



# PMI Agile Certification

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## What is Agile?

This section of the FAQ introduces and defines Agile principles and practices. To understand the concept of Agile, and how Agile principles and practices are important to project management practitioners, it is important to understand the difference between Agile and Waterfall practices.

### What is Agile?

Agile is a philosophy that uses organizational models based on people, collaboration and shared values. The *Agile Manifesto* outlines tenets of agile philosophy. Agile is based on rolling wave planning; iterative and incremental delivery; rapid and flexible response to change; and open communication between teams, stakeholders and customers. There are many agile approaches that adhere to these tenets, such as Scrum, XP, Lean and Test-driven Development (TDD), etc.

- Agile practices are topics of growing importance in project management. Project management practitioners can use Agile practices to successfully manage change, improve communication, reduce cost, increase efficiency and demonstrate value to customers and stakeholders.
- Here are basic definitions for some common terms associated with Agile practices:

Term	Definition
<b>Agile Manifesto</b>	A public declaration of the philosophy and principles of agile software development, created in February 2001 in Snowbird, Utah. Visit <a href="http://www.agilemanifesto.org/">http://www.agilemanifesto.org/</a> to learn more.

Term	Definition
<b>Agile Methodologies</b>	Frameworks and processes whose practices support the Agile Manifesto principles. Examples include: Scrum, Extreme Programming (XP), Crystal, Dynamic Systems Development Method (DSDM Atern), Feature Driven Development (FDD).
<b>Agile Practices</b>	Activities that are the application of agile principles.
<b>Agile Principles</b>	Fundamental truths and shared values that drive behavior in agile methodologies.
<b>Iterative</b>	The technique of planning, developing, and delivering incremental parts of a larger project or product. Iterations, incremental deliverables and measured work products are the result of an iterative process.

### How are Agile principles and practices different from Waterfall principles and practices?

- Agile principles and practices seek to manage change through flexibility, adaptation and direct communication. Waterfall principles and practices, often referred to simply as “waterfall,” are sequential, phase-driven project management approaches where each phase must be planned and completed before further work can progress-
  - Agile is best suited to projects which require a nimble response to change and continual communication to customers.
  - Waterfall is best suited for projects where little to no change in requirements is expected, and where requirements are clear and well-understood by all team members.
  - Agile principles and practices can be adapted to suit organizations and industries that follow waterfall principles and practices. Agile and Waterfall principles and practices are not mutually exclusive - some organizations apply elements of both principles and practices. However, it important to know that not all organizations lend themselves to Agile principles and practices.

### Where can you learn more about Agile?

- Visit the PMI agile community of practice at <http://agile.vc.pmi.org/>.

## What is the PMI Agile Certification?

### What is an Agile Project?

- An Agile project is managed using agile principles and practices. Characteristics of an Agile project can include:
  - Early, measurable return on investment through defined, iterative delivery of product increments.
  - High visibility of project progress allows early identification and resolution or monitoring of problems.

- Continuous involvement of the customer throughout the product development cycle.
- Empowerment of the business owner to make decisions needed to meet goals.
- Adaptation to changing business needs, giving more influence over requirement changes.
- Reduced product and process waste.

### **What value does the PMI Agile Certification bring to a practitioner?**

- The PMI Agile Certification validates a practitioner’s ability to understand and apply Agile principles and practices on basic projects. The PMI Agile Certification demonstrates that a practitioner can select Agile principles and practices as a project management approach based on the needs and demands of a specific project. By earning the Agile certification, practitioners can:
  - Demonstrate to employers their level of professionalism in Agile practices of project management.
  - Increase their professional versatility in project management tools and techniques.
  - Show they have the capacity to lead basic Agile project teams by holding a certification that is more credible than existing offerings based only on exams or training.

### **What value does an Agile-certified practitioner bring to an organization?**

- The PMI Agile Certification demonstrates a practitioner’s value to employers and level of professionalism:
  - The knowledge of both Agile and Waterfall practices gives the practitioner greater breadth and depth as a project manager.
  - The certification shows the practitioner’s ability to lead teams on basic Agile projects.
  - The certification appeals to a wide, rapidly growing audience as more organizations adopt Agile practices.

### **What value do Agile practices bring to an organization?**

- Organizations who use Agile techniques for managing projects have documented the value they see from its practice:
  - Adaptive to changing business needs, giving the organization more influence over adding, changing, or removing requirements.
  - Early and continuous customer feedback— as the customer is involved throughout development, they will end up with an end-product that they want and will use.
  - Empowered business owner who can receive and review critical information necessary to make decisions to steer the project toward the goal continually throughout the development process
  - Early measurable return on investment –this allows for defined deliverables at the end of each iteration and early in the process.
  - High visibility and influence over the project progress leading to early indications of problems.
  - Incremental delivery—rather than a single complete delivery at the end of the project.

- Reduces product and process waste.
- Agile principles and practices are disciplined and value driven.

### **How is the PMI Agile Certification different from the PMP® credential?**

- The PMI Agile Certification specifically validates a practitioner’s ability to understand Agile principles and practices. The PMP recognizes demonstrated competence in leading and directing project teams.

### **What is the official name of the PMI Agile Certification?**

- PMI will announce the official name of the PMI Agile Certification prior to the beginning of the pilot.

## **Why is PMI Launching this Certification?**

### **Why is PMI launching an Agile certification?**

- Agile is a topic of growing importance in project management. PMI market research shows that project management practitioners are embracing Agile principles and practices as a technique for successfully managing projects. Additionally, the following points show the increasing demand for an Agile certification:
  - PMI members, credential holders, and individuals who embrace Agile project management are looking to PMI for Agile certification, recognition and learning opportunities.
  - Many project professionals experienced in traditional techniques are seeing the demand for Agile practices in many industries and organizations. These practitioners are eager to add Agile principles and practices to their project management “toolbox.”
  - Organizations that use project management to serve both internal and external clients are seeing value in Agile principles and practices to deliver projects more quickly, with less waste and cost due to misunderstood or poorly defined requirements.

### **Is a certification program sufficient to grow Agile skills?**

- PMI has helped grow the knowledge and skill of agile project management practitioners over the last several years. With the introduction of this program, PMI now has a full suite of resources available to develop and recognize agile knowledge and skills:
  - **Professional Development:** Whether attending dedicated agile trainings at PMI SeminarsWorld<sup>SM</sup> and eSeminarsWorld<sup>SM</sup>, or Area of Focus presentations at Global Congress, PMI has been offering high-quality learning programs for those interested in Agile principles and practices. In addition, PMI chapters have been offering their own training opportunities.
  - **Community:** The Agile Community of Practice is a formal network of PMI members interested in sharing their questions, concerns, and successes with Agile project management. Launched in the summer of 2009, the community has attracted over 8,000 subscribers submitting nearly 600 posts of knowledge sharing.

**Certification:** The PMI Agile Certification recognizes practitioners for their understanding of Agile principles and practices. The certification represents an important facet of a practitioner’s professional development.

- Key thought leaders in project management and the Agile Community of Practice have advised PMI on the best way to offer an Agile certification to serve project practitioners and organizations.

Eligibility Requirement	Description
<b>Educational Level</b>	Secondary degree (high school or equivalent) or higher
<b>General Project Management Experience</b>	2,000 hours working on project teams. These hours must be earned within the last 5 years. <i>Note: for those holding a PMP® credential, PMI has already verified that the candidate has exceeded these requirements. Thus, a PMP will be accepted to fulfill these requirements.</i>
<b>Agile Project Management Experience</b>	1,500 hours working on Agile project teams or in Agile methodologies. These hours are in addition to the 2,000 hours required in general project management experience. These hours must be earned within the last 2 years.
<b>Agile Project Management Training</b>	21 contact hours; hours must be earned in Agile project management topics
<b>Examination</b>	Tests knowledge of Agile fundamentals and ability to apply to basic projects
<b>Maintenance</b>	30 PDUs/3 CEUs every 3 years in Agile project management <i>Note: these hours would count toward fulfilling PMP requirements, if the individual holds both certifications</i>

## Fees

### What is the application fee for the PMI Agile Certification?

Exam Administration Type	PMI Member Status	US Dollars
Computer-based testing (CBT)	member \$435	
	nonmember \$495	
Paper-based testing (PBT)	member \$385	
	nonmember \$445	
Reexamination CBT	member \$335	
	nonmember \$395	
Reexamination PBT	member \$285	
	nonmember \$345	
CCR credential renewal	member \$90	
	nonmember \$130	

### After completing the application, how much time does a candidate have to complete the examination?

- A candidate has one year to pay the certification fee and take the examination after his or her application is approved.

## Examination Expectations

### Where will PMI offer the certification examination?

- PMI will offer the PMI Agile Certification examination globally at Prometric Testing Centers. A candidate cannot schedule his or her examination appointment until eligibility notification is received and payment is submitted.

### If I am a pilot participant, and sit for the examination, when will I receive my score?

- Pilot participants will receive scores approximately 10-12 weeks after the launch of the pilot. During this time period, PMI will determine the cut score for the examination. After the pilot, candidates will receive their scores upon completion of the examination.

### Will the examination be available in translations?

- At launch, the examination will be available in English. PMI will consider adding translations at a future date.

### If the candidate fails the examination, can they take it again? If so, when can the candidate retake the examination? How many times can the candidate retake the examination?

- The examination retake policies are the same as those followed for other PMI certifications. Candidates have three opportunities to take the examination within their one-year eligibility period. Each re-test requires an additional payment.

### How many questions are in the examination?

- There are a total of 120 questions on the examination. Of the 120 questions, 20 are considered pretest questions. Pretest questions do not affect the score and are used in examinations as an effective and legitimate way to test the validity of future examination questions. All questions are randomly placed throughout the examination.

#### **How much time do I receive to complete the examination?**

- The allotted time to complete the examination is three hours.

## **Certification Pilot and Launch**

#### **Who may participate in the pilot?**

- The PMI Agile Certification pilot is open to the public. An invitation is not necessary to participate. Any project management practitioner who meets the eligibility requirements may participate.

#### **Why should a project practitioner participate in the Agile Certification pilot?**

- Participation in the pilot is an excellent way for a practitioner to demonstrate his or her knowledge and skills in the application of Agile to his or her projects. Pilot participants will be among the first to hold a PMI Agile Certification.

#### **Will pilot participants receive a discount?**

- Pilot participants will receive a 20 percent rebate after taking the examination.

#### **When will the credential be available?**

- PMI is currently looking for pilot candidates and the online and paper applications for the certification will be available starting May 2011. The PMI Agile Certification examination will be released during the third quarter of 2011.

#### **Will pilot applications be subject to review?**

- PMI Agile Credential pilot applications are subject to current PMI application review and audit policies.

## **Key Dates**

#### **When will the examination content outline be available?**

- The content outline will be available in April 2011. The content outline will contain the blueprint of the content that will be covered by the Certification.

#### **When will PMI begin accepting applications for the PMI Agile Certification?**

- Customers may apply for the certification beginning in May 2011.

#### **When will the PMI Agile Certification examination be first offered?**

- The first offering of the examination will be during the third quarter of 2011.

## Continuing Certification Requirements (CCR)

### What are the Continuing Certification Requirements (CCR) for this certification?

- PMI Agile Certification Holders are required to earn 30 professional development units (PDUs) in Agile topics during each three-year renewal cycle.

### Can PMI Agile Certification PDUs count toward the maintenance of other PMI credentials?

- The 30 PDUs in Agile project management can also count towards the maintenance of the PMP® or PgMP® certification(s). If an agile practitioner is taking general project management classes, only the hours that pertain to Agile project management can be applied towards the PMI Agile Certification.