

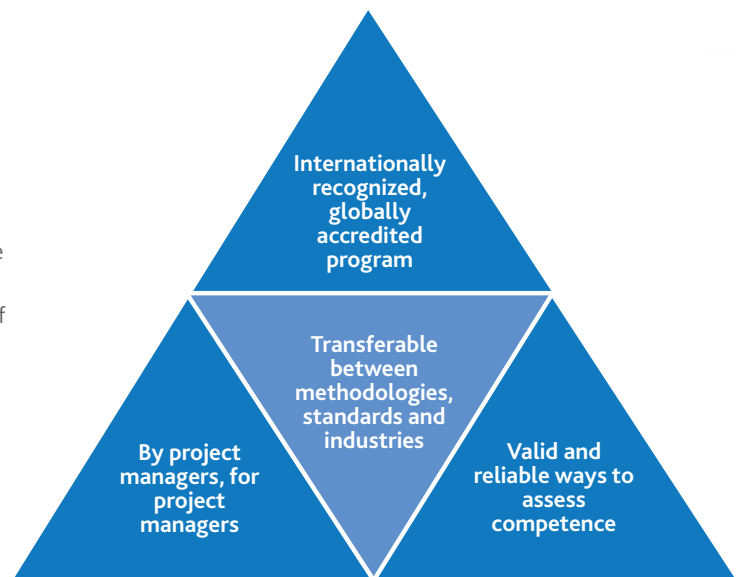
What Makes PMI Certifications Stand Apart?

Many certifications exist for project managers that claim to offer practitioners and organizations a number of benefits. So, why are PMI certifications unique?

PMI certifications are distinguished by their global development and application, which make them transferable across industries and geographic borders. The role and tasks of project managers around the globe are researched and documented to define each PMI certification. The strength of PMI's certifications is that they are portable and not tied to any single method, standard or organization. Read on to learn more about why PMI's certification program is highly respected by governments, organizations and practitioners:

An internationally recognized, globally accredited program

PMI's certification program has existed since 1984, when the PMP was launched, establishing it as the first credential designed specifically to credential project managers in project management. Since then, PMI has continued to serve the project management profession with a comprehensive certification program for practitioners with different levels of education and experience. PMI's certifications are developed and maintained through a vigorous process. This process is exemplified through the Project Management Professional (PMP)[®] credential accreditation by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) against the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17024. In addition, the PMP is also registered against the ISO 9001:2000 standard for quality management systems.



This history has led to vast international recognition of the program by governments, organizations, and practitioners. In fact, this recognition has led to PMI's credential holders gaining more job opportunities and better salaries. PMI's global community of 490,000+ and growing certification holders is evidence of PMI's commitment to delivering a world-class certification program.

PMI is committed to adhering to certification industry best practices as supported by third-party validation and psychometric consultants. One of these best practices is the implementation of an in-depth research study every several years to determine what project management practitioners are actually doing on their job and what they need to know to be competent. This information is used to create the examination — providing practitioners and organizations confidence that the material on the exam reflects current practices and the needs of organizations that value project management.

By project managers, for project managers

PMI’s certifications would not exist without the thousands of volunteer hours provided by project managers throughout the world who ensure balanced representation in the structure and content of the certification examinations. Each year, these volunteers work with PMI to create examination questions, rigorously review these questions, and refine PMI’s certifications. They also oversee PMI’s certification program and drive change initiatives. Representing PMI’s diverse stakeholders, PMI’s volunteers come from every area of the globe and represent many industries, experience, and backgrounds.

Why is this important? Because it ensures that the examinations reflect current practices and are globally relevant, since every question is written and reviewed by volunteers on multiple continents. Other certifications in the marketplace today are developed by training organizations, which are invested in constructing programs that support their training courses and revenue.

Transferable between methodologies, standards or industries

PMI certifications reflect best practices in the discipline of project management, not any one standard or industry. This provides better transferability between organizations and industries. Practitioners can get a PMI certification and have confidence that it provides a baseline recognized in a variety of organizations, industries, and methodological approaches. Furthermore, because PMI maintains such rigorous practices to keep its certification program relevant and validated, you never have to worry about a PMI certification becoming obsolete.

Valid and reliable ways to assess competence

PMI’s certification program is designed to ensure that all certification holders have demonstrated their competence through fair and valid measures. One of the ways in which this is implemented is through a scenario-based multiple-choice examination format, which is a highly reliable way to assess project management competence. PMI uses highly reputable testing organizations to obtain third-party validation of this program. Unlike interviews and essays, which are not reliable and can be influenced by many factors other than the test taker’s professional background, PMI’s program reflects a methodology used by most world-class licensing organizations, such as nursing, architecture and engineering.

PMI goes beyond testing to assess its certification candidates by using the 5E’s of project management competence:

Education for Eligibility	A minimum number of contact hours in education are required.
Experience	A minimum number of hours that are aligned with specific project management tasks are required.
Examination	A scenario-based multiple-choice examination format is used and provides a highly reliable way to assess project management competence.
Ethics	All candidates and certification holders must adhere to the PMI Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
Education for Certification Maintenance	PMI’s Continuing Certification Requirements (CCR) program also reflects these best practices. The CCR program ensures that certified practitioners maintain and continue to develop their competence in project management, unlike other certification programs that are lifetime achievements.

For more information on PMI certifications, please contact us at customer care@pmi.org

Value Propositions for PMI Certifications

Certification is an important step in a practitioner's career development, as it recognizes qualified and competent individuals in the practice of project management. Each of PMI's six certifications represents a career level that is defined by hours of experience and levels of education. Candidates may apply for a PMI certification at any level that matches their qualifications, as no one certification serves as a prerequisite for another.

■ CAPM® Value Proposition

The Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)® offers recognition to practitioners who are starting a career in project management, as well as project team members who wish to demonstrate their project management knowledge. This certification denotes that the individual possesses the knowledge in the principles and terminology of *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge* (PMBOK® Guide), the standard of project management's recognized good practices. Individuals who contribute specialized skills to a project team can benefit from this certification by allowing them to align their work with that of project managers. The knowledge a practitioner gains from earning the CAPM certification can be applied to on-the-job experiences that develop growing levels of competence in the practice of project management. Individuals who carry the CAPM designation after their name enjoy a high level of credibility from PMP credential holders, project managers, employers, and peers.

■ PMP® Value Proposition

Globally recognized and demanded, the Project Management Professional (PMP)® credential demonstrates to employers, clients, and colleagues that a project manager possesses project management knowledge, experience and the skills to bring projects to successful completion. As the demand for skilled project managers is at a critically urgent level, practitioners who hold the PMP credential are well positioned to provide the professional skills necessary to lead project teams and achieve successful project results. The PMP recognizes the competence of an individual to perform in the role of a project manager, specifically experience in leading and directing projects. Year after year, the PMP credential has garnered global recognition and commanded a higher salary for certified individuals over non-certified individuals.

■ PMI-ACP® Value Proposition

The PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP)® recognizes practitioners for their knowledge and skill in Agile principles, practices, tools, and techniques. As the use of Agile methods on projects has tripled increased in the last three years, this certification provides recognition of this knowledge for those working in various roles on Agile projects. The PMI-ACP demonstrates a level of professionalism in Agile practices, while recognizing experience working on Agile projects in addition to knowledge and skill. Individuals who earn the PMI-ACP designation validate their expertise in Agile, while showing a professional commitment to continue development of this knowledge.

■ PMI-RMP® Value Proposition

As projects become more complex, global, and virtual, the project management profession continues to grow and diversify. This growth is the driving force behind the need for a specialist role in project risk management. The PMI Risk Management Professional (PMI-RMP)® credential acknowledges the individual's unique expertise on the project team, while demonstrating the recognition and value the role provides to the field of project management. In this role, an individual has more competence in the specialized area of assessing and identifying project risks, while mitigating threats and capitalizing on opportunities than a general practitioner and yet also maintains a basic level of competence in all areas of project management. Employers can trust credential holders to possess the skills, knowledge and experience to contribute directly to their crucial projects. This global credential also supports individuals in meeting organizational needs; organizations can be confident in hiring capable, experienced project risk management practitioners as well as having a means for a career development path.

■ PMI-SP® Value Proposition

As projects become more complex, global and virtual, the project management profession continues to grow and diversify. This growth is the driving force behind the need for a specialist role in project scheduling. The PMI Scheduling Professional (PMI-SP)® credential acknowledges the individual's unique expertise on the project team, while demonstrating the recognition and value the role provides to the field of project management. In this role, an individual has more competence in the specialized area of developing and maintaining the project schedule than a general practitioner and yet also maintains a basic level of competence in all areas of project management. Employers can trust credential holders to possess the skills, knowledge and experience to contribute directly to their crucial projects. This global credential also supports individuals in meeting organizational needs; organizations can be confident in hiring capable, experienced practitioners as well as having a means for a career development path.

■ PgMP® Value Proposition

Program managers can now get the recognition they deserve and that project managers have enjoyed for years. The Program Management Professional (PgMP)® credential recognizes advanced experience, skill, and performance in the oversight of multiple, related projects and their resources aligned with an organizational objective. PgMP holders oversee the success of a program — a way to group multiple, related projects to achieve benefits that may not be realized if the projects were managed in a stand-alone fashion. As a project manager advances in his or her career, the experience he or she gains in managing multiple, related projects and making decisions that advance strategic and business objectives demonstrates this competence. As employers demand program managers who can support the strategic objectives of the organization, PgMP credential holders will gain a distinct advantage in employment and promotional opportunities over their peers.

■ Project Management Certifications Compared

Many certifications in project management exist in the marketplace. Since PMI certifications are notable by their global reach, transferability across borders, alignment with research on the practices of project managers, and not tied to any single project management methodology, it is important to note how PMI's core project management certifications compare with other certifications in the market.

UNITED STATES

	CAPM	PMP	PgMP	IPMA Level D	IPMA Level C	IPMA Level B	IPMA Level A	PRINCE 2 Foundation	PRINCE 2 Practitioner
Provided by:	Project Management Institute (PMI)			International Project Management Association (IPMA), through National Certification Bodies				APMG-International	
Launched in	2003	1984	2007	1998	1998	1998	1998	1989	1989
Total number of certification holders (as of the end of 2011):	16,491	467,390	678	104,932 (est.)	36,629 (est.)	8,148 (est.)	454 (est.)	665,000 (est.)	333,000 (est.)
Total number of countries with certification holders (as of the end of 2011):	127	183	45	45	45	43	33	150	150
Requires experience leading and directing projects (working as a project manager):	No - only project team experience unless candidate qualifies via Project Management training hours	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Total years of experience required:	1 year of project work	Minimum of 3 years "Leading and Directing Projects" (with a Bachelor's degree)	Minimum of 4 years as Program Manager and Project Manager (with a Bachelor's degree)	No experience required	Minimum of 3 years of experience leading projects	Minimum of 5 years of project management experience; 3 years of complex project management experience	Minimum of 5 years of working experience in portfolio, program or multiple projects	No experience required	No experience required
Requires training in project management:	Yes - unless candidate qualifies via Project Manager experience hours	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Requires an examination on project (or program/portfolio) management:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (interview and other qualitative/subjective means)	Yes (interview and other qualitative/subjective means)	Yes (interview and other qualitative/subjective means)	Yes	Yes
Professional role on project team:	Not role based - Tests for basic knowledge and understanding of the <i>PMBOK Guide</i> ®	Project Manager, Project Leader	Program Manager	Team member, Junior PM, Technical Specialist, Scheduler, Team Leader	Project Manager, Project Lead, Deputy PM, Technical Lead	Senior Project Manager, Project Manager	Program Manager, Senior Program Manager, Vice President, Client Manager, Operations VP	Not role based - Tests for basic knowledge and understanding of the PRINCE 2 methodology	Not role based - Tests for the knowledge necessary to manage projects within a PRINCE2 environment
Examination Passing Score:	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	70%	75%	75%	Not disclosed	50%	55%
Percentage of applicants passing the examination:	Within percentage recommended by Certification industry best practices (40-75%)	Within percentage recommended by Certification industry best practices (40-75%)	Within percentage recommended by Certification industry best practices (40-75%)	Not disclosed, but some "competence enablers" claim pass rate of more than 75%	Not Disclosed	Not Disclosed	Not Disclosed	95%	85%
Certification cost:	US \$300 (nonmember) US \$225 (member)	US \$555 (nonmember) US \$405 (member)	US \$1,000 (nonmember) US \$800 (member)	US \$450 (nonmember) US \$350 (member)	US \$1,225 (non-member) US \$995 (member)	US \$1,425 (nonmember) US \$1,195 (member)	US \$1,725 (nonmember) US \$1,495 (member)	US \$325	US \$600
Certification is valid for:	5 Years	3 Years	3 Years	Lifetime	5 Years	5 Years	5 Years	Lifetime	5 Years
Certification is maintained through a required:	Re-examination	60 professional development hours in project management	60 professional development hours in project management	Re-examination	Submission of project management experience logbook and portfolio of deliverables / 360° assessments	Submission of project management experience logbook and portfolio of deliverables / 360° assessments	Submission of project management experience logbook and portfolio of deliverables / 360° assessments	N/A	Re-examination
Renewal fee:	N/A	US \$150 (nonmember) US \$60 (member)	US \$800 (nonmember) US \$600 (member)	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	N/A	US \$240

Collected by PMI Market Research as of December 2011.

*All information for IPMA—except for the first line, indicating total global certifications—is based on the requirements from IPMA's USA member association, asapm.