



Supporting a Successful Project

Overview

The Center for Supply Chain Research (CSCR) provides the center's corporate supporters an opportunity to collaborate with our top supply chain and management information systems students through research projects.

Project Assignment

Hui Zhao and Susan Purdum, CSCR Co-Directors of Research, will vet all submitted projects for their potential impact to supply chain knowledge and the technical ability for them to be completed within an academic semester or academic year. Please be as specific as you can about the details of your project in your submission.

Acceptable Projects



Best-In-Class Practices

The methodology focuses on research already publicly available and the student will synthesize the existing literature on the subject area.



Company Specific-Data Intensive

This type of research project is focused on a specific problem experienced by a company and requires the company to provide data to the student for analysis.



Company Specific-Process Intensive

This type of project is focused on a specific problem experienced by a company but is process, not data, specific.



Company Specific-Data and Process Intensive

This type of project requires an in-depth analysis by the student since it incorporates both data and process aspects.



Current Topics

These projects cover all remaining types of projects that might be submitted. These projects can involve publicly available data or best practices.

Items to Note

- +** If your firm requires a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), for this research, please note that Penn State University will not accept a company NDA or modifications to their student project NDA. [You may preview the NDA template here.](#) If you have questions regarding Penn State's NDA or getting one prepared, please email [Meghan McMullen.](#)
- +** If your project is recommended as a Schreyer Honors thesis, the research will be made publicly available by Penn State. However, if confidentiality is an issue, the student can request that a two-year hold be put on the thesis so it will not be available to the public for that two-year term. Any research project that is not a Schreyer thesis will not be made publicly available and will remain the property of the submitting company.

Management Best Practices

Our goal is to assign the best students to your projects so they can meet your expectations and the process can help enrich their educational experience. Below are some best practices we have used with companies that will lead to the successful completion of your research project.

1. When submitting a project, be sure to include the name and contact number of the subject matter expert (SME) within your company who will be working with the student to provide guidance.
 - Please expect your SME to be allocating 2-3 hours per week to work directly with the student or student team during the semester.
2. In your submission, indicate the form of the desired deliverable — either as a written report or a PowerPoint presentation to management.
3. When submitting your project, please indicate whether or not an NDA will be required. We will prepare the Penn State NDA for you.
 - If you required an NDA, please plan to expedite that process so that projects can start on time.
4. Once your project has been accepted and assigned to the student or student team, we will set a conference call between CSCR staff, faculty, the student(s), and your SME to clarify the scope of the project and desired deliverables.

Student Groups

Students will be accepted for research projects from the following groups:

Schreyer Honors
Students in the
Smeal College of
Business*

Sapphire Honors
Students in the
Smeal College of
Business

Sigma Chi Mu Tau
Members (Supply
Chain National
Honors Society)

Supply Chain and
Management
Information Systems
Juniors and Seniors

Groundwork for Success



Project timelines are typically the full semester in length, approximately 15 weeks total, except for honors thesis which last a full academic year.



All student research projects are done for credit on the students' transcript and for a formal letter grade. All student projects are fully advised by full-time faculty members from the Smeal College of Business.



While most of our projects are accepted from the CSCR community of practice with no associated fee, we will accept a limited number of project submission from non-supporters. However, non-supporter projects will be requested to provide gift funds in the amount of \$2,900 per project to cover administrative and overhead expenses.

*Honors thesis projects typically last a full academic year (9 months)