

SCM 7397 Supply Chain Corporate Projects
Section 25356 Wednesday 6:00 – 9:00 pm Spring 2018

Gordon D. Smith, Ph.D.

The Supply Chain Management Corporate Projects is a capstone practicum course offered by the DISC SCM program at Bauer College. The course is required of all MS SCM candidates and is an available elective towards the SCM Certificate for MBA candidates. The course provides the opportunity for students to gain applied corporate project experience while providing a valuable service to the business community. Students work in teams on significant business projects under the guidance of Bauer faculty who have considerable professional experience. Student project groups (three to five person teams) will dedicate up to 500 person-hours in total to a specific business project.

The course is designed to meet the needs of the majority of students who work in existing organizations, where issues such as changes in strategy, changes in organization, process improvement, feasibility studies, quality certification, and many other kinds of challenges routinely arise and may require internal consulting skills. Student teams will define project goals, deliverables, timelines and processes with input from clients and faculty supervisors. Students will develop team building and leadership skills as well as the ability to deliver oral and written management reports. NOTE: the application process is competitive. Enrollment is not guaranteed. Students must apply and interview with Dr. Smith for positions.

MBA candidates: To apply and to be considered for an interview send a letter of introduction including qualifications and resume to gsmith@Bauer.UH.edu . This information will be used to get a sense of the student's background and determine best fit for the available projects.

MS-SCM candidates: Please send a copy of current resume to gsmith@Bauer.uh.edu.

For questions please contact Dr. Smith directly at gsmith@Bauer.UH.edu

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Professor: Gordon D. Smith, Ph.D.

Class Schedule: 6:00 to 9:00 PM Wednesday

Class Room: tbd

Office Hours: MH 260-A Wednesday 4:00 until 6:00pm, or by appointment

Office Phone: 1.713.743.0402 **Mobile:** 1.832.477.4393 **Email:** gsmith@bauer.uh.edu

I. Course Description

The Supply Chain Corporate Projects (formerly Supply Chain Management Consulting Lab) is a capstone practicum course offered by the DISC SCM program at Bauer College. The course provides the opportunity for MBA, MS SCM and other professional-program students to gain applied corporate project experience while providing a valuable service to the business community. Students work in teams on significant business projects under the guidance of Bauer faculty who bring considerable professional experience. Student project groups will dedicate up to 500 person-hours (approximately 150 hours per student) in total to a specific business project.

What to Expect

You are enrolled in a course that is probably unlike any you have experienced. Your responsibility for the semester will be to satisfy the business needs of a client—after our initial class sessions your work will be mostly with the client and driven by the client’s project schedule and needs. You will be working ‘for them’, often at their location, on a problem/problems that are very real to them and for which they seek a real and useful solution. You are expected to actually solve their problem, not tell your professor about a possible solution. Students take the lead in these projects - faculty (myself and/or subject matter mentors) are responsible for providing tools for the course and organizing the teams and clients; after that, faculty have minimal interaction with clients, until the final team project presentation. I, as the supervising faculty, will attend all initial introduction meetings, appropriate interim progress meetings and all final team presentations.

Do not be misled by the lack of formal classroom structure. Even though there are only a few formal class sessions, expect to put in many hours of effort. There may well be times when you will wish for a more traditional lecture-type course that has more structure—there are no regular exams; clients may cancel or change meetings with your team and disrupt your schedule; client needs may not be well defined, especially at the beginning of the project; and more. Your clients will contribute significantly to the evaluation of the project for your grade; and, unlike many professors, they feel no obligation to be nice or to reward you for the “old college try.” They are expected by their superiors to deliver results, and they will expect no less from you.