

PMP Certification: Everything you need to know about the PMP examination

For an individual to tap the immense possibility in the world of project management, PMP certification is unparalleled in recognizing the skills of a professional project manager. But how to be ready to acquire this highly sought certification? This article briefly covers all of it:

- *Introducing what PMP certification is and who regulates it*
- *Significance of this credential and how it helps*
- *Requirements for PMP certification*
- *Application process for this certification*
- *Finally, how to prepare and nail the PMP examination*

As we embark the journey of technological advancement, many of the usual career opportunities will go extinct. On the flipside, the demand for particular jobs is on the rise. Such a fast-growing career track is project management. Even with all the changes, project management in industries like technologies, environmental development, infrastructure, healthcare, education is increasing every day. To strengthen this, the report [Project Management Job Growth and Talent Gap 2017-2027](#) conducted for PMI by the Anderson Economic Group (AEG) shows that within 2027, in seven project-oriented sectors the demand for project management-oriented labor force is estimated to grow by 33 percent which is almost 22 million new jobs in this area.

While there is so much career opportunity in the project management area, there is still a scarcity of highly-qualified managers. Organizations and clients are ready to pay more for top-notch quality managers and PMP certification is an esteemed credential to recognize that quality. Hence, many on the path of project management career are seeking the PMP certification to amp up their career growth and stand out of the pool of project managers out there.

What is a PMP certification?

After the acknowledgement of a bright career in project management and the existence of PMP certification, the question comes, what is a PMP certification?

PMP or Project Management Professionals is the highest certification provided by PMI or the Project Management Institute. There are seven other certifications provided by PMI to measure the project management standards. PMP, often referred as the golden standard in project management, is the best combination of all the desired skills of a project manager.

PMP is a globally recognized certification that does not focus on a certain industry or niche. Which is why, it opens doors to numerous scopes of work and development. PMP professionals have the credentials to deal projects all over the world which makes it more desirable for both the aspirants and the clients.

Why is PMP certification needed?

Before deciding on going for a PMP examination, you should weigh the benefits of getting the accreditation in the first place. PMP adds a couple of benefits in enhancing career value:

- PMP certification defines your experience and credibility of handling critical projects.

- In the report of *Earning Power: Project Management Salary Survey®* by PMI in January 2018 shows that survey respondent project managers with a PMP title earn around 23% more than project managers who don't have the PMP certification.
- A PMP examinee needs a holistic knowledge on project management including every step of implementing, monitoring, controlling and ending a project. Hence, a PMP certified manager achieves up-to-date global level skills.
- The certification helps fulfil the requirements of clients and organizations and get access to highly valued projects. Because reports from the 2020 Pulse of the Profession® reveal that 11.4% of investment is wasted due to poor project performance which can be averted by the control of a PMP certified manager.

So, it is certain that PMP certification automatically increases value of a project manager and works as a proof of global expertise in project management through the increase in opportunities, salaries as well as networking scopes.

Requirements for the PMP examination

To be precise, there are 2 different requirement routes for managers or interested personnel to choose from. Each of the two routes have 3 requirements to fulfil.

Route 1 is for those who do not have a 4-year formal degree. Instead, longer period of documented project management experience is needed. The specific requirements of this group are:

- High School completion certificate or leaving certificate
- 5+ years or 7500 hours of documented project management experience
- Formal project management training for 35 hours

Route 2 includes formal higher education degree whereas it is a bit lenient regarding the documented project management experience:

- An internationally accepted 4-year bachelor's degree
- 3+ years or 4500 hours of documented project management experience including leading and directing roles
- Formal project management training for 35 hours

There are a couple of PMI registered education providers who have PMP examination courses that fulfil the above requirement 35 hours of formal training. The trainings are always conducted by professional PMP trainers.

How to apply for PMP certification

After meeting the eligibility criteria, there are a few very simple steps in getting the PMP certification:

1. Application: One has to register in the [Project Management Institute](#) website and create a profile. Important information like domain experience and education will be asked while applying. It will take 5-10 days for PMI to review the application. When the application is accepted, the time for the eligibility period for sitting for the examination will be counted then on.

2. **Payment:** The examination fee is approximately \$555 for regular examinees and \$405 for PMI members. However, the expenses might increase soon and the updated payment schedule will be found in the PMI website.
3. **Exam Appointment:** Based on the available test locations, dates and times shown on the website, one can choose their preferred location and schedule. One has exactly a year since the date of application being approved to take the exam and the exam can be taken thrice within this time period.

[PMP examination format and some cracking tips to ace it](#)

2 January 2021 onwards, the usual format of the PMP exam will be changed. According to the updated format, there will be 180 questions to be answered within 230 minutes. There will be an additional break for a total of two 10-minute breaks for computer-based tests but none for the paper-based one. The new exam will focus on three major domains- people, process and business environment. Questions of the PMP exam usually consists of MCQ, matching and fill-in the gaps.

Since we are done knowing almost all the relevant information, here are some useful tips to keep in mind in order to ace the examination and keep the PMP certification valid:

[Use PMBOK guide](#)

Remember that PMI membership that discounts the application fee for members? Well, that membership does not only provide discounts. In fact, it provides access to a lot of useful exam materials. One of them is the PMBOK guide. The Project Management Body of Knowledge guide has a lot of PMP examination contents, sample, previous questions and answers that are thought to be right in the examination.

[Good PMP prep book](#)

To have a good hold on project management concepts, some good PMP examination preparation books can work like magic. Before attempting mock exams and solving questions, one must go through the concepts and connect them with real life projects.

[Trainings and seminars](#)

PMI membership provides access to some incredible seminars and connects to helpful networking groups. In fact, a formal training can help prepare for the exam and fulfil the aforementioned requirement of 35 hours of formal project management training.

Nothing beats practical knowledge in project management. Keeping records of past projects is essential not only for project documentation learning but also for the learning purpose. For this, OneThread can be an incredible project management software to be with you as the handiest tool before your PMP examination and even after achieving the accreditation.

[PMP mock tests](#)

Simulated online exams are the bests in solidifying the knowledge before any exams. It gives a clear about what to expect in the examination, exam duration as well as the exam duration. Sometimes, recognized training providers add mock tests for the PMP when the training is completed. This helps in finding problem areas and fixing them before the examination.

Maintain the PMP accreditation

PMP accreditation requires to be renewed every three years by earning 60 PDUs and a renewal application with fees. This might sound daunting but this way a PMP professional always stays relevant in the field. Moreover, there remains no question about the quality of the PMP credentials.

Ready for the examination

It is always wise to have a thorough research before taking a leap like going for the PMP examination. With adequate preparation and firm determination, one can excel in the PMP examination. The managers usually have to achieve at least 65% score to pass the certification exam. So, you can monitor your progress and then attempt the examination. Once you pass it, it is not hard to keep the future scores of professional development units to maintain the certification. Because PMP examination creates a strong base for project managers. If you have decided to achieve that, you certainly will be able to reach that level of exclusivity in the world of project management!