

Instructor-led Learning

2-Course IT CAPM® Plus Certification



4PM is an absolute must for anyone planning to take the PMP Cert exam. The approach is very organized and easy to follow. The on-line testing, at the end of each knowledge area, and the essay-style super scenario questions really help tie the information"

Richard Deramo,
PMP

"I would say [my instructor] was one of the best I've ever had, in any course. He is extremely knowledgeable and he seems to have a genuine interest in seeing that the students learn the material and leave as better project managers."

Chris Thomas
PMP 3M

Who It Is Designed For

This project management certification is designed for IT project team members and new project managers who want to enhance their skills and prepare to pass PMI's CAPM® (Certified Associate Project Manager) exam. It is composed of two courses:

- Essentials of IT Project Management - #111
- CAPM® Exam Prep - #102

Your Learning Experience

In both courses you work directly with your PMI®-certified instructor via e-mail, telephone, and online simulations. You have textbooks with PMBOK® concepts and realistic examples, lectures and [videos](#) of PM's in action, and an instructor who gives you personal feedback and coaching on each assignment. You may call them with questions or to discuss a concept whenever you wish. There are no fixed schedules or time limits for access to your course materials and instructor. You develop a personal relationship with your instructor that continues after you have finished the program. We provide you with one year of ongoing support and advice on your projects at work.

In course #111 you will learn fundamental techniques and practice using them in an IT case study by building a plan, schedule, and making a presentation to stakeholders. In course #102 you will work through all the best practices in project management with your instructor and prepare for the CAPM® exam by taking 11 practice exams. Your materials don't expire.

Your Credentials

These courses are approved by the Project Management Institute and fulfill the 23 contact hours required for the CAPM® exam. Additionally, we guarantee you will pass the CAPM® exam and earn that credential.

Our Credentials

We developed our exclusive learning technology based on our 10 years of experience teaching project managers over the Web. This state-of-the-art technology allows you to control the pace of your learning while working individually with your instructor to master best practices in the technical and interpersonal skills that project managers need.

Enroll by phone at 800-942-4323 or online at www.4PM.com

111 Essentials of IT PM Syllabus

Duration: 30 hours of work, at your pace and schedule with no time limits

Credits: 2 graduate school credits, approved by PMI (Project Management Institute)

Prerequisites: none

Designed for: people who are new to IT projects or those who want formal training

What you will learn: the fundamentals of a step-by-step IT project management methodology and Microsoft Project® software skills that will let you manage projects with consistent success

Textbook: *Essentials of Project Management*, 8.5" by 11" 97 pages, 2005 4th edition

Overview

Working with a PMI®-certified instructor, you'll learn a practical IT project methodology. You'll have textbook readings and lectures on CD that explain all the concepts. Then you'll practice every step by managing a customer service improvement project. You'll receive personal mentoring & written feedback from your instructor on each assignment, and you can call or e-mail them with questions as often as you want. You may work on the course at your pace whenever it fits your schedule. There are no time limitations or expiration dates. You will practice all the techniques for: planning a project, executing the plan, tracking in MS Project®, problem solving, and reporting status.

Module 1. Project Planning

Reading Assignment: In your textbook, you'll learn how to start a project the right way and what questions to ask the user to clarify exactly what business result the project should produce. You'll read examples of meetings where PMs ask users the right questions to define the how they will measure if the project is a success.

Lecture: The lecture expands on the reading with a discussion of techniques to clarify what the boss wants and deal with department managers in the early stages of a project. This will tell you exactly what deliverables your project has to produce. You'll watch a movie of a PM meeting with a difficult sponsor, handling the situation and starting the project the right way. You'll also see a "Best Practices" meeting where an experienced project manager has some advice for a newer PM on how to develop a project scope that accomplishes exactly what the sponsor wants. You may ask your instructor any questions and you will always get a private response within 24 hours.

Practice what you've learned: In this case study, you have just joined Vailcrest Corporation as their first IT project manager. Vailcrest is a rapidly growing organization located in Vail, Colorado, and your new boss is concerned about customer service slipping. He assigns you an important project to solve these customer service problems using a team of people drawn from several departments. You learn about some of the personality problems that could affect the project and the conflicts that exist between departments. Using the techniques you learned in the reading and lectures, you will ask questions of your boss to identify exactly what he wants the project to deliver. Your instructor will role-play the boss and answer your questions, then give you feedback and coaching on how you handled the meeting. Next, you'll write a proposed scope and present it to the boss for approval.

Module 2. Gathering Requirements

Reading Assignment: In your textbook, you will learn how to gather requirements from the people who are affected by the project. Then you'll learn all the steps in building a network of measurable achievements that will be the backbone of your project. These achievements are the check points you will use to control the project and assess progress.

Lecture: The lecture explains the techniques for unearthing requirements from department managers and explains how to convert their wishes and wants into clear outcomes your team must deliver. You also watch a video of a project manager meeting with department managers to get their requirements so you see how to do it successfully. In addition, you will see a “Best Practices” discussion between a new PM and an experienced PM on how to determine what level of detail needs to be included in the project plan. Ask any questions of your instructor and get a private response within 24 hours.

Practice what you’ve learned: You meet more of the people who work at Vailcrest and hear their complaints about the facilities, systems and people they work with in the case study videos. Most of them support your project and they explain the challenges they have to overcome to improve service. There is some finger pointing at other departments and you discover that the operations, marketing and technical departments do not cooperate very well. You meet with department managers and professional staff and ask them questions about the performance issues their departments face. Your instructor role-plays with you, answering your questions as you gather the project requirements. You’ll learn to overcome the challenge of working with stakeholders; some define project goals with “wish-lists” of details and others avoid committing to an end-result. You submit your project requirements to your instructor and get feedback and coaching on your work.

Module 3. Project Plan and Charter

Reading Assignment: In your textbook, you’ll read how to concisely organize the key components of the charter into a 1-1½ page document that includes the resources and support you need to manage the project. You’ll see examples of how to put it all together and make an effective presentation of the information.

Lecture: Your lecture explains how to concisely describe all the project elements like risks and the resources you need. You’ll see practical techniques for making an effective presentation of the project plan to get the support you need. You also watch a movie of a project manager presenting the charter to the sponsor. In your “Best Practices” movie, you’ll listen in as the experienced PM discusses how to handle changes that people want to make to the plan. Ask your instructor any questions and get a private response within 24 hours.

Practice what you’ve learned: The boss is eager to start work on the project but you know there are issues of cooperation from other departments that need to be straightened out to insure a good start. The boss schedules a meeting where you will present your plan and answer questions from other managers. In your first live simulation with your instructor, you’ll prepare and present a short PowerPoint presentation of your project, applying what you have learned about communicating with stakeholders. The presentation must clearly communicate what the project will and will not achieve and outline the key support and staffing elements you need to succeed. Your instructor will play the role of the project stakeholders and ask questions so you get live experience answering manager’s questions. At the end of this 20 minute simulation, your instructor will send you feedback and coaching on how you handled the stakeholders’ questions.

Modules 4-5. Work Breakdown Structure and Task Listing

Reading Assignment: Your textbook reading teaches you the basics for managing the project in MS Project® software. You’ll learn a simple, straight-forward way to build your project schedule in just minutes using only one screen display. Then you’ll learn how to structure the tasks in your project and how to craft the “right size” assignments for each team member.

Lecture: Your lecture explains the tools and techniques of building a project schedule and crafting crystal clear team member assignments. You’ll also see step-by-step instructions that show you how to use Microsoft Project® software. Then you watch a movie of a project manager meeting with the sponsor about the project schedule and determining the level of detail needed for the right-sized assignment for each team member. You will also see a “Best Practices” movie where an experienced PM discusses the level of detail at which the new PM should schedule the project. Ask your instructor any questions you have and get a private response within 24 hours.

Practice what you've learned: As you develop the work breakdown structure, you have to deal with people wanting to add new features to the project. You also must cope with one manager who demands that you micromanage everyone on the team and another who wants to manage her department's people separately from the project team. You'll cope with the politics and explain the need to manage the project with the best practices you're learning. Then you'll follow the easy step-by-step instructions to build your schedule in MS Project®. At each step you'll send the schedule to your instructor, who will answer any questions you have and send you feedback on the schedule. You schedule a mid-course review phone call with your instructor to discuss any issues as well as how to use what you have learned on your projects at work.

6. Estimating Durations and Assigning People to Tasks

Reading Assignment: The textbook will show you the best methods for working with each team member to estimate the time it will take to complete their tasks. You read examples of how a project manager should handle an estimating session with team members, as well as the process of entering each task's duration into MS Project® software.

Lecture: In the lecture, you'll learn the best way to get accurate work estimates for team members' tasks and their commitment to the project. You then watch a movie of a PM negotiating with a team member about how long it will take to complete a task. In the "Best Practices" movie, you will watch a new PM discuss the difficulty of working with team members who pad their estimates. Then see the experienced PM's advice on how to handle this challenging situation and maintain team member commitment. Ask your instructor any questions you have and get a private response within 24 hours.

Practice what you've learned: You discover that several of your team members have never worked on a project and are anxious about making estimates. Other team members have project experience and are padding their estimates. You have to determine how to work with each of them to get the most accurate estimate possible and a high level of commitment to the project. You apply what you have learned in an estimating session with several of these team members. Next, you'll enter the task durations to complete your project schedule in MS Project® and assign your team members to tasks. Your instructor will send you feedback and coaching on the assignment.

7. Crafting the Best Plan & Getting it Approved

Reading Assignment: In the reading assignment, you will learn how to optimize the project duration so you finish as early as possible. You'll also learn how to easily develop alternatives for delivering the project so you have an answer when the boss tells you the project duration must be reduced.

Lecture: The lecture drills deeper into the techniques for making the best use of your team members' skills and availability to shorten the project duration. You'll learn how to develop trade-offs between the scope, schedule and budget. In addition, you will learn how to discuss this information with the boss in the final presentation. In the "Best Practices" movie you will listen in as an experienced PM gives advice to a new PM who is frustrated by the boss's reduction of the team members' available time while maintaining the project duration expectation. Finally, you'll watch a movie of a PM making a project presentation to get the plan approved by the boss. Ask your instructor any questions you have and get a private response within 24 hours.

Practice what you've learned: Your boss is concerned that the customer service problem is getting worse. He wants you to reduce the duration by several weeks. The boss asks you what you need to accomplish this and wants an answer quickly. Using the tools you've learned in the reading and lecture, you develop options for reducing the duration without reducing the end result the project should produce. You'll analyze your schedule for opportunities to shorten the duration by making adjustments to the plan. You present the schedule and suggested changes and receive written feedback from your instructor on how you handled the situation.

8. Team Leadership & Managing Conflict

Reading Assignment: Now that you have your plan approved, it's time to launch the project and start work on the plan. You read about leading your team and handling the conflicts that arise on most projects.

Lecture: The lecture teaches you effective ways to handle team conflict and boost team member commitment to the project. In the "Best Practices" movie, you'll see an experienced PM talk with a new PM about how to hone leadership skills to become a successful PM. Ask your instructor any questions you have and get a private response within 24 hours.

Practice what you've learned: With the project approved, you and the team begin work. But a conflict flares up between three team members and department managers, threatening to halt the project work. You use the techniques you have learned to resolve the issues and get the project back on track. You analyze the conflict situation and get everyone refocused on the achievements in the plan. You develop a conflict resolution strategy, talk with the managers and team members about settling the conflict, and receive your instructor's feedback on your conflict resolution strategy.

9. Tracking Progress and Reporting Status

Reading Assignment: In your final reading assignment, you'll learn to gather progress information from your team, enter it into MS Project® in ten minutes a week, spot problems and develop solutions. Then you craft a status report detailing major issues for the boss.

Lecture: The lecture explains the best techniques to use in gathering and reporting project progress with recommendations for handling variances. In the "Best Practices" movie, an experienced PM discusses how to learn about problems on the project early, before it's too late to solve them. Ask your instructor any questions and get a private response within 24 hours.

Practice what you've learned: The project is not progressing exactly as planned. Instead, there have been some surprises and several team members are behind schedule and are spending more time working on other projects than expected. Your instructor will send you progress reports from your project team and you will update your project schedule, identify problems, and develop solutions to correct those problems. Then you will package all your ideas in a concise report, present it live, and answer questions from the boss, managers, and team members. You will receive feedback from your instructor on your performance and ability to communicate these difficult concepts with your project stakeholders.

102 CAPM® Exam Prep Syllabus

Course title: 102 CAPM® Exam Prep

Duration: 50 hours, at your pace and schedule, no time limits

Credits: 2 graduate school credits, fulfills the 23 contact hour requirement

Prerequisites: none

Designed for: people new to project management seeking the CAPM® certification

What you will learn: all the PMBOK® processes and knowledge areas so you can pass the CAPM® exam

How you will benefit: this internationally recognized credential will help you launch your project manager career

Textbook: *Certified Associate Project Manager CAPM® Exam Prep Workbook*, 8.5" by 11" 400 pages, 2005, 2nd edition

Overview

Working directly with your PMI® certified instructor, you'll learn all the PMBOK® knowledge areas, processes, inputs, outputs, and tools and techniques required to pass the CAPM® exam. You will begin each module with textbook reading followed by a lecture (on CD) that you can play whenever and as often as you wish. Then you complete the practice exam in each module. You may work on the course at your pace whenever it fits your schedule. There are no time limitations or expiration dates. This course fulfills the required 23 contact hours of education and we guarantee you will pass the CAPM® exam.

You talk to your instructor privately by phone whenever you want to ask questions or discuss concepts. You will always receive a personal reply within 24 hours. You also have a mid-course progress review and you talk again the day before your CAPM® exam.

Knowledge Areas

Practice Exams & Assignments

Human Resources

Begin with reading and a lecture covering:

- project manager's roles
- team motivation
- management styles
- motivational theories
- conflict management

Learn the 3 human resource processes with all their inputs and outputs for assembling and managing the people resources for a project. See examples of a PM managing stakeholders and the team the PMBOK® way throughout the project lifecycle. The PM starts by identifying skill requirements then moves on to assignments, team development and rewards.

Then take the practice exam online. Your PM mentor will answer your questions, review your human resources exam, explain concepts you missed and perhaps ask you to retest before you move on.

Ask your PM mentor questions by phone or e-mail

Procurement

Begin with reading and a lecture covering:

- contract management
- contract types
- warranties-guarantees
- make or buy decisions

Learn the 6 procurement processes and the interaction between them. Read examples of a PM managing procurement through the lifecycle; planning, soliciting bids, assessing make or buy decisions, contract negotiation, administration and closeout.

Then take the practice exam online. Your PM mentor will answer your questions, review your procurement exam, explain concepts you missed and perhaps ask you to retest before you move on.

Ask your PM mentor questions by phone or e-mail

- RFPs, RFQs, RFIs

Risk Management

Begin with reading and a lecture covering:

- risk characteristics
- quantified analysis
- qualitative assessment
- risk response planning
- risk reserves
- time value of money

Risk is a complex area with 6 processes and many mathematical tools and techniques. Learn the sequence and interaction between risk management processes with examples of a PM following the correct process. The PM makes initial assumptions that affect the project, developing the risk management plan, risk identification, quantitative & qualitative analysis, risk response planning and implementation of the risk plan and contingency plans.

Then take the practice exam online . Your PM mentor will answer your questions, review your risk exam, explain concepts you missed and perhaps ask you to retest before you move on.

Ask your PM mentor questions by phone or e-mail

Cost Management

Begin with reading and a lecture covering:

- cost estimating
- cost budgeting
- earned value
- forecasting
- cost formulas
- cost management

Cost has lots of formulas to learn and many interactions with time and human resource management. Follow a PM through the development of a budget from quantifying requirements and estimating, cost management, planning and variance analysis.

Then take the practice exam online. Your PM mentor will answer your questions, review your cost management exam, explain concepts you missed and perhaps ask you to retest before you move on.

Ask your PM mentor questions by phone or e-mail

Quality Management

Begin with reading and a lecture covering:

- quality concepts
- quality planning
- quality control
- quality assurance
- cost of quality
- statistical control
- control charts

Quality has only three processes but there are lots of tools and many subtle techniques to learn. You'll understand quality management processes by reading scenarios of a PM applying the PMBOK® quality approach to a project, identifying the required quality characteristics and then building quality assignments into the schedule. You'll see quality control and monitoring as well as problem resolution.

Then take the practice exam online. Your PM mentor will answer your questions, review your quality exam, explain concepts you missed and perhaps ask you to retest before you move on.

Mid-course review phone call with your PM mentor

Time Management

Begin with reading and a lecture covering: Everybody is familiar with Gantt charts and network diagrams but there are a host of other techniques to learn for the exam. See a PM go through all the steps starting with defining the activities in the project, complete the activity sequencing, do Monte Carlo simulations, network diagrams (AOA and AON) with duration estimates and then apply PERT & CPM scheduling techniques, variance analysis and tracking.

- work breakdown
- AOA charts
- AON charts
- PERT & CPM
- resource leveling
- duration compression
- fast tracking
- crashing the plan

Then take the practice exam online. Your PM mentor will answer your questions, review your time exam, explain concepts you missed and perhaps ask you to retest before you move on.

Ask your PM mentor questions by phone or e-mail

Scope Management

Begin with reading and a lecture covering: Scope is a real key to the exam since it is so central to all the other processes. Learn the interactions between scope, time, cost, risk and procurement and others. Read how a PM works through scope initiation and the organization's benefit-cost analysis. Then the PM completes scope elaboration, identifying major deliverables and the work breakdown structure (WBS). Next see the PM manage scope changes with integrated change control leading to acceptance by the sponsor and project success.

- scope definition
- project life cycle
- project charter
- planning process
- work authorization
- progress reporting
- scope change control

Then take the practice exam online. Your PM mentor will answer your questions, review your scope exam, explain concepts you missed and perhaps ask you to retest before you move on.

Ask your PM mentor questions by phone or e-mail

Communications

Begin with reading and a lecture covering: PMs spend most of their time communicating and this knowledge area will add to your skills. Read examples of a PM following the PMBOK® communications process including stakeholder analysis, use of the communications model, stakeholder information requirements and implementation of reporting and tracking.

- stakeholder mgt
- communications model
- filtering, barriers
- managing conflict
- channels
- listening techniques

Then take the practice exam online. Your PM mentor will answer your questions, review your communications exam, explain concepts you missed and perhaps ask you to retest before you move on.

Ask your PM mentor questions by phone or e-mail

Integration

Begin with reading and a lecture covering: Integration is critical for passing the CAPM® exam as it is where the PM makes sure all the other process are fitting together. See how a PM integrates all of the PMBOK® processes on three different size projects: within a department, a cross-functional project and a consulting project for a client.

- Integration of all eight previous sections
- Project plan development
- Integrated change control
- Project execution

Then take the practice exam online. Your PM mentor will answer your questions, review your integration exam, explain concepts you missed and perhaps ask you to retest before you move on.

Ask your PM mentor questions by phone or e-mail

Comprehensive Exam

We give you tips for taking PMI's® CAPM® certification exam plus a comprehensive practice exam.

Take the comprehensive final exam that covers everything on the test as your last step before talking with your PM mentor in your "Day before the CAPM® exam " phone call.

Ask your PM mentor questions by phone or e-mail

Then you pass the exam on your first try