

Educational Field Trip to Safeway

By: Hemangi Patel, Business Administration student

I am glad that I had the opportunity to participate in a field trip to Safeway with our professor Dr. Leepsa Madhabika and five students including me. It's exciting to see that I had the chance to learn about the supply chain system in action and how it works in a retail industry setting.

The field trip started with a tour of the inventory area, where we were led by an employee, Lori, who explained the various stages of the supply chain process. We were introduced to the concepts of sourcing, procurement, transportation, warehousing, and distribution, and how they work together to ensure that products are delivered to customers in a timely and efficient manner.

One of the key takeaways from this field trip was how technology plays a vital role in managing the supply chain process. We observed the use of barcode scanners, inventory management software, and logistics tracking tools in action, and how the team works together to optimize the supply chain and ensure customer satisfaction. This was an eye-opener for many of us as we were able to see firsthand how technology can enhance efficiency and streamline operations. The procurement and supply chain team shared their role of auditing in inventory management and told us about the penalties involved if the inventory is not managed properly. They shared how efficiently they manage and how consciously they plan for seasonal items such as candies during Easter or Halloween.

The field trip also provided us with valuable insights into the challenges that arise in managing the supply chain process, such as maintaining optimal inventory levels, dealing with fluctuations in demand, and ensuring timely and efficient delivery to customers. These insights would be crucial for our understanding of how supply chain management works in the real world.

Overall, this field trip was an excellent opportunity for us to gain practical, hands-on experience that complements the theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom in our courses Business Operation and Planning (BUS 384) and Procurement of Services (SCM 354).

I am glad that we got this experience, and I hope that we continue to explore the exciting world of supply chain management and apply the insights gained from this field trip in our future studies and career.

Read what my classmates had to say!

"Today's experience is very new to me. This is the first time I have personally come into contact with a warehouse of a large supermarket. Their identification and recording of damaged products is very helpful to me. I think this part is very important for every company, after all, products are often damaged during transportation". -Xiaochen Liu

"From the experience of today's field trip, I think it is very interesting for me that the suppliers have a good guarantee for the products. For example, after the product is damaged, the supplier provides different ways to compensate, like discounting or returning the item. It is a great experience to learn something new in real life which relates to class". -Jingjing Chen



Photo Credit: Safeway Employee, Location: Safeway Date of Visit: April 13, 2023

ASU at Lake Havasu Business Program students at Safeway with Lori, Inventory Control Clerk for an Educational Business Field Trip.