

Office of the Provost
University of Louisville

Interim Provost Cardarelli,

I am writing to express the College of Business's strong support for the launch of a new undergraduate major in Global Supply Chain Management. This program represents a timely and strategically significant addition to the university's academic offerings and responds directly to increasing regional and national demand for supply chain professionals.

Currently, the College of Business does not offer an undergraduate major in Supply Chain Management or any related business function. As recent supply disruptions - including the pandemic and shifts in global trade policy - have underscored the critical role that supply chain, logistics and procurement functions play in the success of organizations across nearly every industry, the absence of such a program creates a clear gap in our undergraduate portfolio. Adding this major will position the College to better serve both our students and the business community.

Rationale for the Major

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, projects roles for core supply chain professionals to grow by 19% over the next ten years (compared to 4% for all occupations) with a median annual salary of \$80,880 as of May 2024 (vs. \$49,500 for all occupations).

Regionally, supply chain leaders (and future advisory board members) from UPS, LG&E, Brown Forman, GE Appliances and more have consistently signaled a need for talent educated in supply chain fundamentals, operations data analysis and vendor relations. The Executive Director of UofL's Kentucky Manufacturing Extension Partnership estimates that 25% of Kentucky's 4000 small and mid-sized manufacturers have open roles for new supply chain professionals each year.

Further, the Presidents of the Community and Technical College programs in both Jefferson County and Elizabethtown have expressed support for UofL to offer a 4-year degree that can serve as a continuation of their students' 2-year study of Supply Chain Management.

Beyond meeting employer demand, a program in Global Supply Chain Management presents a compelling value proposition to prospective students, with clear career pathways, high earnings potential and alignment with technological trends including the use of AI in optimizing an organization's operations. As such, we anticipate this major will attract incremental undergraduate enrollment to the university.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. We look forward to your support in advancing this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Amy Henley
Dean, College of Business
University of Louisville