

## Why is Project Management Professional (PMP®) Certification SO Important?

No matter what services or products a business offers, its projects must be efficiently developed and delivered on time and within budget. Individuals who can cost effectively shepherd a project from inception to completion are in great demand in today's workplace.

More than ever, today's managers are asked to do more with less. Resources are scarce, deadlines are short and budgets have never been tighter. In this environment successful management of a project from beginning to end is difficult. It requires careful planning and the application of insightful strategies and cutting-edge concepts.

### The History of PMI®

The PMI® certification program, launched in 1984, was created to develop, maintain, evaluate, promote and administer a rigorous, examination-based professional credentialing program of the highest caliber to promote and support project management professionals and the project management profession. The mission of the program is to:

- Establish, implement and maintain global certification standards, policies and procedures.
- Implement and promote professional credentialing and psychometric methods and procedures.
- Initiate and foster cooperation and collaboration with other organizations to promote and sustain excellence in project management standards and methodology.

The PMI® certification program supports professional growth and advancement while building greater project management knowledge and skills. PMI® professional credentials are widely recognized and accepted by organizations around the world as evidence of a level of knowledge and experience in project management. The program has the distinction of being the first professional certification program in the world to attain International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001 recognition, a globally recognized mark of a quality manufacturing system.

During the nineties the discipline and skills of project management became increasingly recognized by companies as an effective way of achieving broad business objectives in an efficient and effective manner. Fundamental changes away from traditional functional hierarchies towards objective oriented teams has driven a growing demand for project management skills in all areas of business. Related to these developments has been a growth of specialized groups, departments and companies that supply and sell the project management skill set as a core business process.

The Project Management Institute (PMI®) is an independent body that develops and promotes standards of practice within the project management industry. PMI® provides independent certification of project managers as part of its role in setting industry standards for the profession. The aim of the PMI® Certification exam and it's attendant requirements is to provide consumers of these services with some assurance that the person or people delivering the project management service meet independently verified standards of practice.



# The Value of Having a Project Management Professional (PMP®) Certification

In today's challenging business environment, a company may fail if it can't develop and deliver competitive products or services on time. Project Management Professional (PMP®) Certification training will give you the skills and confidence to bring new products and services to market on time and on budget. Project Management Professional (PMP®) Certification will make you a more valued contributor to your organization and help your career advance.

## Project Management Professional (PMP®) Certification

PMI®'s globally recognized certification is the Project Management Professional (PMP®) Credential. Certified Project Management Professionals are part of a successful group of practitioners who pursue this level of certification to enrich and advance their professional careers. Increasingly, many corporations require the credential for personal advancement within the organization or for initial employment.

"The PMP® is the project management credential of choice for many industries and companies," said Laurie Cooke, director of PMI® Professional Programs. "By attaining the PMP® credential, one's name is automatically included in the largest and most prestigious group of certified professionals in the project management community. Having this credential demonstrates to employers and other stakeholders that a person has a solid foundation of experience and education in project management."

## Benefits of PMP® Certification

Enrolling in PMI®'s Project Management Professional (PMP®) Certification Program offers project managers a wide range of important benefits. The PMP® designation following your name demonstrates to current and potential employers that you possess a solid foundation of experience and education in project management that can have a positive impact on bottom-line results. The certification exam is so important today that many organizations require their employees be certified in order to retain their positions. Some have received 15% raises and \$15,000 bonuses for doing so.

PMI®'s work advancing the PMP® Certification is a worldwide commitment, as evidenced by the Institute's growing influence in China. PMI® has been working with China's State Administration of Foreign Expert Affairs (SAFEA) to introduce PMI® standards and certification on behalf of the project management profession in China. Its endeavors there have prompted PMI's election to the 2003 Associations Advance America Honor Roll, an awards competition in the United States sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) in Washington, D.C. Nearly 3,000 people in China have taken the PMP® exam, and SAFEA estimates that at least 35,000 people have taken project management training in the past two years.

"It's been estimated that 5 million managers in China need knowledge of project management, and about 600,000 persons need immediate certification in project management," said Cooke.



"It's projections like these that convince us that the PMI® certification program can and should play an important and valuable role in supporting the global community of project management practitioners by objectively assessing and measuring professional knowledge and holding all candidates to the same credentialing process, requirements and examination."

The PMP®'s acceptance as an internationally recognized project management credential gained even greater momentum with its recent selection by Microsoft as the certification of choice for its Microsoft Services division. "We were in need of an internationally recognized project management certification that would support the professional development of our Services personnel," said Joe Austin, chief operating officer, Microsoft Services. "PMI®'s credentials parallel our own ongoing commitment to quality aimed at customer, partner and employee satisfaction."

"By supporting the PMP® credential program within their organization, Microsoft has clearly shown its commitment to advancing project management, both internally and around the globe," said Gregory Balestrero, CEO of PMI®.

## Exam Development

PMI®'s certification examination is based on a role delineation study, a certification industry standard for establishing valid and reliable examinations. The PMP® role delineation study investigates the tasks, knowledge and skills of project management practitioners on a global basis. Global individuals are represented in the process of developing and refining the tasks that are subsequently validated by thousands worldwide.

The role delineation study defines the knowledge domains that are to be assessed by the exam. A blueprint for the exam is created that reflects the number of questions needed per domain. Item-writing sessions then occur to create the questions for the exam. PMP®'s who are trained in item writing from around the world work collaboratively in a facilitated environment to write questions that are subsequently validated by a minimum of three other PMP®'s. These questions are then subject to additional rounds of review and are finally loaded into the item bank of questions from which exams are created.

After exam questions are finalized, routine maintenance of the items occurs using item-analysis statistics to review the performance of each question. Each question is scrutinized. How difficult is the question? Does it discriminate between those who know the materials and those who don't? Are the distracters (answer options) performing properly? With the guidance of psychometric (exam development) experts, PMP®'s review the questions, editing as necessary.

For more information on the benefits and criteria for becoming a PMP®, please visit the Project Management Institute's® website at [www.pmi.org](http://www.pmi.org)

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