

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q1. When will the changes to the PgMP<sup>®</sup> examination take place?

**A:** The new examination is scheduled to be released on 1 February 2012. The last day to take the current PgMP examination is 20 January 2012. Candidates who would like to take the current version of the examination are advised to schedule their examinations early to better ensure they are able to obtain a test date before the examination update.

### Q2. Are the panel review and Multi-rater Assessment being updated as well?

**A:** Yes. The criterion for Evaluation 1, panel review is currently eight (8) Experience Summaries found on the PgMP application. Effective 1 February 2012, the PgMP application will be updated to five (5) Experience Summaries. The new criterion was developed by PgMP credential holders as subject matter experts. The new criteria enable candidates more flexibility describing their individual program management experience, and bring criteria up to date with the new RDS. A [preview of the new PgMP application](#) has been made available so that candidates can choose which set of Experience Summaries they wish to answer and prepare accordingly.

Evaluation 3, the Multi-rater Assessment has also been brought up to date with the new RDS, however the process remains the same. The individual items were also updated by PgMP credential holders as subject matter experts.

### Q3. How am I affected as a candidate?

**A:** There are several key dates to be aware of if you prefer to sit for the current exam, or current panel review. Once the new exam and application go live on 1 February 2012, it will no longer be possible for you to be evaluated under the panel review and examination in their current form.

- **20 January 2012** – Last possible date to sit for the current PgMP exam. New exams will begin 1 February 2012.
- **31 January 2012** – Last possible date to submit PgMP application fee (*for candidates who wish to submit answers to current 8 Experience Summaries*).
- **1 February 2012** – First possible date to schedule new PgMP exam. Exam reports will not be available on-site for candidates sitting for the new exam. This delay in exam reports is necessary any time PMI updates a credential exam. Candidates who sit for the exam from 1 February to approximately 31 May 2012 will receive their exam report by the end of May. New PgMP applications with 5 Experience Summaries will be processed.
- **31 May 2012** (latest) – Candidates who sat for the PgMP exam since 1 February will receive their exam reports. Failing candidates will be made eligible to re-exam, passing candidates will immediately move to “MRA-in-Progress”.

### Q4. How do I find my application status?

**A:** To locate your status, log in to PMI.org, proceed to “My Profile” and look for “Certification Status”, then locate your “PgMP Application Status”.

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**Q5. Are the eligibility criteria (program & project management experience hours) changing?**

**A:** No, the education and experience eligibility requirements for the existing PgMP examination remain appropriate **and will not be changed**.

However, the PgMP application, panel review and Multi-rater Assessment (MRA) **will be updated** to align with the findings of the recent PgMP RDS. For more detailed information, please review the [Comparison of the Program Management Experience Summaries for the PgMP Application](#).

Approximately 56% of the PgMP exam content **will change** due to the restructuring of Domains 1-6, and the creation of five new domains.

**Q6. Will the exam report be changing?**

**A:** At this time, PMI does not anticipate any changes will be made to the PgMP exam report, however it is important to keep in mind that all candidates who sit for the exam from 1 February to approximately 31 May will not receive exam reports until the end of May.

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

**A:** No. PMI began communicating the change to the PgMP in April 2011 so that all PgMP candidates have sufficient time to take the examination before it is updated. PMI has also enabled candidates with an additional three-week window into January from the original 1 January 2012 examination change date. The last day that the PgMP current examination will be available is 20 January 2012.

**Q8. What are the major differences to the program management professional role identified by the new study in relation to the current?**

**A:** The new RDS signified a substantial refinement to the role of a program management professional. The current RDS originally identified 6 domains (Defining, Initiating, Planning, Executing, Controlling and Closing the Program), five of which are now sub-domains of the new Domain 2: Program Life Cycle. (The tasks of “Defining the Program” are largely dispersed among practice domains in the new RDS).

PgMP Performance Domains and Tasks

1. Strategic Program Management *\*New*
2. Program Life Cycle *\*New w/ sub-domains:*
  - Defining the Program *\*current Domain 1*
  - Initiating the Program *\*current Domain 2*
  - Planning the Program *\*current Domain 3*
  - Executing the Program *\*current Domain 4*
  - Controlling the Program *\*current Domain 5*
  - Closing the Program *\*current Domain 6*
3. Benefits Management *\*New*
4. Stakeholder Management *\*New*
5. Governance *\*New*

New Domains 1, 3, 4 and 5 were all newly identified with new, modified, or re-classifications of current tasks. In total, 72 tasks were identified by the study with 26 new or major revisions, and 26 minor.

For more detailed information regarding the relationship of domains and tasks between the current and new delineation please review the [Comparison of New Delineation of Program Management Professional with Current Delineation](#).

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**Q9. How does this affect the content of the PgMP examination?**

**A:** The PgMP exam content will be based on the new RDS effective 1 February 2012, and conform to the new [PgMP Exam Content Outline](#) for appropriate weighting of domains and tasks.

Additionally, 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.

**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 R.E.P.s have been informed of the role revision and should be updating their schedules accordingly. The new [PgMP Exam Content Outline](#) and the [Comparison of New Delineation of Program Management Professional with Current Delineation](#) are available at PMI.org.

**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. All examinations taken on or after 1 February 2012 will reflect the new RDS content. *This includes re-exams.* 20 January 2012 is the last day to sit for the PgMP exam in its current version.

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

**A:** While the content of the PgMP examination is periodically updated every 4-7 years following an RDS, the role of a program manager will remain consistent over time. Candidates are encouraged to compare their training outline or curriculum map against the new [PgMP Exam Content Outline](#) and the [Comparison of New Delineation of Program Management Professional with Current Delineation](#) documents to decide for themselves if additional training is necessary.

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

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

**Q14. Is there going to be a change to *The Standard for Program Management—2nd Edition*?**

**A:** Yes, but it is unrelated to the PgMP exam change. The Standards Review Committee will utilize the new RDS in completing the periodic review of the standard, expected to be published in December 2012.