



Comparison of the CAPM[®] and PMP[®] Certifications

The prerequisites that the PMI impose on the candidate's project experience and academic qualifications are the first things to be aware of when considering which certification is the correct one for you.

Differences in fees and examinations can be more readily compared; the following table gives a brief overview of the main differences between the 2 certifications:

	CAPM [®]	PMP [®]
Prerequisites for eligibility	Secondary diploma (high school)	Secondary degree (high school diploma)
	1,500 hours of experience on a project team	5 years professional project management experience with 7,500 hours leading a project
		35 hours of education
	or	
	Secondary diploma (high school)	Bachelor's degree
	23 hours of formal education	3 years professional project management experience with 4,500 hours leading a project
		35 hours of education
Computer based test¹ Fees (Jan 2015)		
PMI member ²	US\$ 225	US\$ 405
PMI non-member ²	US\$ 300	US\$ 555
Re-examination fee (Jan 2015)		
PMI member	US\$ 150	US\$ 275
PMI non-member	US\$ 200	US\$ 375
Certification renewal fee (CAPM 5 year cycle, PMP- 3 year cycle)		
PMI member	US\$ 150 ³	US\$ 60 ⁴
PMI non-member	US\$ 200 ³	US\$ 150 ⁴
Examination		
Time	3 hours	4 hours
Total number of questions	150	200
Scored questions ⁵	135	175
Pass mark ⁶	Approx. 61-70 %	Approx. 61-70 %
Examination Language	English	English
Questions based on ⁷ :	Chapters 3-13 of the PMBOK Guide. For guidance: 50% from chapters 3-6 50% from chapters 7-13	Initiation – 13% Planning – 24% Executing – 30% Monitoring & Control - 25% Closing – 8%

As far as the examinations themselves are concerned: The CAPM[®] is based very much on details and knowledge that can be obtained from the PMBOK[®] Guide, whereas, the PMP[®] examination contains areas where the candidates experience is sought rather than merely the ability of being able to recall facts from the PMBOK[®].

The PMI have published 3 short handbooks which go into full detail of both of the certifications and the PMP[®] examination:

- CAPM[®] Handbook (Oct 2014)
- PMP[®] Handbook (Oct 2014)
- PMP[®] Examination Outline (Nov 2011)

For your convenience, on the 'Northern Project Management' website we have assembled all 3 documents on one 'Downloads & Links page'. The handbooks are ready to download in Adobe pdf format and can be found by using the following link:

http://www.northernprojectmanagement.com/PMI_CAPM_PMP_downloads_links

We hope you have found this brief comparison between 2 of the PMI's Project Management certifications of some use. As always, any feedback or comments are greatly appreciated.

Notes:

1. Computer based testing is the standard examination method, however a paper based test is available if the delegate lives more than 300km from a Prometric centre or the test is being sponsored by a company (multiple tests).
2. It is possible to become a member of the PMI, and become eligible for certain benefits, before registering to take the CAPM examination.
3. The renewal of the CAPM certification is achieved by sitting another exam.
4. PMP renewal is through a system known as 'Continuing Certification Requirements' (CCR) and involves obtaining a certain amount of 'Professional Development Units' (PDU) within a 3 year cycle.
5. 5 questions on the CAPM examination and 25 on the PMP examination are used by the PMI as test questions for future examinations and do not count towards the result (there is no indication of which questions these are).
6. Several years ago the pass mark disclosed by PMI was 61%, however, today the actual score required to pass the examination is not disclosed by PMI.
7. Further details of the PMP examination can be obtained from the "PMP Examination Content Outline" (PMP examination blueprint).