



ONE DAY • BLUEPRINT30 COURSE SERIES

Intro to Logistics Careers

The Industry That Moves America

Every product you've ever bought got to you because someone in logistics made it happen. This course gives you a real look at three powerful career paths. No degree needed to start.

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Logistics, By the Numbers

Companies across America are hiring fast. Here's what that means for you.

8M+

people employed by the U.S.
logistics industry

Every Year

demand for warehouse
workers, drivers & coordinators
keeps growing

**Nearly
Anywhere**

entry-level jobs exist in almost
every city, town & rural area

Little / None

experience needed. Many
employers want to hire
beginners.

What Is Logistics, Really?

Logistics is the process of planning, moving, and managing goods, from the moment something is made until it reaches the customer.

Three Paths. One Industry.



Warehouse & Fulfillment

hands-on work in a warehouse or distribution center



Freight & Trucking

moving goods by road (no CDL required to start)



Supply Chain & Inventory

the planning & coordination side of the business



Receiving and storing products in warehouses



Sorting, packing, and shipping orders



Coordinating trucks, ships, and delivery routes



Tracking inventory so the right products are in the right place



Managing the supply chain so businesses never run short

Three Powerful Career Paths



Warehouse & Fulfillment

Receive, sort, pack, and ship products. The backbone of e-commerce and retail.

↳ *Full path detail ahead*



Freight & Trucking

Dispatch loads, handle freight, and keep goods moving. No CDL needed to start.

↳ *Full path detail ahead*



Supply Chain & Inventory

Plan, coordinate, and analyze so the right products are in the right place.

↳ *Full path detail ahead*

Salary & Career Outlook

Pay depends on your location, employer, experience, and certifications.



Warehouse Associate / Forklift Operator

\$35,000 to \$55,000 *per year*



Freight & Logistics Coordinator

\$40,000 to \$60,000 *per year*



Supply Chain Specialist

\$45,000 to \$70,000 *per year*



CDL Truck Driver

\$55,000 to \$90,000 *covered in a separate course*

Warehouse & Fulfillment Careers

Warehouse and fulfillment workers keep e-commerce, retail, and manufacturing running in America.

Common Job Titles & Pay

Warehouse Associate / General Labor	\$15 to \$20/hr to start
Order Picker / Packer	\$16 to \$22/hr
Forklift Operator	\$18 to \$26/hr
Receiving Clerk	\$17 to \$22/hr
Warehouse Lead / Supervisor	\$25 to \$35/hr

How to Get Started

- High school diploma or GED usually sufficient
- On-the-job training provided by most employers
- Forklift certification: 1 to 3 days, plus a test
- OSHA 10 safety certificate, available online
- Amazon, UPS & FedEx offer tuition assistance

Growth path: Associate → Lead → Supervisor → Ops Manager → Logistics Director

Freight & Trucking Careers (Non-CDL)

About 70% of all U.S. freight moves by truck. You don't need a CDL to be part of the team that makes it happen.



Dispatcher / Freight Coordinator

\$18 to \$28/hr or \$40K to \$60K/yr

Communication, multitasking, computer skills



Dock Worker / Freight Handler

\$17 to \$24/hr

Physical fitness, attention to detail



Freight Broker (Entry Level)

\$35K to \$55K/yr plus commission

Negotiation skills, broker license exam



Last-Mile Delivery Driver (Non-CDL)

\$18 to \$26/hr

Valid license, clean driving record

Want to drive commercially? Check out ONE DAY: Getting Your CDL, the next course in this pathway.

Supply Chain & Inventory Careers

One of the fastest-growing, highest-paying areas within logistics. It's easier to break into at entry level than people think.

Common Job Titles & Pay

Inventory Control Clerk	\$17 to \$22/hr
Inventory Analyst	\$45K to \$65K/yr
Purchasing Assistant / Buyer	\$40K to \$60K/yr
Logistics Coordinator	\$42K to \$62K/yr
Supply Chain Analyst	\$55K to \$80K/yr
Supply Chain Manager	\$75K to \$110K/yr

Certifications That Boost Your Resume



APICS CSCP

Certified Supply Chain Professional



APICS CPIM

Certified in Planning & Inventory Mgmt



Google Career Certificate

Supply Chain: online, often free or low-cost

Growth path: Warehouse Associate → Inventory Clerk → Inventory Analyst → Supply Chain Coordinator → Manager

Education & Requirements at a Glance

Career Path	Typical Education	Path to Entry
Warehouse & Fulfillment	No degree required	On-the-job training
Freight Coordinator	HS diploma / GED	On-the-job or certificate training
Supply Chain	Associate's/Bachelor's preferred	Entry-level roles still available
Forklift Certification	N/A	1 to 3 day training, plus certification test

Can You Join with a Felony or Conviction?

Yes. Logistics is one of the most open industries for returning citizens.

Warehouse & Fulfillment Amazon, FedEx, UPS & Target have public fair-chance hiring commitments

Freight Coordinator / Dispatcher Generally accessible; focus is on communication skills & reliability

Last-Mile Delivery (Non-CDL) Requires a valid license; criminal history reviewed separately from driving record

Supply Chain & Inventory Entry-level roles (clerk, receiving associate) are accessible

CDL Licensing Regulated by FMCSA. Some offenses affect eligibility. Full details in the CDL course.

Steps You Can Take Right Now

1

Know your background check. Get a copy before employers do.

2

Look into expungement. Legal aid can guide you for free or low cost.

3

Target fair-chance employers first. Search "fair chance employer logistics".

4

Start in the warehouse. A strong track record opens doors.

5

Get certified while you wait: forklift, OSHA 10, or a supply chain certificate

6

Know your rights. "Ban the box" laws vary by state.

What's Next in This Pathway

This course is just the beginning. Two more ONE DAY courses go deeper:



ONE DAY: Merchant Marine

Careers on ships and waterways. The maritime industry moves over 90% of global trade. Explore roles like Merchant Seaman, Marine Engineer, and Port Operations Specialist through an interactive career simulator.



ONE DAY: Getting Your CDL

How to earn your Commercial Driver's License, what training costs, what employers pay, and how to navigate the process, even if you have a record.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Course Activities

Reflection prompts, a myth vs. fact challenge, key terms, a matching activity, and discussion questions to work through on your own or as a class.



Reflection Journal

Grab a notebook or open a doc. There are no wrong answers, just start thinking like a logistics professional.

1

Think about a time you received a package or picked something up from a store. What had to happen behind the scenes to get it to you?

2

Which non-CDL freight role interests you most: dispatcher, dock worker, freight broker, or delivery driver? Why?

3

Which of the three career paths, warehouse, freight, or supply chain, fits your strengths best? Why?

4

What's one skill you already have that would help you succeed in a logistics job?

Myth vs. Fact Challenge

Read each myth. Cover the answer and guess fact or fiction before you check. · Part 1 of 2

MYTH

You need a college degree to work in logistics.

FACT

Most warehouse and freight jobs only require a high school diploma or GED. Some don't require even that.

MYTH

If you have a felony, no one will hire you.

FACT

Logistics is one of the most accessible industries for returning citizens. Many major employers have fair-chance hiring policies.

MYTH

Warehouse work is a dead-end job.

FACT

Warehouse work is a launchpad. Many supervisors and logistics directors started on the floor.

Myth vs. Fact Challenge

Read each myth. Cover the answer and guess fact or fiction before you check. · Part 2 of 2

MYTH

You need to own a truck or have a CDL to work in freight.

FACT

Many freight roles like dispatcher, dock worker, and freight broker don't require a CDL at all.

MYTH

Certifications take years to earn.

FACT

A forklift certification takes 1 to 3 days. OSHA 10 can be completed online in about 10 hours.

MYTH

Supply chain jobs are only for people with business degrees.

FACT

Entry-level roles like inventory clerk need only a high school diploma. Many analysts started in the warehouse.

Key Terms to Know

Ten words you'll hear on the job. Learn them now so they're not new to you on day one.

3PL

A company that handles logistics services, like warehousing or shipping, for other businesses.

Dispatcher

Assigns loads to drivers and tracks shipments in real time.

Fair-Chance Employer

A company that considers job applicants with a criminal record.

FMCSA

The federal agency that regulates trucking and CDL rules.

Freight Broker

Connects shippers who have goods with carriers who can move them.

Inventory

The products a business currently has in stock.

OSHA 10

A 10-hour workplace safety certification course.

Supply Chain

The full process of getting a product from the maker to the customer.

TWIC

A federal ID card required for port and maritime work.

Last-Mile Delivery

The final step of getting a package to the customer's door.

Match the Job to the Job Title

Draw a line from each job title on the left to the description that matches it on the right.

1. Dispatcher
2. Forklift Operator
3. Freight Broker
4. Inventory Analyst
5. Dock Worker
6. Supply Chain Manager

- A. Loads and unloads trucks at freight terminals
- B. Assigns loads to drivers and tracks shipments in real time
- C. Operates equipment to move pallets around the warehouse
- D. Oversees the full supply chain team and long-term strategy
- E. Connects shippers who have goods with carriers who can move them
- F. Analyzes data to predict how much product will be needed

Answer key: 1-B 2-C 3-E 4-F 5-A 6-D

Discussion Questions

For a class, small group, or a conversation with a mentor.

- 1 Which of the three career paths interests you most, and why?
- 2 What surprised you most about logistics careers?
- 3 How might a fair-chance employer benefit from hiring returning citizens?
- 4 What's one certification you could realistically earn this year?
- 5 If you started as a warehouse associate, where do you want to be in five years?
- 6 What questions would you ask a recruiter from a logistics company?

How to Get Started & Get Certified

You don't need a degree or years of experience. You need to show up, be reliable, and be willing to learn.

Where to Get Certified

- **Forklift Certification**
1 to 3 day training program through local trade schools, community colleges, or employer-sponsored programs
- **OSHA 10 Safety Card**
10-hour workplace safety course, available online through OSHA-authorized providers
- **APICS CSCP / CPIM**
Supply chain certifications through ASCM (Association for Supply Chain Management)
- **Google Career Certificate**
Free/low-cost online supply chain certificate via Coursera
- **Freight Broker License**
Authority application through the FMCSA

Your Next 3 Steps

- 1 Finish this course**
Earn your certificate. You can view it under "My Certificates"
- 2 Connect with employers**
Meet local logistics employers & training programs through Blueprint30
- 3 Share your progress**
Show your certificate to potential employers and workforce programs

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