



Updates to the Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification Exam

The Project Management Professional (PMP)[®] credential examination will be updated in 2011, based on updates to the professional role of a PMP[®] recently found in PMI's Role Delineation Study (RDS).

What do I need to know about the changes to the PMP credential and examination?

- The process for updating the PMP begins with the RDS, which is now complete. [Learn more about the RDS.](#)
- These updates to the role do have an effect on the examination questions for the PMP, and will be reflected in the PMP examination starting 31 August 2011. Regular communications about this change will continue until the PMP examination change on 31 August.

Where can I find PMP update resources?

- If you are preparing training or courseware for people who plan to take the PMP examination after 31 August, you can access a complimentary electronic copy of the [PMP Examination Content Outline](#), formerly titled the PMP Examination Specification.
- If you need to communicate about the PMP update within your organization or community, be prepared by reading our [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#).

The PMP role delineation study

PMI conducts a role delineation study (RDS) for the Project Management Professional (PMP)[®] credential every five to seven years to ensure the credential reflects contemporary practice and evolves to meet current needs in the profession, and to comply with the PMP's accreditation under the ISO 17024 standard.

Why the RDS is important

The RDS enables PMI to identify the most current and critical elements of the professional practice of project management. This ensures that the credential examinations continue to assess what is most relevant in the day-to-day work of project managers.

In the global marketplace, the PMP credential's accreditation under ISO 17024 provides a distinctive differentiation — and this accreditation also requires that we conduct the RDS.



How the PMP is affected

The latest results of the RDS produced an updated description of the professional role of a PMP. The responses met the requirements for statistical relevancy and adequately reflected the profession in geography, industry and other standard demographics. We collected feedback from more than 3,000 PMP credential holders from 97 countries, representing all organizational levels.

The RDS results provide us with a blueprint for updating the credential:

- The education and experience eligibility requirements for the existing PMP examination remain appropriate **and will not be changed**.
- Approximately 30% of the PMP exam content will change.
- Certain examination areas will be tested in a different way. Specifically, the Professional and Social Responsibility content area (Domain 6) will now be tested in every domain, rather than as a separate domain. The RDS revealed that professional and social responsibility is integrated into all of the work of project management. Therefore, [PMI's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct](#) should be viewed as integrated into the day-to-day role of a project manager and important in each phase of the project lifecycle.

If you would like to know more about the process PMI used for conducting the RDS, please refer to [Appendix A in the PMP Examination Content Outline](#).

Who Participated in the RDS

- Over 3,000 PMP credential holders participated by providing guidance in the formulation of the changes to the role, refining this content, and participating in the validation survey.
- Participants represented each of the four geographic regions:
 - 50% were from North America
 - 25% from Asia Pacific
 - 17% from EMEA
 - 8% from Latin America and the Caribbean
- Participants represented all major industries and job levels.
- Participants reflected diversity in their years of experience, with an average of 11 years' experience as a project manager.
- Participants were active project managers, spending an average of 78% of their working time on project management tasks and managing a median of four projects in the last 12 months.



PMP Update and Role Delineation Study (RDS)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. As a current credential holder how does this impact me? Are there any changes for renewing my credential?

A: If you currently hold the PMP credential, the release of the new RDS has limited impact for you since the primary result of the RDS is to update the PMP examination. PMI will review the results of this RDS to determine whether it requires updates be made to the PMP Continuing Certification Requirements (CCR) program. PMI expects that any changes to this program will be announced in Q4 2010.

Q2. When will the changes to the PMP examination take place?

A: The new exam is scheduled to be released on 31 August 2011. This means that the last day to take the current PMP examination is 30 August 2011. Candidates who would like to take the current version of the examination are advised to schedule their examinations early to better ensure that they are able to obtain a test date before the examination update.

Q3. Are the eligibility criteria (contact hours / project management experience hours) changing?

A: No - the eligibility criteria will remain the same. Only the multiple-choice examination content of the PMP is changing.

Q4. What version of a Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK Guide) should I study for the updated PMP examination?

A: The update of the examination for the new RDS does not affect the PMBOK Guide, so candidates should continue to study the Fourth Edition, as well as other current project management titles.

Q5. Is there going to be a change to the PMBOK Guide, Fourth Edition?

A: No. The update of the examination to align with the new RDS does not affect the PMBOK Guide.

Q6. Will the score report be changing?

A: At this time, PMI does not anticipate any changes will be made to the PMP score report.

Q7. Will PMI provide a full refund if I am unable to take the exam before the new exam is released?

A: No. PMI is announcing the change to the PMP examination approximately 11 months before it is implemented so that all PMP candidates have the time required to take the examination before it is updated.



Q8. Will PMI have expanded scheduling options at the test centers to ensure that all candidates can take the exam prior to updates taking place?

A: PMI is working with our testing partner, Prometric, to coordinate availability changes at testing centers, if this is required due to demand.

Q9. What are the major differences from the new exam to the old exam?

A: Approximately 30% of the content on the PM P examination is new or has substantial changes to reflect the role as defined by the RDS. This will result in existing items being updated as appropriate, new examination items being developed to meet these requirements, and old items which do not meet the criteria being retired.

A: Certain areas of the examination need to be tested in a different way because it was seen to be common across all content areas of the examination. Specifically, the Professional and Social Responsibility content area (Domain 6) will now be tested in every domain rather than as a separate domain on the examination. As such, PMI's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is now integrated into the day-to-day role of a project manager, emphasizing its importance in each phase of the project lifecycle.

Q10. Will PMI's Registered Education Providers (R.E.P.s) be clear on whether they are teaching courses based on the current exam or the new exam version?

A: PMI REPs have been informed on the change and update schedule, as well as being provided the new PMP Examination Content Outline in order to update their courses.

Q11. I scheduled my exam before the update and now I'm not prepared to take the exam. Can I have an extension?

A: No. Any examinations taken on or after 31 August 2011 will be updated to the new version of the examination.

Q12. Will I need to take another prep course since the exam is being updated?

A: PMP candidates are encouraged to prepare thoroughly for the new version of the examination. PMI has study tips available for PMP candidates at the PMP study tips page.

Q13. If I have earned PDUs for my PMP credential, will they count toward renewal for the new version of the PMP?

A: Yes. The new RDS only affects the PMP examination, so it will not impact your PDUs or certification renewal.