Explore Operations

The principal function of any organization is the efficient creation and delivery of products and services to its customers (operations). The operations management track focuses on this creative process and identifies how organizations use productivity, quality, flexibility, timeliness, and technology to compete and prevail in their markets. Students graduating from the operations management track will have a broad understanding of the importance of operations in the success of any organization, and will be qualified to serve in entry-level line management positions and as general managers later in their careers.

Management students who are planning careers in business, government, or non-profits and wish to earn their undergraduate degree in operations are strongly encouraged to take substantial course work outside of the required courses, such as information systems and CESP.

Learn more about the academic requirements for this area of emphasis please visit the Leeds Operations Management Track website.

Description of the Field

After completing the Operations Management track, students find opportunities as production managers, quality assurance managers, logistics managers, purchasing analysts, consultants, sales representatives, management trainees, project managers and many other interesting and rewarding careers.

Top Hiring Industries

Many industries hire employees with operations management backgrounds including:

- Aerospace
- Construction
- Consumer Products
- Electronics
- Energy
- Entertainment
- Financial Services
- Food and Beverage
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Media
- Real Estate
- Recreation
- Technology

Top Hiring Companies

- Agility Solutions
- Dish Network
- Copper Mountain
- E&J Gallo Winery
- Exxel Outdoors
- Goldman Sachs
- Leprino Foods
- Mansfield Oil
- Medtronic
- PepsiCo
- Staples
- Vail Resorts
- WhiteWave Foods
Emphasis Guide: Operations Management

Prepare for Your Internship or Job Search

Online Resources:
- Resume Template for Operations Students
- Resume Examples for Operations Students
- How to Write a Cover Letter
- Cover Letter Examples for Operations Students
- Leeds Association for Information Systems
- Learn about the Supply Chain Management MS Program at Leeds

Recruiting Schedule:
While some companies will recruit and hire operations students as early as fall semester senior year, the majority of companies focus on hiring in the spring semester of senior year. Internships during the summer before senior year or during senior year can potentially turn into full-time offers.

Organizations to Join

Professional:
- American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS) (includes the industry standard best practice model SCOR)
- Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP)
- Institute of Supply Management (ISM)
- Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS)

On-Campus:
- Leeds Association for Information Systems (LAIS)
- Attend Career Fairs
- Talk with your faculty about career goals
- Attend all info sessions/tabling events with recruiters
- Meet with your academic and career advisors to make sure you are on track

In this highly technological market, the most competitive Operations Management students will possess strong technical skills, as proficiency with analytical and quantitative science and tools. This includes proficiency in data manipulation and analytic tools including R, SQL, and visualization tools such as Tableau. The combination of operation strategy, quantitative analytics in operations productivity and practices, paired with analytic and strong communications skills equips the operations student well for the future. These students should strongly consider a dual emphasis with Information Management.