

Overview Guide

BENEFITS OF PMP® CERTIFICATION VS. ALTERNATE CERTIFICATIONS

Use this quick-reference guide to help evaluate your project management certification options. Whether your biggest concern is experience, exam format, cost, or renewal requirements, this overview guide will help you pick the best program for you.



COMPTIA

Project+	
Experience:	Entry-level (1 year or less)
Exam:	Maximum of 95 questions (90 minutes)
Cost:	\$338 (plus training costs)
Renewal:	None (Good for life)



Project Management Professional Certificate	
Experience:	Entry-level
Exam:	None (6 courses)
Cost:	\$234 (\$39 per month - 6 months @ 10 hours per week)
Renewal:	None (Good for life)



GLOBAL ASSOCIATION FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT (GAQM®)

	Associate in Project Management (APM)	Professional in Project Management (PPM)	Certified Project Director (CPD)
Experience:	Entry-level (1 year or less)	Intermediate (2 years or more)	Advanced (4 years or more)
Exam:	50 questions (60 minutes)	150 questions (120 minutes)	100 questions (80 minutes)
Cost:	\$128 (plus training costs)	\$210 (\$320 with e-course)	\$210 (\$280 with e-course)
Renewal:	None (Good for life)	5 years (50 CEUs)	5 years (25 CEUs)



GLOBAL INFORMATION ASSURANCE CERTIFICATION (GIAC)

GIAC Certified Project Manager (GCPM)	
Experience:	Intermediate (2 years or more)
Exam:	150 questions (240 minutes)
Cost:	\$999 (Includes training costs)
Renewal:	4 years (Must earn CMUs)



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ASSOCIATION FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT (APM)

	APM Project Fundamentals Qualification (PFQ)	APM Project Management Qualification (PMQ)	APM Project Professional Qualification (PPQ)	Chartered Project Professional (ChPP)
Experience:	Entry-level (1 year or less)	Intermediate (2 years or more)	Advanced (3 years or more)	Advanced (5 years or more)
Exam:	60 questions (60 minutes)	2 or 3-hour exam (Between 6 and 16 questions)	3-part Exam	Written assessments based on Route
Cost:	\$212 (plus training costs)	\$458 (plus training costs)	\$900 (plus training costs)	\$1,250
Renewal:	None (Good for life)	None (Good for life)	None (Good for life)	None (Good for life)



PRINCE2

	PRINCE2 Foundation	PRINCE2 Agile Foundation	PRINCE2 Practitioner	PRINCE2 Agile Practitioner
Experience:	Entry-level (1 year or less)	Entry-level (1 year or less)	Advanced (3 years or more)	Intermediate (2 years or more)
Exam:	60 questions (60 minutes)	50 questions (60 minutes)	68 questions (150 minutes)	50 questions (150 minutes)
Cost:	\$363 (plus training costs)	\$363 (plus training costs)	\$488 (plus training costs)	\$494 (plus training costs)
Renewal:	None (Good for life)	None (Good for life)	3 years (60 CPDs)	3 years (60 CPDs)



INTERNATIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (IPMA)

	Certified Project Management Associate (Level D)	Certified Project Manager (Level C)	Certified Senior Project Manager (Level B)	Certified Projects Director (Level A)
Experience:	Entry-level (1 year or less)	Intermediate (3 years or more)	Advanced (5 years or more)	Advanced (5 years or more)
Exam:	60 multiple-choice questions (50 minutes) and 10 short-essay questions (120 minutes)	12 short-essay questions (170 minutes with a 20-minute break) plus several rounds of interviews	8 situational essay questions (90 minutes) plus several rounds of interviews	Application with several rounds of interviews and simulation or role-based scenarios.
Cost:	\$445 for IPMA members \$595 for non-members	\$1,495 for IPMA members \$1,695 for non-members	\$1,795 for IPMA members \$1,995 for non-members	\$1,995 for IPMA members \$2,195 for non-members
Renewal:	\$595 for non-members	\$1,695 for non-members	3 years (60 CPDs)	3 years (60 CPDs)



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROJECT MANAGERS (IAPM)

	Certified Junior Project Manager/Certified Junior Agile Project Manager	Certified Project Manager/Certified Agile Project Manager	Certified Senior Project Manager/Certified Senior Agile Project Manager	Certified International Project Manager
Experience:	Entry-level (1 year or less)	Entry-level (1 year or less)	Advanced (5 years or more)	Intermediate (2 years or more)
Exam:	40 questions (35 minutes)	120 questions (80 minutes)	120 questions (80 minutes)	80 questions (60 minutes)
Cost:	\$150 (plus training costs)	\$700 (plus training costs)	\$950 (plus training costs)	\$700 (plus training costs)
Renewal:	None (Good for life)	None (Good for life)	None (Good for life)	None (Good for life)



PROJECT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (PMI)

	Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)	Project Management Professional (PMP)	PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP)
Experience:	Entry-level (1 year or less)	Advanced (3 years or more)	Entry-level (1 year or less)
Exam:	150 questions (180 minutes)	180 questions (230 minutes)	120 questions (180 minutes)
Cost:	\$225 for PMI members \$300 for non-members	\$405 for PMI members \$555 for non-members	\$435 for PMI members \$495 for non-members
Renewal:	3 years (15 PDUs)	3 years (60 PDUs)	3 years (30 PDUs)



SCRUM ALLIANCE

	Certified ScrumMaster (CSM)	Advanced Certified ScrumMaster (A-CSM)	Certified Scrum Professional® - ScrumMaster (CSP-SM)
Experience:	Entry-level (1 year or less)	Intermediate (1 year or more)	Advanced (2 years or more)
Exam:	50 questions (60 minutes)	Varies by provider	Varies by provider
Cost:	Starting at \$495	Starting at \$805	Starting at \$1,295
Renewal:	2 years (20 SEUs)	2 years (30 SEUs)	2 years (40 SEUs)



SCRUM.ORG

	Professional Scrum Master I (PSM I)	Professional Scrum Master II (PSM II)	Professional Scrum Master III (PSM III)
Experience:	Entry-level (1 year or less)	Intermediate (2 years or more)	Advanced (3 years or more)
Exam:	80 questions (60 minutes)	30 questions (90 minutes)	30 multiple-choice and essay (150 minutes)
Cost:	\$150 (plus training costs)	\$250 (plus training costs)	\$500 (plus training costs)
Renewal:	None (Good for life)	None (Good for life)	None (Good for life)

SEE OUR FULL ARTICLE

Want a full review of each of your project management program options? Review our full article for an in-depth overview!

[READ ARTICLE](#)



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