Western Michigan University’s integrated supply management program has continued to grow since the first two ISM students graduated in the spring of 1993. Today, nearly 100 students graduate from the program each year. These graduates are “job ready” from day one, often for positions above entry level.

The unique curriculum of the ISM program is the result of integrating supply chain, information technology, continuous improvement and engineering curriculum from five departments across two colleges.
An executive council guides the continuous development and evolution of the ISM program. It consists of a broad array of participants, from recent ISM graduates to supply management executives, representing a variety of industries. This ensures multiple perspectives on educational issues and provides unique insights into the changing skill sets necessary for tomorrow’s supply management professionals.

Experiential learning allows students to explore supply chain management concepts in real world contexts. Manufacturing simulations, class projects based on genuine business issues from industry partners, internships, and consulting on supply chain issues for companies and organizations are all part of the learning experience. Hands-on education, connecting classroom information with actual business practices, is a defining aspect of the curriculum.

Program Highlights

- Nationally recognized and consistently ranked by Gartner in the top 10 undergraduate supply chain programs.
- Curriculum includes 13 supply-chain-specific courses (43 credits)—more than any other well-known programs.
- Required courses include one dedicated to learning ERP systems and processes by using SAP.
- All students take Try-Z, an intensive, three-day capstone course in which student teams use Deming’s Plan-Do-Act management cycle.
- ISM majors are now required to obtain professional work experience, such as internships, prior to graduation.
- Select students participate in Bronco Force, which offers applied supply chain solutions to industry clients using Six Sigma problem-solving methodologies.
- Students have an opportunity to obtain a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt by completing an industry project using DMAIC.
- Many ISM majors choose to minor in business analytics, giving them the capacity to manage data and conduct business projects.
- To apply to the ISM program, students must have at least a 3.0 GPA; the average GPA is 3.45 for ISM students enrolled in fall 2017.
- Each year the program produces nearly 100 graduates.
- Many students begin their senior year with job offers in hand.

These are just some of the reasons ISM Broncos are in demand. Visit wmich.edu/supplychain to learn more.