



STUDENT ACTIVATION



Director of Materials Development

Every business needs a professional who can bring the people and teams within an organization together to solve problems. The director of materials development does this while leading a team that makes sure that every aspect of the business has what they need to produce safe, quality products.

DIRECTOR OF MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT

A **director of materials development** leads a team of professionals in procuring needed materials and maintaining quality control from start to finish of the production process. If a new material must be used, the director leads the training and procedures needed to make sure that a quality product is chosen. Directors of material development need to be willing to travel and effectively communicate with suppliers all over the world to make sure an organization has what it needs to produce a quality product.

IS DIRECTOR OF MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

| Me | Director of Materials Development |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I am confident and enjoy taking leadership roles in school, sports, etc. | Directors of materials development must be confident leaders who can guide and train teams of professionals. |
| I have a very analytical mind, and I pay attention to even very small details. | Directors of materials development are highly observant and scrutinize materials to make sure they are of the highest quality. |

Director of Materials Development

STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



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| <p>I am an effective communicator. I like explaining things to people and giving speeches.</p> | <p>Directors of materials development must be able to effectively communicate with team members from throughout the organization as well as suppliers from around the world.</p> |
| <p>I am interested in school subjects like math and business.</p> | <p>Directors of materials development study accounting and business in college and often get additional training in subjects like supply chain management.</p> |

| How does this career help me? | How does this career help the world? |
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| <p>Every time your family uses a personal healthcare item such as shampoo, diapers, etc., they benefit from the work of a director of materials development. These leaders make sure the materials sourced to create products are of the highest quality to create a safe and reliable product for consumers.</p> | <p>Because directors of materials development are responsible for the global sourcing of materials to make a company's products, they also carry the responsibility of making ethical business decisions to make sure that the end products aren't only safe for the consumer but also for the workers, suppliers, and the planet.</p> |

| What are some similar careers? |
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| <p>Product managers are responsible for the development of products. Practicing product management means being responsible for the processes behind creating a product, determining functional requirements, and managing product releases.</p> <p>Materials development engineers research and develop materials used in industrial processes and products. They also identify new or different combinations of materials to improve already existing products.</p> |

Here are ways to practice the skills needed be a successful **director of materials development**:

- Consider taking an elective or a class at a local community college to learn more about supply chain management.
- The next time you are working on a group project, a building project at home, or even cooking a recipe with your family, obtain a detailed list of materials or ingredients. Research each one, its purpose, alternative materials that can be used instead, and that everything is of the highest quality available. Make recommendations based on your research. According to circumstances, allow testing with multiple materials/ingredients to see which works better.
- Meet with your guidance counselor with the goal of organizing your class schedule to allow you to take advanced mathematics, statistics, and business courses.