



PMI Central Mass Report

Can I take the PMP exam even if my title is not “Project Manager”?

Are you wondering if you can take the Project Management Professional (PMP)[®] exam or not? You might have various concerns regarding the PMP exam such as your designation, size of the organization and benefits of PMP certification in career development. Well, then here I am to address some of your concerns and help you develop an in-depth understanding about how the PMP certification can be beneficial for you.

YES! You can take the PMP exam even if your title is not project manager. To take the exam you need to have the appropriate authority and responsibility rather than the designation: The PMP certification is a credential for those who lead and direct project teams.

A professional with a PMP certification is recognized worldwide to handle projects with diligence and constructive approach. It certifies your expertise in project understanding, time management, risk management, quality control, leadership, budgeting, communication, documentation and integration. All of these skills add value to the organization.

If your role in the current organization involves project management and you have proficiency in handling projects and team related issues then you should definitely go for the PMP certification. It provides you with a strong foundation to effectively manage projects. The idea is not to concentrate on the title but on your responsibilities.

Even if your title is not anything close to a project manager, as long as your role involves handling different processes of a project you can go ahead with the PMP certification to be an even more successful project manager.

According to Foote Partners LLC, an IT workforce

research company, projects managed by people who are not PMP certified project managers have only 25% success rate in contrast to 75% success rate of projects handled by PMP certified managers.

The PMP certification offers immense benefits for you as well as your employer. As a general rule, holders of the PMP certificate have higher salaries, receive more job promotions and better job prospects. A PMP credential gives you the most sought after appreciation and visibility within your organization. Hence, your prospects of growth in your current job and getting a new job increase manifold after being a certified PMP.

Employers who hire PMPs are much more confident about the core competencies of their employees in project management. As a PMP you will be responsible for all aspects of a project such as demonstrating knowledge, understanding and leadership to deliver the project within time constraints, resources, scope and budget. Your role will not only be to lead and direct the project but also oversee project team members.

Here is another area where you can see the importance of role over title: On your application for the PMP certification you need to select one of the following roles:

Project Contributor, Supervisor, Manager, Project Leader, Project Manager, Educator, Consultant, Administrator

So, you are not really asked for the TITLE, you are actually asked for your ROLE. If your role is not included among the options provided, then select ‘Other’.

Here are some more eligibility criteria for the PMP certification: If you have a bachelor’s degree you must
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President's Note: Piece of Cake, i.e. simple, easily done...

Project management is team based by definition. At our chapter meetings various speakers have addressed the “soft skills” of project management. Their primary message: treat your team members with dignity, respect and consideration. High performance teams are built on this fundamental principle and those project teams experience much greater project success rates.

A piece of cake, simple, easily done, yet with significant impact!

A company-wide celebration, which featured an elaborate cake for all to enjoy, was held in recognition of the company employees' efforts and contribution to the accomplishment of a major corporate goal. Several team members however were unable to attend as their functional manager had neglected to coordinate a staggered attendance which would have facilitated both continuity of operations and attendance at the employee recognition celebration. Stumbling across this scenario, a project manager offered to bring each staff member a piece of the celebration cake. This took little effort on the part of the project manager but the consideration demonstrated was gratefully appreciated by the team members.

A piece of cake, simple, easily done, yet with significant impact!

Watch for opportunities to demonstrate your respect and consideration for your team members and set the tone for your team members. Encourage them to build each other up!

Kudos from a speaker

*After presenting at our February meeting,
Denise Guérin sent the following note to us:*

“Thanks again for having invited me to present to the CMass Chapter meeting last night. I am so impressed by the level of professionalism that prevails among this group and at these meetings; it's been a pleasure working with Sethu and everyone else. I had fun, and I hope the presentation was well-received by your members. You'll definitely be seeing me again at another meeting.”



PMI Central Mass “Central to Success”

The Central Mass Chapter of PMI is a professional association serving the Central Massachusetts area promoting the practice of project management.

For more information and how to become a member or attend an event, visit our web site: www.pmicmass.org.

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An exclusive PMI member benefit, eReads & Reference provides online access to 250 complete and unabridged books from PMI and other leading publishers. Topics include project management, leadership, teams, cross-cultural business, knowledge management and more.

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To begin your search, click "Go to eReads & Reference ›" located at the bottom of the left-hand column.

<http://www.pmi.org/Resources/Pages/Members/eReads-and-Reference.aspx>

Why Volunteer?

I am continually impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of our members. At almost every meeting, volunteers come forward to offer their time and professional services to our organization. Why do these people volunteer? Among the many reasons given are:

- To form a strong professional network among the members of the Chapter
- To gain valuable project management experience
- To maintain management skills during a job transition
- To initiate and support important Chapter strategic goals
- To earn PDUs
- To become more involved with PMI and to "give back" to the organization

Do you share any of these motivations? Are you willing and able to give valuable support to the Chapter by offering your time? Do you have valuable management skills and energy to offer?

We are currently hoping to fill several open positions, as a number of members of the Board of Directors need assistance. Please think about what may motivate you to volunteer, and come forward to offer your services.

Contact the DirofVolunteers@pmicmass.com for more information.

"Can I?", continued from page 1

show a minimum of 4500 hours of project management experience or a minimum of 7500 years of experience otherwise. The experience should span across all the five process groups of initiating, planning, executing, monitoring and controlling as well as closing. However, you do not need to have experience in every process group in every project that you have worked on.

You might have joined some projects midway or left some in the middle. All of those projects can be taken into account. However, some experience in all the process groups on any of your projects is required.

You also need to complete at least 35 hours of project management education. This is officially called "35 contact hours". You will be required to put in the start date, end date, name of the course provider as well as name of the training course when filling in the application form. Pretty much any training that relates to the 9 knowledge areas of the PMBOK® Guide qualifies.

So does your role meet these criteria? Then go ahead and become a certified PMP! It is a step ahead towards enhancing your career and increasing your professional growth. Put yourself in the limelight, and maximize your earning potential without any further delay!

About the author: Cornelius Fichtner, PMP is a noted PMP expert. He has helped over 8,000 students prepare for the PMP Exam with his PM PrepCast at

<http://www.pm-prepcast.com>.

Member Benefits



PMI Central Mass LinkedIn Group

To join the group, please use the following link:
www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=46588
(Benefit is only available to Chapter members.).

MetSIG Webinars

PMI Central Mass offers its members the MetSIG Webinars for free. There are hundreds, each with 1 PDU. For access code, contact dirofcommunications@pmicmass.com

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Coaching for Project Managers by Star Dargin

On June 12th, at Juniper Hills in Northborough, Star Dargin will be presenting her course on coaching for project managers. This is a half day course that awards 4 PDUs and will cost \$125 for early registration members.

This course is the first step in learning to be a coach. The participant will watch and experience being coached, learn basic skills, become familiar with some tools of coaching, and learn when it is appropriate for Project Managers to use coaching.

Star has eclectic background experience in engineering, leadership, organizational management, and project management, consultation, teaching and coaching. She provides training, coaching and consulting services that are customized to the needs of the industry, culture, and needs of a business.

Agile Methods of Development by BigVisible

On May 8th, training focused on Agile from the traditional project manager's perspective, or how to methodically plan to be agile. This course will be held at Juniper Hills in Northborough. As a full-day session, it will earn 8 PDUs at the completion of the class. Early pricing for members is \$275, with typical increases for late registration and non-members.

This seminar is meant to be a practical, hands-on exercise introducing the basic concepts of Agile project management and give participants a chance to use them within a simple, simulated project. The class will alternate between lecture and iterations of the "Agile Game" used to reinforce the basic concepts and tools being taught.

Big Visible Solutions is a provider of Agile training, coaching and enablement services. The company specializes in working with large enterprises to successfully improve their software development capability using Agile methods.

Congratulations on Successful Past Events

Central Mass Delivers on January PMP Prep Course

The recent 10-week, 35 contact hour PMP Prep Course sponsored by PMI Central Massachusetts Chapter wrapped up in April. Twenty-two hard-working students participated in this comprehensive PMP Exam Prep Program. Two students have already passed the Exam, and many others are in the process of completing their PMP applications to sit the PMP exam.

The course was developed and facilitated by Barbara Karten, PMP, Dick Kennedy, PMP, and Mike Nolett, PMP acting together as Practical PM. Participants expressed their great satisfaction with the pace and con-

tent of the course, as well as their excitement over the prospects of potentially becoming certified PMPs this year.

Our heartfelt thanks to The College of The Holy Cross for allowing us the use of a fantastic training room in their Hogan Conference Center. This facility boasts top-notch training and meeting spaces, ample parking, a convenience store, a full-service restaurant, and more. We could not have asked for better! Special thanks to Denise Davies, PMP, PMI Central Mass member and Holy Cross employee, for not only recommending the Hogan Center, but also for her help in coordinating arrangements with Center's staff.

As you may already be aware, due to overwhelming interest, the Chapter has arranged for a second session of the PMP Prep Course at the Hogan Center. This second session will begin April 28th and run for ten consecutive weeks on Wednesday evenings, following the same format as the January session. Further additional sessions will be planned for the remainder of the year. Please contact dirofevents@pmicmass.org if you are interested..



NEW: Wednesdays in Worcester

The Central Mass Chapter of PMI continues to grow and expand. As part of our outreach program, we are now offering regular chapter meetings at locations directly in the city of Worcester, making meetings more convenient to members who live and work in the Worcester area and in the region of Central Massachusetts. A committee of Barbara Karten, Linda Weson, and Alicia Ernst was formed in December to initiate these expanded meetings and to promote Central Mass PMI in the city. In addition to offering meetings in new locations, the committee also focused on building connections with the many colleges and universities offering Project Management education in the area, and providing initial contacts to Worcester students who are entering the PM profession.

On Wednesday, April 28th, we held the first Worcester Chapter Meeting. The event was sponsored by Eric Dunphy of VITAL Emergency Management Services, who generously offered facilities at no charge to host the meeting. Increasing PMI recognition among the business community is a further goal of the Worcester outreach, and connecting with local businesses and service providers is an important initiative. At the inaugural meeting, Kanan Alhassani, founder and President of

Integrated Management Services and adjunct professor in Project Management at WPI, spoke about the best way to present theoretical PM processes to real-world project stakeholders in order to increase project success.

The Worcester meetings will continue to be offered up to four times throughout the year at various sites in and around the city. In order to better serve members who may have conflicts during our normal Chapter meetings on Tuesdays, the Worcester meetings will be held on Wednesday evenings. Look for more information on the upcoming meeting at Holy Cross in September, and remember to add the dates to your calendar: Wednesdays in Worcester!

Photos:

Top: First Chapter Meeting in Worcester.

Left: Barbara Karten, Linda Wason and Alicia Ernst Formed the Worcester Initiative Committee .

Right: Kanan Alhassani Spoke on "Implementing Project Management: In Search of Theory vs. Practice."



More PDUs for YOU!

This brief article is a reminder of other means to earn PDUs in addition to attending the great chapter meetings and events held by the Central Mass Chapter. Note information is an excerpt from the PMI.ORG website.

PMI Publication Quizzes

You can purchase articles/quizzes from PMI.org/Marketplace. Access the articles electronically, read them, and then take an open-book quiz online. Score a 70% or higher and you can earn 1 or 2 PDUs. The papers come from PMI global congresses and research conferences. Topics include cultural intelligence, organizational project management, milestone planning, work breakdown structures, and vendor and contractor management. The anytime, anywhere online access is perfect for your busy schedule, and at only US\$15 per PDU for PMI members, it's perfect for your budget. PMI Publication Quizzes qualify as Category 3 PDUs. Only one-third of your PDUs per three-year cycle may be earned through PMI Publication Quizzes. The quizzes do not qualify as educational hours to sit for a credential exam.

Here are a few interesting titles I pulled off the website:

- Is There Anything New Under the Sun? The Changing and Unchanging Faces of Project Management
- You've Got WAY Too Many Issues!
- Making Cultural Intelligence One of Your Signature Skills
- Vendors May Cost You More than Your Project: How to Avoid Vendor Risks
- Risk Assessments - Developing the Right Assess-

ments for Your Organization

- Getting Executives to Act for Project Success

Self-Directed Learning Activities

Self-directed learning activities are individualized learning events involving personally conducted research or study. Learning may include informal activities such as discussions or coaching/mentoring sessions with colleagues, coworkers, clients or consultants. It may include articles, books, instructional manuals, videos, CD-ROMs or other material resources. Qualifying self-directed learning activities must be relevant to project/program management, meet a specified purpose, and use knowledgeable resources. If you are claiming participation in a coaching/mentoring session, you need to have been the person who was coached/mentored and NOT the coach or mentor. Documentation required upon PMI audit/request: evidence supporting your reported learning project, including notes from and dates of discussion or reading. Maximum 15 self-directed learning PDUs may be earned per 3-year CCR cycle.

This are a few good examples of how you can choose the way to learn that is best for your personality. I hope you are taking advantage of these easily accessible and executable activities to earn more PDUs. If you need help or suggestions, please contact the Director of Membership or one of the Board members. If you want to share your experience with these learning methods with the other chapter members, let us know and we can give you a few minutes to speak at an upcoming meeting, or give you some space in the next newsletter.

Deb Winslow, PMP

WRITE FOR US

The PMI Central Mass newsletter is always looking for great articles to publish. If you have a great project story to tell or a new and interesting technique that worked on a project, let us know.

Email editor@pmicmass.com or attend one of our chapter meetings. If your article is published, you can also earn PDUs.

JOBS AT PMI CENTRAL MASS

A free service of our chapter, our Jobs distribution list allows employers to access our group of skilled project management professionals. As a member, if you would like to receive our job postings, please email your name to jobs@pmicmass.com

If you have project management openings at your organization, email the information to jobs@pmicmass.com for distribution to our list.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Get involved! Volunteering with us is a great way to make contacts in the field, take on projects you care about, and further your career. Send us an email or attend one of our chapter meetings. Thanks!

Linda Desmond Spring Event Just Completed!

On Saturday, April 10, Linda Desmond presented Effective Communication and Teambuilding to a diverse group at Juniper Hills Country Club in Northborough. Linda's vibrant style motivated the group to be creative, working in small teams to integrate new communication techniques into our lives. We realized that, although we intellectually understand many of the concepts, it's necessary to practice them, and get feedback from our team members to fully and effectively integrate new practices. Success on our projects has a great deal to do with improving individual commitment within our teams.

Save the Date
Annual August Special Event

Effective Negotiation

Does it require Aptitude or Attitude?

Presented by Heather Meeker Green.

Sponsored by Accordence.

Heather is an experienced speaker on interpersonal relationships and a friend of the Chapter having last presented to us in June 2009.

Participants in this highly interactive program will benefit in a number of ways. We will:

- increase our ability to negotiate outcomes to meet strategic goals,
- increase our awareness of the sources of value in negotiation, and
- enhance our ability to start, sustain and repair critical business relationships.

And... we'll have fun doing it!

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

4:00 PM to 8:30 PM

4 PDU workshop

Early member registration set at \$60

Check pmicmass.org for more information starting in early May

Upcoming Events

2010

MAY 8

FULL-DAY TRAINING EVENT

Agile Methods of Development, 8 PDUs, Juniper Hills. Presented by **Big Visible**.
See page 4 for more information.

MAY 11

CHAPTER MEETING

The Hidden Web: Inside the Informal Networks that Drive Project Performance,
Maya Townsend

Influencing without authority is one of the hardest skills to acquire. Yet there is a powerful tool that can help PMs understand how to influence effectively. Underneath organization charts and process maps are hidden informal networks. People activate these networks in order to solve problems, gain expertise, and innovate.

JUN 8

CHAPTER MEETING

“Tired of justifying your value? Let numbers do it for you!”

Debbie Crawford

If you have grown weary of always justifying the value of project management, this session is for you!! Develop a scorecard to track on-going performance. Measure the business impact of project management to your organization. Set up a measurement program designed to help improve your performance as well as justify your investment.

JUN 12

HALF-DAY TRAINING EVENT

Soft Skills Coaching, 4 PDUs, Juniper Hills. Presented by **Star Dargin**

This presentation will provide you the opportunity to watch and experience being coached, learn basic skills, become familiar with some tools of coaching, and learn when it is appropriate for Project Managers to use coaching.

JUL 13

SPECIAL CHAPTER MEETING

Networking & Career Development

AUG 10

SPECIAL CHAPTER MEETING

Effective Negotiation

Presented by Heather Meeker Green. Sponsored by Accordence.

See information on page 7 and additional information on pmicmass.org

SEP 14

CHAPTER MEETING

OCT 12

CHAPTER MEETING

Chapter Elections will be held at this meeting

To register for events and more information, visit www.pmicmass.org