

1 • CREDENTIAL

PMI-ACP®

2 • FULL TITLE

PMI Agile Certified Practitioner

3 • ISSUING BODY

PMI

4 • LAST VERIFIED

AUG 22, 2026

5 • STATUS

Maintained

PMI's agile credential, and the only one that asks what you have actually run rather than which course you sat. It spans Scrum, Kanban, Lean and XP instead of one framework, which is why it travels: a defense program office running SAFe and a commercial team running Scrum both recognize it. PMI rebuilt it around enterprise agility, so the exam now asks how agile work lines up with what the organization is trying to achieve, not just how a stand-up runs.

CHANGE NOTICE • JANUARY 6, 2026

PMI cut the training requirement from 28 contact hours to 21 on January 6, 2026, and updated the exam content outline with it. That followed a bigger rebuild. The credential now tests four domains, Mindset at 28%, Leadership at 25%, Product at 19% and Delivery at 28%, where it used to test seven, and the experience requirement was rewritten into four routes. The exam length did not move: 120 items in three hours.

Three generations of this credential are in circulation and PMI is hosting two of them. Its current exam content outline gives four domains and four experience routes, one of which is simply an active PMP. Its own PMI-ACP Handbook, still public and marked revised 24 May 2022, gives seven domains and a different scheme entirely, 12 months of general project experience plus 8 months of agile. Pearson VUE is older again and still describes the version before that, 2,000 hours of general experience and 1,500 hours of agile. DoD COOL is current on the experience and stale on the training, still showing 28 contact hours. This guide follows the current outline, which PMI cover-dates November 2024 and foots March 2026 on every one of its pages. All read August 22, 2026.

1 What counts from your service

PMI wants agile experience and, since the rebuild, it wants nothing else: the old general-project-experience requirement is gone. What counts is time on a team that genuinely worked in iterations, with a backlog, a cadence

and a customer allowed to change their mind. Military work of that shape exists in quantity and almost never gets written up that way, because nobody in uniform calls it agile.

WORK THAT QUALIFIES

A PMP you already hold, which is a route by itself

An active PMP satisfies the entire experience requirement on its own. No agile months, no write-up, nothing to evidence beyond the credential. PMI also folds a current PMP or PgMP holder's agile and hybrid experience from the past five years into the application automatically. The 21 training hours still apply, so this shortens the route rather than removing it.

A Scrum or SAFe certificate sitting in your records

An active third-party agile certification held for more than a year is credited as 12 months against the two years of agile experience, and PMI names Scrum and SAFe as examples. A lot of people in defense software and program offices already hold one and have never been told it is worth anything toward this.

Software factory and DevSecOps time

Sprint cadence, a product backlog, a demo at the end and a real user on the other side is the shape PMI is describing. Write up the team, your role on it, the length of the iteration and what shipped, rather than the program the work sat under.

Sustainment run off a prioritized backlog

Maintenance and sustainment shops that triage into a queue, work a fixed cadence and re-prioritize when the operational picture changes are doing the thing, whatever the local vocabulary is. The test is whether the plan was allowed to change between cycles.

Being the customer rather than the builder

Product owner, requirements owner, or a contracting officer's representative on an agile software contract. PMI's domains put a quarter of the exam on Leadership and a fifth on Product, so time spent deciding what got built counts and is worth naming as such.

Rapid-fielding and urgent-needs work

Short cycles, an accepted level of unfinished, and a user who tells you within days whether it worked. Say what the cycle was and how the priorities were reset, because that is the evidence PMI is looking for rather than the urgency.

WORK THAT DOESN'T

- A predictive program run to a Gantt chart and a milestone review, however well you ran it.
- Working in an organization that adopted agile while your own role stayed outside the team.
- The certificate on its own. A third-party agile certification is worth 12 months, not the two years.

PROVING IT

PMI's application asks for the team, your role, the dates and a short description, and its audit asks you to evidence what you claimed. That means a supervisor or manager who can confirm it, the same standard as every other PMI credential, plus a certificate of completion for the 21 training hours. Your evaluations are raw material rather than evidence: an NCOER describing a sustainment section is not a description of an agile team. Write the description

yourself in the vocabulary of the outline, then check it against somebody who was on the team, and keep the training certificate rather than the syllabus.

2 Eligibility

Secondary diploma

A high school diploma, a GED or the global equivalent. There is no degree tier on this credential and holding one changes nothing except through the GAC route below.

Route 1: two years of agile experience

Two years working on agile project teams, earned in the past five years. This is the default route and the only one that needs no other credential or qualification behind it.

Route 2: one year plus a GAC-accredited degree

A degree from a program accredited by PMI's Global Accreditation Center halves the experience to one year. Check the accreditation itself rather than the subject. Most project management degrees are not GAC-accredited.

Route 3: one year plus a third-party agile certification

An active agile certification, current and earned more than a year ago, plus one year of agile experience. PMI names Scrum and SAFe certifications as qualifying examples and credits the certification as 12 months.

Route 4: an active PMP

A live PMP meets the experience requirement outright, with no agile months required. It is the cheapest route in for anyone who already holds one, and it is the route almost no summary of this credential mentions.

21 hours of agile training, on every route

Formal training in agile practices, frameworks and methodologies, completed before you apply, with a certificate of completion. It was 28 hours until January 6, 2026. PMI accepts its own courses, an Authorized Training Partner's, or a third party whose course aligns to the outline and ends in an assessment.

3 The route

1 Pick the route first

Four routes, and which one you are on decides how much you have to write. An active PMP is the shortest. A Scrum or SAFe certificate you have held over a year takes the write-up from two years to one. Work this out before you start drafting experience.

2 Bank the 21 hours

The training has to be finished before you submit, and PMI wants a certificate of completion rather than a syllabus. If you are still serving, get the course and provider approved for funding before you pay for anything.

3 Write the experience in the outline's vocabulary

Team, role, dates, what the cadence was and what shipped. Translate as you go rather than after PMI asks: nothing in a military record uses these words, and a description that only makes sense to somebody who served will not survive an audit.

4 Apply, then wait

PMI reviews the application before it takes any exam money. Applications can be selected for audit, and if yours is, your one-year eligibility period starts the day you clear it rather than the day you applied.

5 Pay at the right price

The exam is \$435 for PMI members and \$495 for everyone else, from PMI's own certification page read August 22, 2026. Joining PMI to get the lower number costs more than it saves on this credential. The arithmetic is under What it costs.

6 Sit it

120 items in three hours, of which 100 are scored and 20 are unscored pretest items you cannot identify. Multiple choice, multiple response, drag-and-drop and exhibits. One 10-minute break comes after item 60, and once you take it you cannot go back to the first half.

7 Keep it, or lose it in three years

30 PDUs every three years plus a renewal fee. Three exam attempts are allowed inside the one-year eligibility period. After three failures you wait a year before reapplying, though you may apply for a different PMI certification in the meantime.

4 What it costs

Exam, PMI member	\$435
Exam, non-member	\$495
Retake, member / non-member	\$335 / \$395
PMI global membership, first year	\$139, then \$129 a year
Renewal, every 3 years, member / non-member	\$60 / \$150
21 hours of agile training	\$0 to \$2,000+, depending entirely on the provider

Do not join PMI for this one. The exam discount is \$60, first-year membership is \$139, PMI's \$129 global dues plus a one-time \$10 application fee, so joining to save on the exam leaves you \$79 down. Over a full three-year cycle membership costs \$397 in dues and saves \$150: the \$60 on the exam, and \$90 more on renewal, which is \$60 as a

member against \$150 as a non-member. That leaves you \$247 down. The PMP runs the other way because its exam discount is \$250 on its own, so an answer that is right there is wrong here. Chapter dues of \$25 to \$40 are optional and buy no exam discount, and those dues were read from four PMI chapter pages on August 22, 2026. What makes this credential unusual among PMI's is that PMI publishes both exam prices on its own certification page, which almost none of the others do, and Pearson VUE's government store sells the same two figures to the dollar. VA's register carries the \$495. The renewal fees come from a 2022 PMI handbook that the April 2026 edition replaced without republishing them. The training is the line with real spread in it and it is the one nobody else prices honestly, because it depends entirely on the provider. A co-host of this show owns a company that trains for the PMP and the CAPM.

5 Getting it paid for

- The PMI-ACP is on VA's approved licensing and certification register, as record 3423v79, PMI AGILE CERTIFIED PRACTITIONER EXAM under Project Management Institute, with \$495 on file. Read from VA's live register on August 22, 2026, not from a summary of it.
- About six days of entitlement, and the arithmetic is short. VA reimburses the actual test cost up to \$2,000 per test and charges entitlement at one month for every \$2,578.64 it pays, at the rate effective August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027. The \$495 on VA's file is 0.19 months, about six days, and a member price about five. VA reimburses whichever one you paid.
- Claim on VA Form 22-0803 after you have paid and sat it, with the receipt and either the result or the certificate. You have to already be covered under Post-9/11 (Chapter 33), MGIB-AD (30), MGIB-SR (1606) or DEA (35). VA pays even if you fail.
- DoD COOL shows no GI Bill flag on this credential and VA does cover it. Credential pmi-acp6492 carries In-Demand and STEM icons on Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard COOL and a GI Bill icon on none of them, read in a browser on August 22, 2026, while VA's own register lists it at record 3423v79. Trust the register. A reader who checks COOL alone concludes the wrong thing, and this is the clearest case in the library of a DoD page being behind VA rather than the other way round.
- Army COOL marks it CA Eligible and approved for promotion points. Credentialing Assistance pays up to \$2,000 a soldier a fiscal year for one credential, three in ten years, inside a \$4,500 fiscal-year ceiling shared with tuition assistance, from Army COOL's own Costs and Funding FAQ read August 21, 2026. ALARACT 102/2025 of November 14, 2025 is the current instrument. It also recoups: take the funded training and skip the exam and the Army wants the money back. Since March 19, 2026 commissioned officers are ineligible unless the goal predates it.
- Navy funds this one and does not fund the PMP, which is worth knowing before you pick. Navy COOL's record for the PMI-ACP carries the voluntary-funding-approved banner and the record for the PMP carries none, both read August 22, 2026. Marine Corps and Coast Guard COOL both show it funded as well, and both want approval before you register, sit or spend anything.
- Air Force COOL runs through the Air Force Virtual Education Center rather than the DoD COOL portal, so this credential's Air Force funding status isn't on the DoD site at all. Check AFVEC directly. The program rules are unchanged: \$4,500 lifetime rather than annual, enlisted only, and you are ineligible inside 120 days of separation.

- Onward to Opportunity does not carry the PMI-ACP. Its catalog, read August 22, 2026, runs to the PMP, the CAPM, Six Sigma and CompTIA Project+, and carries no agile certification at all. That matters because O2O is the free-training route most transition briefings name, and on this credential it is not available.
- SkillBridge does not pay your exam fee, and this is the most repeated wrong answer in transition. It is authorized time with an industry provider in your final 180 days on military pay. If the host runs agile teams it is one of the better ways to earn the experience the application wants, which is a different benefit from a funded exam.
- The 21 training hours are the fundable part and the exam is the cheap part. On a service program that funds training, the hours are usually where the money goes, and the exam at \$435 to \$495 is a smaller line than most people expect. Get the provider approved before you pay rather than after.
- If you are a DoD civilian, 5 U.S.C. 5757 lets an agency pay for a certification and its exam where it is job related, and the acquisition workforce also has DAWDA under 10 U.S.C. 1705. The Warfighting Acquisition University, renamed from the Defense Acquisition University in November 2025 and still widely known as DAU, teaches agile courses that can supply the contact hours.

6 Keeping it

Cycle	3 years
Required	30 PDUs
Renewal fee	\$60 for members, \$150 for non-members, from PMI’s 2022 handbook

At least 18 of the 30 have to be Education PDUs, with a minimum of 4 each in Ways of Working, Power Skills and Business Acumen, plus 6 more from any Talent Triangle area. Giving Back is optional and capped at 12. Hold the PMP as well and PMI applies Power Skills, Business Acumen and Giving Back PDUs across both, so the ACP adds about 4 agile-specific PDUs a cycle.

How current this is

Everything above was checked against published material from PMI on August 22, 2026. Requirements, fees and course content all move, and they are not always announced loudly. Check the sources below before you spend money on the back of anything here.

This guide was written independently: PMI had no part in it and did not endorse it. Where this page names a training provider or a school, assume we may have a commercial interest in it and judge the guide on whether the facts check out against the references below.

This is a guide, not advice. We're not PMI, the VA, DoD, your security manager or your education office, and the funding rules in particular change by service and by year. Anything here that costs money, or that may be restricted

in any way in your own work, is worth confirming with the people who own it before you act on it.

R References

- **PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP) Examination Content Outline, footed March 2026 (PMI)** (<https://www.pmi.org/-/media/pmi/documents/public/pdf/certifications/agile-certified-exam-outline.pdf>) The governing document: four domains at 28/25/19/28, the four experience routes, the 21 training hours, the 12-month credit for a third-party agile certification, exam format and the retake rule. It cover-dates itself November 2024 and foots March 2026 on every page. Read August 22, 2026.
- **PMI-ACP certification page (PMI)** (<https://www.pmi.org/certifications/agile-acp>) Both exam prices, \$435 member and \$495 full, published by PMI itself, which is unusual across its credentials. Also the four eligibility routes and the 30-PDU cycle. Read in a browser on August 22, 2026, because the page returns 403 to automated fetching.
- **PMI-ACP Handbook, revised 24 May 2022 (PMI)** (<https://www.pmi.org/-/media/pmi/documents/public/pdf/certifications/agile-certified-practitioner-handbook.pdf>) The superseded scheme, still public: seven domains at 16/20/17/16/12/10/9, and 12 months of general project experience plus 8 months of agile. Cited so a reader who finds it can tell which document governs. It says only that fees are subject to membership and regional pricing.
- **PMI Certification Handbook, revised June 2026 (PMI)** (<https://www.pmi.org/-/media/pmi/documents/public/pdf/certifications/generic-certification-handbook.pdf>) The current policy document, which now covers the PMI-ACP among twelve credentials: the one-year eligibility period, three attempts inside it, and audit. It carries no ACP eligibility of its own and sends applicants to the certification page.
- **Continuing Certification Requirements Handbook, ©2022 (PMI)** (<https://www.pmi.org/-/media/pmi/documents/public/pdf/certifications/resources/ccr-certification-requirements-handbook.pdf>) The 30-PDU cycle, the 18 Education minimum with 4 each in Ways of Working, Power Skills and Business Acumen, the Giving Back cap of 12, and the \$60 member and \$150 non-member renewal. The current edition, last updated April 2026, keeps the PDU rules and publishes no fees at all, which is why these carry a date. Read August 22, 2026.
- **Pearson VUE government store, PMI-ACP exam vouchers** (<https://govstore.pearsonvue.com/p/PMI-ACP>) Four vouchers, one price each, read August 22, 2026: PMI-ACP \$495, PMI-ACP-MBR \$435, PMI-ACP-MBR-RTK \$335, PMI-ACP-RTK \$395. The first two match PMI's own published prices exactly, which is a second independent check that this store sells at list rather than above it. Its product description is the pre-2022 scheme and should be ignored.
- **PMI-ACP credential record (DoD COOL)** (<https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/credential/index.html?cert=pmi-acp6492>) Credential pmi-acp6492, read in a browser on August 22, 2026. Army flags CA eligible and promotion points, Navy flags voluntary funding approved, Marine Corps and Coast Guard flag funding. No GI Bill icon on any of the four, and the training requirement still reads 28 contact hours. Swap army for usn, usmc or uscg.
- **Approved licensing and certification tests, register (VA)** (<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/licenses-certifications-and-prep-courses>) Record 3423v79, PMI AGILE CERTIFIED PRACTITIONER EXAM, \$495 on file, read from VA's live register on August 22, 2026. The public search page is JavaScript, so the register behind it is what was read.
- **Post-9/11 GI Bill rates, entitlement charge (VA)** (<https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/post-9-11-gi-bill-rates/>) The \$2,000 per-test cap and the \$2,578.64 entitlement charge per month of test fees, effective August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027.

- **Army COOL and Credentialing Assistance (MyArmyBenefits)** ([https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Army-Credentialing-Opportunities-On-Line-\(COOL\)?serv=122](https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Army-Credentialing-Opportunities-On-Line-(COOL)?serv=122)) The \$2,000 a fiscal year figure, the combined \$4,500 ceiling shared with tuition assistance, the recoupment rule, and the March 19, 2026 officer exclusion under AR 621-5. ALARACT 102/2025 of November 14, 2025 is the current instrument.
- **O2O learning pathways (IVMF, Syracuse)** (<https://ivmf.syracuse.edu/programs/career-training/learning-pathways/>) The catalog, read in a browser on August 22, 2026 and searched to the end: the PMP, the CAPM, Six Sigma and CompTIA Project+, and no agile certification of any kind. The catalog lists everything O2O offers, so nothing agile is on it.
- **PMI-ACP application changes effective January 6, 2026 (relayed by a PMI training partner, not a PMI document)** (https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dr-maria-sette-04a8503_pmi-acp-certification-exam-changes-2026-activity-7412669974395236353-NgaB) The effective date of the reduction from 28 contact hours to 21, quoting a PMI communication to Authorized Training Partners. Read August 22, 2026. This is the one figure on this page not taken from a document PMI publishes, and it is corroborated at both ends: PMI's current outline says 21 and DoD COOL still says 28.