

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: MIT MICROMASTER'S CREDENTIAL IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Updated 29 October 2015

This document attempts to answer the questions on the newly introduced MicroMaster's credential in Supply Chain Management.

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1. What is the Supply Chain Management MicroMaster's Credential?

The MIT MicroMasters credential in Supply Chain Management is a standalone certification program designed and administered by MIT's Center for Transportation & Logistics (CTL) and supported by the Office of Digital Learning (ODL). It is run separately from the MIT Supply Chain Management (SCM) Master's Program. The MicroMaster's credential consists of five intensive on-line courses covering all aspects of logistics and supply chain management along with an in-person, proctored capstone exam. The locations for these comprehensive exams are being determined now and will be global. The total cost of this new MicroMasters credential is between \$1200-\$1500 to include the cost of the individual courses and the capstone exam. It is important to also note that the MicroMaster's is NOT a degree-granting program nor is it a guarantee of admissions to MIT or the SCM graduate program. It is a separate stand-alone professional certificate.

2. What are the five online courses required for the SCM MicroMaster's Credential?

There are five online courses required to complete the MicroMasters credential:

- CTL.SC0x - Supply Chain Analytics
- CTL.SC1x - Supply Chain Fundamentals
- CTL.SC2x - Supply Chain Design
- CTL.SC3x - Supply Chain Dynamics
- CTL.SC4x - Supply Chain Technology

To be eligible for the MicroMaster's certificate, you must earn a Verified Certificate in each course.

3. When will these courses be offered next?

We plan to eventually offer these courses on a regular basis so that a student can complete all five within a calendar year. The current plan for start dates is as follows – but these dates are subject to change.

- CTL.SC0x - Supply Chain Analytics – Nov 2016 (tentative)
- CTL.SC1x - Supply Chain Fundamentals – Feb 2016
- CTL.SC2x - Supply Chain Design – Sep 2015
- CTL.SC3x - Supply Chain Dynamics – May 2016,
- CTL.SC4x - Supply Chain Technology – Jan 2017 (tentative)

4. Does completion of this MicroMaster's Credential guarantee admission to the MIT Supply Chain Management Masters Graduate program?

No.

5. What is the difference between the X-series certificate and the MicroMasters?

The X-series certificate is granted for those students who earned Verified Certificates in three courses (SC1x, SC2x, and SC3x). The MicroMasters is a more comprehensive credential that

requires completion of five courses (SC0x, SC1x, SC2x, SC3x, and SC4x) as well as a comprehensive exam. The X-series is being retired and replaced by the more comprehensive MicroMaster's Certificate. The MicroMaster's is a higher level of credential than the X-Series.

6. Is there a difference in difficulty of the material in the MicroMaster's courses, or is it just the percentage required to pass that will be raised?

There is more material covered in the MicroMaster's than the X-series, but the content of the overlapping courses is the same. The passing grade for any of the SCx courses is 60% unless there are special circumstances (glitches in the software, errors in exams, etc.). Each instructor sets the final passing grade for a course.

7. Is there a direct path from the X-series that is being phased out to the MicroMaster's or am I starting from scratch when you launch the new program?

Yes, there is a direct path. Verified Certificates earned in any SCx course offered at any time will count towards both certificate programs. You are not starting from scratch.

8. Do I have to retake any classes after taking CTL.SC1x, SC2x or SC3x?

No. If you earned a Verified Certificate in these courses at any time, you will receive credit.

9. Will the creation of the MicroMaster's erode the recognition or "signal value" of the X-Series certificate I was originally planning on obtaining?

The value and the effort required to earn the X-series certificate has not changed – thus its value has not changed. We found that both companies and individuals were looking for something that covered more material and had more weight to it. Thus, we created the MicroMaster's certificate. Rather than maintain two separate and overlapping certificates, we decided to retire the X-Series after the current crop of qualified students complete their courses.

10. Is the February 2016 course the replacement for CTL.SC1x, or is it a course I should take if I already completed CTL.SC1x?

It is the same course and does not need to be repeated. If you have earned a Verified Certificate in SC1x, then it applies to both the X-Series and the MicroMaster's certificates no matter when you completed it.

11. What are my chances of being admitted to the accelerated program if I am an average performer in the online classes?

This is a good question that I do not have a great answer for. But, obviously, doing better in the online courses will increase your chances of gaining admittance to MIT.

12. If I aspire to enroll in the accelerated onsite SCM graduate program, what should be my % target in the edX courses?

100%. Why would you ever try to earn less than that? We do not have a historical set of averages to report to you since this is a new program. We will eventually report this as we gather that information. My guess is that it will be in the 90% or higher. But, this is only a guess.

13. Along with the five SCx classes and the exam, are there any other requirements in order to be eligible to go on campus?

Yes. You need to be admitted to the program! The MicroMaster's does not guarantee admission. It does allow us to look at a more expanded track record for each applicant. Additionally, in the application process you will need to submit some additional material – such as a resume, an essay, and a proposal for your thesis project. I am certain that we will have hundreds of applicants for dozens of spots. We will take the best students we can find for the limited slots that we have available. Space on campus will always be scarce resource so there will always need to be an admissions process.

14. Is it sufficient to keep a "pass" grade in the course, or will the bar for achieving the MicroMasters be higher than merely passing?

The passing grade for each course is independent of whether it is used for the X-series or the MicroMaster's certificates. A pass is a pass is a pass. The specific grade is set by the instructor and is usually 60%. When applying to the MIT graduate program, we will use the actual scores in the admissions process – but that is independent of earning the MicroMaster's certificate.

15. How will having the MicroMaster's Credential in Supply Chain Management change the admissions process for the SCM graduate program at MIT?

Having the MicroMaster's credential provides the admissions committee with significant insight into a student's capabilities through the completion of five online courses and the capstone exam. Therefore, applicants with the credential will not be required to submit GRE or GMAT scores. This is sometimes referred to as "inverted admissions." Also, if admitted, students with the MicroMaster's credential may opt to complete the SCM program in just over one semester (January to May) in-residence. Applicants opting for the one semester in residence option, however, will need to submit additional material to include a resume (for both work and educational background), an essay, and a proposal for their research thesis project.

16. How do these courses differ from those offered at MIT or those offered under the X-Series?

The material covered (both breadth and depth) matches what is taught at MIT for the SCM program. However, the sequencing does not exactly match up to the courses at MIT due to calendars and semester requirements. The SCx courses taught as part of the X-Series are the same as those taught under the MicroMaster's Certificate.

17. What are the two paths to earning a SCM graduate degree from MIT?

The SCM program at MIT awards the Master of Engineering in Logistics (M.Eng. Logistics) degree. There are two paths that students can take to earn this degree:

- 1) Traditional – requiring 10 months of full-time residence with matriculation in August and graduation in May.
- 2) Blended - on-line (completion of the MicroMaster's Credential) and requiring just over one semester in-residence (January to May).

Both programs require 78 course credits plus a 12 unit Research Thesis.

18. When will the first students be admitted to the SCM program via the blended path?

We expect the first blended SCM cohort in the Spring term of 2018 to matriculate in January 2018 and graduate in May 2018.

19. Will the students admitted through the blended path be part of the SCM program?

Yes. Students admitted to the SCM program through either the traditional or blended paths are part of the same program. Each student in the SCM program will belong to a cohort of 30-40 students during their entire duration in the program.

20. What will my semester at MIT look like if I come to the SCM program with my SCM MicroMaster's credential?

The blended cohort will have a combination of courses designed and run just for them as well as courses with other MIT students. The semester will be exceptionally intense, as the students will have to pass 36 units of classwork and also complete a 12 unit research thesis during their in-residence period. Students will matriculate at MIT during the January Independent Activities Period (IAP) to get oriented, meet the other student cohorts, and earn some credit.

21. Why should I come to MIT in January as well as my semester?

MIT can be intimidating and very fast paced. This is why we require that students admitted to the blended SCM program after completing their MicroMaster's credential join the SCM and the larger SCALE student body in January during the SCALE Connect period. This provides them the opportunity to acclimatized to MIT, meet their SCM and SCALE student peers as well as complete some courses ahead of time. This is similar to those traditional SCM students who come to MIT in August for their orientation prior to the start of the MIT classes.

FAQS FROM THE MIT PRESS RELEASE (7 OCT 2015)

22. Is the MicroMaster's credential a master's degree?

No, it is a credential granted by MITx for outstanding performance in graduate-level online coursework. For many learners, it can be a step toward an MIT master's degree.

23. When will the first MicroMaster's course be offered?

February, 2016.

24. Why is MIT offering this new path?

MIT is committed to finding, recognizing, and attracting exceptional students from across the globe. This new path expands access to MIT and expands our core community members' connections to peers from around the world.

25. Why do you say this program features "inverted admissions"?

In traditional master's programs, students can't begin courses unless they are admitted. With this pilot program, students can take a semester's worth of courses online without having to apply for admission. If they do exceptionally well in these courses, they will be considered for admission to the SCM master's program, should they choose to apply. And admitted students will be able to use their MicroMaster's credential as course credit for a semester's worth of the two-semester master's program.

26. What do you hope to achieve with inverted admissions?

We will give students the chance to prove they can achieve excellence in a master's program before they have to apply for admission. This will level the playing field: Students from lesser-known universities globally will be able to prove their mettle as prospective MIT residential students.

27. How do you plan to determine who is eligible for a MicroMaster's?

We don't. Anyone who successfully masters the material and receives a high passing grade on a demanding, proctored exam will earn the credential.

28. What will be the value of the MicroMaster's?

We expect that this new credential will be valued by companies, and will foster career advancement for its holders.

29. Is it your hope that the MicroMaster's credential becomes a new unit of currency in higher education?

Yes. If other universities wish to adopt this terminology for programs that are master's-level, we will welcome that enthusiastically.

30. Do you anticipate that other universities will consider the MicroMaster's to be convertible to course credit in their existing master's programs?

Yes. MIT is actively talking to other universities about that question.

31. Will MIT still offer the traditional, one-year-on-campus SCM master's degree?

Yes.

32. Will students entering MIT through this new pathway also be expected to complete the standard MIT Graduate Application?

Yes.

33. When will the first group of students be admitted to work toward the SCM master's degree on campus?

We anticipate that the first students to obtain a master's from MIT in this blended program will graduate from MIT in June 2018.

34. How many students do you anticipate admitting through this program?

We will likely run the program in cohorts of 30 to 40. We anticipate one cohort in the initial graduating class of 2018. As we will maintain our high standards for admissions, ultimately the number will depend on the number of qualified candidates.

35. How will this affect edX?

The online courses will be offered on the edX platform. EdX is willing and eager to support other universities, should they choose to adopt this concept and terminology.

36. Will MITx still offer free courses?

Yes.

37. How will the online SCM coursework differ from the curriculum in the XSeries sequence in Supply Chain and Logistics Management that edX announced in fall 2013?

The passing grade for the MicroMaster's certificate ~~will be higher than~~ **is the same as** the passing grade for the XSeries certificate. We will offer a third course in the XSeries in the summer of 2016, so that students who have taken the first course and are in the process of taking the second course can complete the XSeries. After this, we will replace the XSeries with the MicroMaster's. [This was corrected from the original FAQ]

38. Will there be another course beyond SCM coming soon?

Other MIT programs are interested in participating in accelerated master's programs. MIT's faculty governance will determine whether and how to proceed beyond the SCM pilot program.

39. Will MIT Professional Education and MIT Sloan Executive Education continue?

MIT will continue to offer outstanding professional education and solutions to companies, executives, and professionals.