

Masters of Professional Studies in Applied Logistics

College of Professional Studies

March 30, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The College of Professional Studies (CPS) proposes to offer a Masters of Professional Studies in Applied Logistics (MPS APL) program. CPS has worked with industry partners to identify skills, competencies, and technology that represent the current and future needs in the field of logistics to build the MPS in Applied Logistics. This new degree is built upon the pillars of *Technical Proficiency*, *Systems Thinking*, and *Strategic Leadership*. The program is rooted in applied and experiential learning, allowing for integration across a wide range of industries.

The curriculum is modular by design to cater to the needs of early or mid-career professionals who work in transportation, logistics, or supply chain management who are faced with the challenges brought on by COVID-19 and the rapid shift to e-commerce. The degree provides flexibility via the recommended concentrations and its content is aligned with the skills required to address the current professional challenges of materials distribution, shifting customer profiles, and “last mile” delivery.

Envisioned students are:

- Early-career logistics and distribution professionals with an interest in expanding their knowledge of the changing industry to enhance their learning and integrate their learning into their existing organizations.
- Mid-career logistics and distribution professionals who seek advancement within their organization or the industry from individual contributor to leader/team manager.

ALIGNMENT WITH UNIVERSITY MISSION

The University seeks to provide opportunities for applied learning for working professionals. This degree is designed for students seeking to work across a wide variety of industries in the field of logistics and supply chain management.

The proposed degree upholds the core values of the Northeastern 2025 Academic Plan as well as the strategic plan for the College of Professional Studies 2018-2025. Northeastern 2025 aims to empower students to be responsive, innovative learners able and ready to adapt to uncharted technological, social and economic developments. This program embraces those competencies and will strive to develop the next generation of leaders in the field of logistics.

PROGRAM DIFFERENTIATION AND ENROLLMENT FORECAST

The MPS in Applied Logistics is focused on the applied science of distribution. The program is built upon a three-part approach:

- **Technical Skills:** developing an awareness and proficiency in existing and new technologies that impact distribution
- **Systems Thinking:** developing skills and proficiency to holistically analyze and manage the dynamic interactions of the end-to-end supply chain components
- **Strategic Leadership:** developing skills for managing people and projects in highly fluid and dynamic environments

The proposed MPS in Applied Logistics is built to prepare students to be agile in the changing warehousing and distribution industry. By integrating the technical with systems thinking, students will be better able to use descriptive analytics in real time as it relates to events such as changing customer profiles, what product is selling, unusual conditions in the supplier network, and take actions affecting how to manage inventory, change packaging due to customer demand, and optimize routing among distribution centers to meet demand.

As is true with all change, coping with uncertainty requires strong leadership training. As a central pillar of the MPS in Applied Logistics, students will learn how to handle challenges that arise quickly and develop leadership and project management skills to help communicate to customers, avoid reactionary responses, work collaboratively to find a solution, and to effectively communicate across the supply chain and with customers. Using project-based learning and short-term experiential projects, students will gain experience training for how to plan for worst without becoming overwhelmed.

Market research suggests a strong demand for this program. New student intakes have been *conservatively* projected at 25 students in year 1, increasing to 85 intakes annually in year 4. The program begins generating positive contribution early in year 3; total projected direct contribution to overhead over 4 years is \$2.05M.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM

Based upon reaching target enrollment goals, the program will seek to hire a full-time faculty member to teach within the MPS in Applied Logistics program in year two. This person would report to a Faculty Lead.

Currently, there are a number of full and part-time faculty with supply chain and logistics background who already teach within affiliated programs who would either continue to teach the existing courses or teach one of the new courses being added. We will continue to add new part-time faculty as needed, which is at the discretion of the Faculty Lead member who oversees the program.

This program will require support from marketing and enrollment management.