters for both CPIM and CSCP or is there an online option?

Answer

There are several self-study and instructor-led options for preparing for the CSCP exam. You can find all of the options in our education selector located on the APICS website at <http://www.apics.org/education-selector>

There is also the APICS Supply Chain Channel located at the following online link. This is where students and instructors visit for online collaboration. <http://www.supplychainchannel.org/home?PersonID=DFqWxyefvKA%3d>



Question

Can a GI Bill be used?

Answer

APICS CSCP online classes offered through Fox Valley Technical College offer special benefits for United States Veterans. Visit their website for additional information on the APICS CSCP online program and Veteran information. <http://www.fvtc.edu/training-services/business-industry-services/apics-supply-chain/apics-cscp-online-classes>

Question

How can we get information related to Colleges or Universities that have the CSCP courseware for F2F sessions?

Answer

APICS CSCP online classes are offered through Fox Valley Technical College. Visit: <http://www.fvtc.edu/training-services/business-industry-services/apics-supply-chain/apics-cscp-online-classes> for more information.

Question

Do you have discounts for students who want to obtain the CSCP certification? Or the CPIM certification?

Will there ever be a reduced rate for college students in a SCM degree program? Many students nearing graduation cannot afford the price.

Answer

APICS offers scholarship's and special programs for students. Please visit our website at: <http://www.apics.org/about/scholarships-specialprograms> for additional information.

Question

I believe the recertification period of 5 years is too short, is it not possible to consider 8 years for re-certification?

Why is maintenance required?

Answer

The Certification Committee is actually discussing the length of Certification Maintenance, but we have no idea yet if there are any changes planned. However, think about how quickly the technology and techniques of Supply Chain have been changing the last ten years – that is why we've done two Job Task Analysis (JTA) since the beginning of the CSCP Program ten years ago. A JTA is a survey to thousands of SC Professionals around the world asking them about the tasks they perform, the importance and frequency of those task, in order to inform our exam and courseware and keep it current with what Supply Chain professionals are actually doing.

Many reputable Certifications (CPA, almost all medical certifications, ISM's CSMP) have certification maintenance requirements, Maintenance keeps the Supply Chain professional up-to-date in their field, and is fairly easy to achieve – see the next question and answer.



Question

After obtaining my CSCP, what is the requirement(s) for maintenance after 5 years?

What will happen after the five years period? Does the certification get expired?

Answer

The CSCP certification is suspended after 5 years and may not be referenced as a valid credential for the candidate. The maintenance requirements are located on the APICS website at: <http://www.apics.org/careers-education-professional-development/certification/maintenance>

Question

If you have a CPIM and CSCP certification, how do you choose which program to apply the maintenance points to, or does one event serve as maintenance points for both certifications?

Answer

Many of the activities that provide points toward CPIM and CSCP Certification Maintenance are the same and can be applied to both programs, if you have both certifications.

Question

How do these certifications help those professionals with masters in SCM? What would you say is the biggest difference between the academic degree & certifications?

Answer

A Masters of SCM is a great accomplishment and certainly will help in getting the jobs you are looking for. Our experience - many of our CSCP certification holders have advanced degrees - is that having the CSCP helps them stick out from the crowd, and assures the employer that you've validated a working knowledge of the end-to-end supply chain that the Master's degree may or may not have provided you.

Question

I live in Canada temporarily on a worker's permit. Can I take the exam? Because when I called the Supply Chain Association I was told I have to be a citizen or permanent resident in order to take their exam. Is it the same for APICS CSCP?

Answer

You can take the exam anywhere in the world where there is a Pearson VUE testing center, and there are many in Canada. You need to meet the APICS eligibility and you're ID must match your registration information when you go to sit for the exam, but there are no other requirement. The APICS CSCP (and CPIM) have been accredited by the Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council, and APICS has many chapters in Canada.

Question

Is the courseware the same when the course is taken with a partner, like Fox Valley Tech?

Answer

Yes, it is. Fox Valley and our partner classes offer a lot of instructor support in addition to the Learning System.



Question

Do I need experience in supply chain management to pass the exam for CSCP?

Answer

Experience certainly helps, however, experience is only one of the criteria that can make you eligible to take the exam. Having a college degree (Bachelor's or higher), or one of several other certifications can also make you eligible. By the way, applying for eligibility is free and can be done here: <http://www.apics.org/careers-education-professional-development/certification/cscp/eligibility-application>

If you don't have much supply chain management experience, then we'd recommend that you take a class or study with others who do. You will find other's "war stories" helpful as you prepare for the CSCP. All APICS certification exams ask "application" questions – can you apply what you've learned. May study on their own, but getting some experienced help is always a good idea.

Question

I'm a commercial real estate broker. Most of my clients are logistic companies, and I help with site selection. I assume the certification would be help me understand my clients and add credibility. Would you agree?

Answer

Although the CSCP would be helpful, if your goal is to better understand your logistics company clients, we might suggest that you wait for our Certification in Logistics, Transportation and Distribution (CLTD) which is coming later this year. It will give you better insight into your clients that CSCP will. The Learning System for CLTD will be available in July this year and the first exams will be offered in October. Stay tuned!

Question

I am a Forecast Analyst focused on improving our S&OP process. I was thinking of doing the CSCP, but if I wanted to do both CSCP and CPIM, should I do the CPIM first?

Do you recommend the CPIM before the CSCP or the other way around?

I am presently studying CSCP, is it valuable to study CPIM after I first became a CSCP?

Is it necessary to get the CPIM certification before getting the CSCP?

If the CSCP certification is obtained, is there a need for the CPIM certification?

I am early in my career so would CSCP or CPIM be more beneficial?

Answer

You don't need to take one before the other, but there is a benefit to taking the CPIM Basics in Supply Chain Management. It gives you enough overview to help you with your CSCP certification.



Question

Which certification is best for someone in procurement / purchasing?

What benefits can the CSCP bring to people who are in the purchasing role / area?

Answer

Many procurement professionals start with the CPIM, it is especially helpful in understanding material planning at all levels and material management, a part of procurement that professionals are required to understand, and probably, to execute.

Question

My online access expires beginning of March, can I extend this?

Answer

The one year is firm, except for one condition. If you schedule an exam and call the 800 number that is in the learning system and tell the customer service rep that you have registered for the exam, we will extend your online access until your exam date.

Question

Can you please share the list of your partners offering classes?

Will the website show where the classes will be? (Instructor-led classes)

Answer

The APICS list of partners and chapters offering classes and the locations is on the APICS website at: <http://www.apics.org/community/partners/finder>

Question

How much does it cost to take the exam?

Answer

Exam pricing and information is located on the APICS website at: <http://www.apics.org/careers-education-professional-development/certification/cscp/testing>

Question

How can I register for the exams?

Answer

Instructions for purchasing your authorization to test and scheduling your exam are located at: [http://www.apics.org/apics-certification-exam-authorization-to-test-form/computer-based-testing-\(cbt\)](http://www.apics.org/apics-certification-exam-authorization-to-test-form/computer-based-testing-(cbt))

Question

Are there exam centers in Jamaica?

Answer

Yes, there are 4 test centers in Jamaica.

**Question**

What is the difference between the CSCP Certification and the CLTD Certification (Logistics)?

Answer

CSCP covers the end-to-end supply chain – from your customer’s customer back through your supplier’s supplier and everything in between (including a little bit on logistics). If you need to understand how supply chains are built and maintained, if you need to understand how all the pieces fit together and work at a high level, then CSCP is the way to go.

CLTD goes into depth on the logistics piece inside supply chain. What happens when materials move from your supplier to your company? What happens when materials move from your company to the customer? What are the steps and who are the “players” in this part of the supply chain? How do you manage inventory differently in distribution than you do in manufacturing? It will be a deep dive into Logistics, Transportation and Distribution.

Question

Please suggest any books that cover the material for CSCP.

Answer

The CSCP Exam Content Manual lists a number of text books recommended by the CSCP Exam Committee as having information relevant to the topics in the Exam Content Outline (the body of knowledge covered by the exam).

However, APICS has made it easier for CSCP candidates by collating all of the necessary information into our CWSC Learning System, which includes both print materials and online materials. The print materials are designed to be a complete reference to the body of knowledge covered by the exam and used those textbooks, and others, to explain all the topics and concepts that you might be tested on. The online materials offer about a thousand knowledge questions (did you understand what you read?), flashcards, a mock final exam (using retired CSCP exam questions), a video on how to answer APICS-type exam questions and other study helps. It really designed to be a complete system and we highly recommend it.

Question

Is the learning and exam only in English? Spanish?

Answer

The CSCP Learning System and the exam are only in English. However, in classes where Spanish is the native language, the class is taught in Spanish.

Question

What is the retake & rescheduling policy?

Answer

Fees for exam retakes and the scheduling policy can be found in the bulletins located on the APICS website at: <http://www.apics.org/careers-education-professional-development/certification/bulletins>

**Question**

Why does the industry give more weight to a Certification than an MBA?

Answer

Although many MBA and other Master programs are similar to each other, the body of knowledge offered within them is not standardized across institutions.

APICS Certifications are a high-stakes evaluation against a predetermined set of industry standards for knowledge, skills, or competencies and independent of a class, course, or training provider (e.g., University). These standards are developed through psychometrically validated and legally defensible process by an independent third party (in this case, APICS). The exams are proctored and maintenance is required.

APICS' Certifications are also focused on applying the body of knowledge rather than knowing the body of knowledge, and this is what corporations are looking for.

Question

Who is your official partner in Argentina? Do you offer the choice to take the exam in Spanish?

Answer

We have partners in Argentina. You can find them in our partner and event finder on the APICS website at: <http://www.apics.org/community/partners/finder>. The exams are administered in English only.

Question

Why are there testing windows for the CSCP and not available all the time like the CPIM?

Answer

When CSCP was first introduced, the exam was delivered on 3 paper & pencil dates per year. As we moved to computer-based testing, we wanted to manage the level of change created in the marketplace so we created longer test windows around the paper and pencil dates. As we receive market feedback, we have begun to add more testing weeks to our 2016 windows schedule to give candidates more testing options and flexibility.

Question

Is there also a discount for the CPIM study materials if we are looking to purchase that?

Answer

Not at this time. But we will offer similar webinars for CPIM later this spring and there may be an offer then.

Question

How long does it take for the APICS Learning materials to be delivered to India?

Answer

Average ship time to India is 1 week. Please note: there may be additional time required for the materials to pass through customs upon arriving in India.



Question

What is the pass rate for individuals taking the exam along with any breakdown between those who self-study vs. learning system, etc?

Is there a high success rate with self-study testers?

Answer

We do not provide pass rate information based on method of study. Information about exam pass rates can be located on the APICS website at the following URL: <http://www.apics.org/careers-education-professional-development/certification/pass-rate-report/exam-pass-rate-report>

Question

In regards to the slide being discussed, 100-hours study time investment - What are the hours estimated in it? Per week?

Answer

It depends on whether you are self-studying or taking a class, how fast you read, how much you comprehend of what you read and your motivation. Most people take four to six months to prepare (which includes the online quizzes and exam, not just reading), so you could divide that 100 hours into four months (c.17 weeks).

Also, there is a tool in the online Learning System which will help you develop your own best study plan based on what you need to do to prepare and how much time you have before you want to take the exam.

Question

Where do I see a record of attending webinars like this for CE credit?

Answer

There are many qualifying activities. You can find the list on the [maintenance page](#) located on the APICS website.

Question

Is it possible to take an exam in any country?

Answer

APICS delivers exams in 92 countries. For information about exam delivery in a particular country, please visit the [Pearson VUE website](#) for more information.

Question

How is the acceptance of the CSCP certification in Latin America, specifically in Brazil?

Answer

We see the greatest acceptance of APICS CSCP in North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East. Yet presently, over 100 individuals have earned the APICS CSCP designation in Brazil. With almost 250 APICS CSCP Learning Systems distributed to Brazil, that number will continue to rise over the coming months and years. Additionally, there are currently 12 official APICS channel partners offering APICS courses in Latin America, and 7 partners in Brazil alone.