How to prepare for the APICS CSCP exam

PART 2 of a 3-part CSCP series
Tuesday, March 1, 2016

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Senior Director, Professional Development

Kori Heinen, MS,PMP
Director, Product Development
Our presenters

Bob Collins, CFPIM, CIRM, CSCP
Senior Director, Professional Development
- 25 years as a Supply Chain professional (Practitioner and Consultant)
- Former APICS volunteer, instructor and BOD Chair
- 8 years on staff, responsible for courseware and instructor development

Kori Heinen, MS, PMP
Director, Product Development
- 20 years of training and development, product management
- Masters Degree in Human Resource Development and Instructional Design
- 6 years working as product manager for the APICS CSCP Learning System
What we’ll cover today

- About APICS and APICS certification
- What to look for in review materials
- APICS CSCP preparation resources
- Delivery methods
- Steps to successful exam preparation
APICS - Leading the industry

APICS is the leading professional associations for supply chain and operations management and the premier provider of research, education and certification programs that elevate supply chain excellence, innovation and resilience.

APICS Products and Services

- Membership
- Research and Publications
- Education
- Certification
## 2014 Ranking of association certifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association/Certification</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>Weighted Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APICS (CPIM/CSCP)</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply Chain Council (SCOR Professional)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISM (CPSM/CSM/CPSD)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Manager Professional (PMI)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSCMP (SCPro)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SCM World’s 2014 ranking of Supply Chain Associations Certification based on participant’s ranking of top 3 associations
APICS At-a-Glance

Membership

- 46,000+ members
- 100+ countries

Channel Partners

- 195 North American chapters
- 103 international channel partners
- 47 countries, 5 continents

About APICS

- Professional association
- $27.6 MM annual revenue in 2015
- 2,000+ active volunteers
- 90+ staff
- Headquartered in Chicago
- Founded in 1957

Certifications

- Certified in Production and Inventory Management – CPIM
- Certified Supply Chain Professional - CSCP
Where is your focus?

Inside the four walls of your company?
- Product Forecasting
- Master Scheduling
- MRP
- Scheduling Operations
- Cycle Counting
- Inventory movement
- Receiving
- Capacity Planning

Outside the four walls of your company?
- Supply Chain Design
- Supplier Management
- 3PL, 4PL
- Transportation
- Customs
- Distribution channels
- Customer Management
Supply chain outlook

- Supply chain is seen as a **strategic asset**. The post-recession global marketplace recognizes supply chain management as a **key driver** of business success and viability.
- Supply chain management is a well-established role in **industries beyond manufacturing**, including retail, health care and technology.
- Supply chain and operations management jobs are **in demand**.
- **200,000** U.S. supply chain jobs will go unfilled annually until 2018 for lack of qualified talent.*

*Georgia Center of Innovation for Logistics, June 28, 2013*
What to look for in review materials

- Complete and up-to-date content
- Effective learning approach
- Study method that suits your learning style
- Practice questions as reinforcement of concepts
- Opportunities to test your knowledge
- Convenience and flexibility
- Value
APICS CSCP preparation resources

- APICS CSCP Exam Content Manual (ECM)
- APICS CSCP Exam Procedures Bulletin
- APICS Dictionary 14th edition
- Learn It App
The APICS CSCP Learning System

Print Modules

- Three modules with approximately 1,100 pages reflect the most current APICS CSCP body of knowledge:
  - Fundamentals of Supply Chain Management
  - Supply Chain Strategy, Design and Compliance
  - Implementation and Operations

Web-based study tools

- Access educational activities to support printed module content:
  - Pre-test and post-test
  - SmartStudy tool
  - Module and section-specific quizzes
  - Progress reports
  - Practice exam, using retired CSCP exam questions, emulates the actual exam format
  - Glossary and eFlashcards
  - Resource center
  - Mobile access to study tools and resources
APICS CSCP courseware

- 90% of users recommend the Learning System for CSCP exam preparation!
- Organizes 150 references into one, comprehensive source (20 from ECM)
- One year of online access
- Complimentary copy of the APICS CSCP Exam Content Manual
- NOTE: the Learning System is updated annually to match to the current ECM – Be sure you’re using the most current edition!
Steps to success

1. Plan your Studies
2. Study the Materials
3. Reinforce the Concepts
4. Practice for your Exam
Begin with the end in mind

Submit your eligibility application and plan towards a specific exam date

CSCP approved candidates must meet ONE of the following qualifications:

- 3 years of related experience
- Bachelor’s degree or international equivalent
- Hold an active CPIM, CFPIM, CIRM, SCOR-P, CPM, CSM or CPSM

### 2016 Testing Exam Windows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North America</th>
<th>Outside North America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 19 – May 7*</td>
<td>19 March – 7 May*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 9 – August 27*</td>
<td>4 June – 16 July*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 3 – October 15*</td>
<td>13 August – 1 October*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 29 – December 17</td>
<td>29 October – 17 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit [apics.org\cscp](http://apics.org\cscp) to learn more.

* Candidates who have studied with the 2015 courseware, the 2015 exam will be available to schedule in the first three windows.
Step 1: Create a study plan

How much time will you need to study?

- 100-hour study time investment
  - 56 percent of successful APICS CSCP candidates surveyed said they studied 75 or more hours
- 70 percent of candidates take the exam one to three months after completing studies, with 51 percent taking the exam one month after
- Work back from exam date to create a plan
- Start early
- Learn in segments
- Once you’ve created your plan, stick to it!
Step 1: Create a study plan

SmartStudy Tool

- Assess your areas of strength and weakness by completing the online pre-test
- Use your results to create a comprehensive, step-by-step plan that focuses on areas that need the most attention
- The tool includes the estimated time to complete a section so you can stay on track, gauge your progress and make adjustments as needed
Step 2: Study the reading materials

There is no substitute for reading the printed modules.
Step 3: Reinforce the concepts

- Section and module quick quizzes
- Learning activities
- eFlashcards
- Online glossary
Step 3: Reinforce the concepts
Step 3: Reinforce the concepts

Sample module quick quiz question

Which of the following forms the basis for a naive demand forecast?

- Intuition
- Data from the last demand period
- Data from the average of the last several demand periods
- Analogy

Submit

Rationale:
Naive forecasting assumes that demand in the next period will equal demand in the last period. It is a form of quantitative forecasting but lacks any analysis.

For more information, refer to Module 2, Section A, Chapter 1, Topic 2

Which of the following forms the basis for a naïve demand forecast?

- Intuition
- Data from the last demand period
- Data from the average of the last several demand periods
- Analogy

Next question

Rationale:
Moving averages are intended to smooth out random variations, but they don’t react quickly enough to account for cycles and trends.

For more information, refer to Module 2, Section A, Chapter 1, Topic 2

Moving average forecasts are generally superior to naïve forecasts in correcting for which of the following sources of variability?

- Cyclical movements correlated to economic indicators
- Short- to medium-term trends related to the seasons of the year
- Very short-term fluctuations in demand attributable to no known cause
- Long-term trends

Submit

Rationale:
Moving average forecasts are generally superior to naïve forecasts in correcting for which of the following sources of variability?

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Submit

Next question
Step 3: Reinforce the concepts

eFlashcards and glossary
Step 3: Reinforce the concepts

Use the reports!
Step 4: Test your knowledge
Delivery methods

The APICS CSCP Learning System offers various learning options to meet your schedule and study preferences:

- Independent
- Instructor-facilitated, online or in the classroom
- Corporate or group learning
Self-directed

- Gives you the freedom to access the course anytime, anywhere, enabling you to learn in your own style at your own pace.

Why choose self-directed?
- Have very busy and/or unpredictable schedules and therefore need a flexible study option
- Prefer to study on your own, at your own pace
- Have the commitment and drive to stay on track with your studies
- Do not have access to APICS CSCP Learning System instructor-led classes

What are the benefits?
- Study at your own pace and access the program anytime
- Eliminate or minimize expenses and time traveling to training course
- Develop an individualized study plan - focus on the topics that you need to cover
Instructor-facilitated

Combine the APICS CSCP Learning System with the expertise of an instructor and the discipline, structure and interaction of a classroom setting.

- Offered by APICS partners worldwide
- Private courses may be offered at your location
- Choose from live, in-person, or online course formats
- Find a course near you: learnscp.com/classes-offered
- Online course to study from anywhere in the world
  - Fox Valley Technical College, visit learnscp.com/classes-offered. Now reimbursable through the GI Bill for qualified veterans
  - Earn your CSCP this summer – register for an April course to prepare and test in the July-August CSCP exam window.
Why choose instructor-facilitated?

- Want the one-on-one attention and intensity of an instructor-led APICS CSCP course
- Prefer to learn in a structured classroom setting
- Enjoy peer discussion and live instruction from a qualified instructor

What are the benefits?

- Convenient hours and locations - offered after work or on weekends near your work or home
- Tuition reimbursement programs at your company may cover the course fee
- Learn from instructors and colleagues who have a variety of industry experiences to share
- Classroom expectations and assignments provide a framework for learning the materials in a set time frame
- The classroom setting provides a forum to discuss difficult topics
Corporate/group learning

Why choose corporate/group learning?

- Establish a common supply chain platform of understanding, vocabulary, processes and frameworks to address your team’s supply chain-related challenges and opportunities
- Train multiple employees, regardless of geographic location
- Maximize training budget through volume purchasing
- Turn-key program that can be implemented through on-site instructor-led, self-directed learning or through formal/informal study groups

What are the benefits?

- Convenient delivery options depending on your group’s size and training goals
- Save money with discounted volume purchasing, controlled employee travel expenses and minimal time away from work
- Detailed web-based group reporting to track individual and group progress and document results
- Groups of coworkers can save money by purchasing together
Study tips

- Choose the right study method for your learning style
- Set your exam date to avoid procrastination
- Set a study plan, enter it into your calendar, and commit to it
- Know your strengths and weaknesses
- Study the Exam Content Manual
- Determine your “knowledge gaps” and use the Smart Study Tool to spend extra study time in these areas.
- Understand how to apply concepts; go beyond memorization
- Be prepared for the testing center and the test format

Attend the next webinar, March 15th
  - Taking the APICS CSCP Exam with Confidence
Additional study resources

- **APICS test-taking tips**

- Techniques for **taking APICS exams video**

- **Learn It App**. Available free through the Apple App Store for iPhone and Google Play for Android.
Additional APICS resources

- Take the free CSCP demo
  learncscp.com/free-demo
- Find an instructor-facilitated course
  learncscp.com/classes-offered, apics.org/community/partners/finder
- CSCP certification program
  apics.org/cscp
- APICS Supply Chain Channel
  apics.org/community/apics-supply-chain-channel
- Contact APICS
  apics.org
Special offer for webinar attendees

- **Special webinar offer: Save $50 USD!**
  - Order an individual APICS CSCP Learning System between March 1 and March 14, 2016, and provide discount code CSCP31 upon checkout to save!
  - Regular pricing for the CSCP Learning System:
    - Member US$995 USD ($945 with savings)
    - Nonmember US$1,340 USD ($1,290 with savings)

- **How to order:**
  - learnSCP.com/CSCP31
  - Call 888-266-9079 (toll-free within U.S.) or +1-651-905-2664 (outside U.S.) Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. CT, UTC/GMT-6
Questions and answers

- Please submit your questions via the chat box on the right hand portion of your webinar screen.
- A copy of the webinar recording and materials will be forwarded after this webinar.
2016 three-part CSCP webinar series

Part 1: February 17, 2016
Why Every Supply Chain Professional Needs the APICS CSCP Certification

View the Webinar

View the PowerPoint Presentation

Part 3:
Taking the APICS CSCP Exam with Confidence

Date: Tuesday March 15, 2016
Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM CST

Presenters:

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APICS Senior Director, Professional

Liezl Smith, CPIM, CIRM, ACPF, CDDP
Director & Owner, Businessix Business Consultants

Register today at apics.org/cscp-webinars-2016 or learncscp.com