

1 • CREDENTIAL

PRINCE2®

2 • FULL TITLE

PRojects IN Controlled Environments

3 • ISSUING BODY

PeopleCert

4 • LAST VERIFIED

AUG 22, 2026

5 • STATUS

Maintained

PRINCE2 is a method rather than a body of knowledge, and it's a strong one. The question for a US veteran is demand, not quality. On PeopleCert's own US-facing prices it runs more than twice a PMP over three years via Foundation. Onward to Opportunity trains for the PMP, the CAPM and Project+ instead, and PeopleCert isn't a certifying agency on DoD COOL, so no service lists it. There's a real minority it's right for: NATO and coalition work, and US employers with a UK or European parent. This guide is written for both readers, and it tells you which one you are before it tells you how.

CHANGE NOTICE • JANUARY 12, 2026

PeopleCert renamed the certificates and digital badges to PRINCE2 Project Management Foundation and Practitioner Version 7, and its own announcement says the new name appeared on e-certificates and badges during the week of 12 January 2026. That's a naming revision, not a new edition: a 2026 badge reading Version 7 and a 2024 badge reading PRINCE2 7 Foundation are the same certification. PeopleCert says the change reaches only its own official assets and gives them no new version number. The change that costs you money is older and much less advertised. From January 2023 PeopleCert's Global Best Practice certifications renew on a three-year cycle, PRINCE2 included. Foundation isn't exempt, and any page saying it's permanent describes the world before 2023.

PeopleCert's own pages disagree about what renewal requires, and the difference is money. The PRINCE2 7 Foundation and Practitioner product pages both say "60 CPD points needed for renewal." The renewal policy page, "Keep your certification current," says 20 CPD points a year over three consecutive years. The FAQ carries the clause the policy page doesn't: continuous Plus membership across all three years. The policy page and the FAQ govern. Sixty points reads as a total you can log at any pace, including all of it in year three. It isn't. You need 20 points in each of three years, and Plus in each of those years at \$133 a year, which makes the CPD route \$399 rather than \$133. Somebody who reads a product page, skips Plus for two years and then logs 60 points has bought nothing. All four pages read August 21, 2026.

1 What counts from your service

PeopleCert never asks what you did in uniform. Foundation has no prerequisite, and Practitioner asks for a certificate you already hold rather than a work history, so there's no experience count, no lookback window and no audit. That cuts both ways, and the second half is the part nobody writes down: because nothing you did counts, nothing you did earns you credit either.

WORK THAT QUALIFIES

A PMI credential you already hold

PMP and CAPM are both on the accepted prerequisite list for Practitioner, as read on PeopleCert's page on August 21, 2026, alongside IPMA Levels A to D and APM's PMQ and PPQ. A CAPM at \$300, on a voucher open to anyone, is the cheapest documented way in.

A clearance and coalition experience

The credential earns its money in coalition work. NSPA vacancies ask for a recognized project management certification and give PRINCE2 and the PMP as the examples. Read on August 22, 2026, every posting on its board that named PRINCE2 offered it as an example and not one required it. NCIA's job descriptions read the same way and add that missing qualifications can be offset by demonstrated expertise. It's accepted there rather than demanded.

Manage by exception, which you already run

PRINCE2 delegates a tolerance to the project manager and requires escalation the moment it's breached. That's commander's intent with numbers on it, and anyone who has worked to defined authority thresholds gets it faster than most candidates.

Manage by stages, which is phased execution

The method breaks a project into stages with a decision point between each one, and the work doesn't continue until the board says so. If you've run a phased operation or an exercise with go/no-go gates, the vocabulary is the only new part.

WORK THAT DOESN'T

- Your DD-214. It proves service dates and character of discharge, and PeopleCert never asks.
- Your NCOER, OER, EPR or fitrep. Narrative evaluations, and there's no experience box to put them in.
- Your JST or CCAF transcript. Both recommend college credit to colleges, and PeopleCert isn't a college.

PROVING IT

There's no audit, because there's nothing to audit. PeopleCert wants one certificate number, and only at Practitioner. Two things readers expect to help aren't on the accepted list as read on August 21, 2026: DAWIA or DoD Program Management certification, and FAC-P/PM. WarU, then still DAU, did announce a PeopleCert partnership in Defense Acquisition, March-April 2024, calling PRINCE2 "an equivalent qualification to DoD's Program Management Certification." It maps no PRINCE2 level to a DAWIA tier and waives no experience requirement. Ask your acquisition career manager rather than planning around it.

2 Eligibility

Foundation asks for nothing at all

No certification, no degree, no experience, no published minimum age. Anyone can book it. PeopleCert's Foundation page carries no prerequisite section, as read on August 21, 2026.

Practitioner asks for a certificate, not a work history

The prerequisite is a qualification you already hold from an accepted list: PRINCE2 Foundation or Practitioner from editions 5, 6 or 7, PMP, CAPM, IPMA Levels A to D, APM's PPQ and PMQ, and CSPM-2 and CSPM-3.

A CAPM is the cheapest documented way in

CAPM costs \$300 on Pearson VUE's government store, with no PMI membership needed. It asks for a high school diploma plus 23 contact hours and qualifies you to sit Practitioner directly. Against Foundation at \$701 that's \$401 saved, and it leaves you holding a PMI credential the US market screens for. PeopleCert's own accepted-prerequisite list is where you confirm it.

There's no experience requirement at any level

Not for Foundation, not for Practitioner. No months to count, no eight-year window, no verifier to track down after a PCS. If documenting experience is what stopped you doing the PMP, PRINCE2 removes that barrier.

Accredited training isn't mandatory either

PeopleCert's FAQ names self-study candidates who have "not been referred to PeopleCert by a Training Organisation" and tells them to select the product and create an account. No attendance requirement appears on any current product page. It's the biggest cost lever available, and it's rarely spelled out.

Proof gets uploaded and approved before results are released

Practitioner only, and results are withheld until the upload is approved. Don't sit the exam and then go looking for your certificate number.

3 The route

1 Decide if you need Foundation

If you already hold a PMP, a CAPM, IPMA A to D or APM's PMQ or PPQ, book Practitioner directly and save \$701. If you hold nothing, the choice is Foundation at \$701 or a CAPM at \$300 that qualifies you for the same exam.

2 Buy the exam direct

From peoplecert.org, or through an accredited training organization that gives you a voucher code to redeem there. The voucher is good for 12 months. Extensions come from your account, and PeopleCert says they carry administrative charges without publishing an amount.

3 Get the manual

Practitioner is open book and the permitted publication is the official core guidance, Managing Successful Projects with PRINCE2 7th edition, paperback or official eBook. The \$701 Foundation bundle includes it. The \$778 Practitioner bundle doesn't.

4 Upload your proof

Practitioner only. Put the certificate in the My Files tab of your PeopleCert account and email customer service to ask for a review. Results are withheld until it's approved, so do this before you book rather than after you've sat.

5 Schedule it

Log in, pick your date and proctor language. Booking direct gives you PeopleCert online proctoring by default, through ExamShield or the web-based exam driver. An accredited organization can arrange a test center.

6 Sit it

Foundation is 60 multiple-choice questions in 60 minutes, closed book, passing at 60%, or 36 of 60. Practitioner is 56 questions and sub-questions worth 70 marks in 150 minutes, open book, passing at 60%, or 42 of 70. If the exam language isn't your first, you get 25% more time.

7 Keep it current

Three years from your certification date, then renew or go stale. Keeping it, below, has the three routes.

4 What it costs

Foundation V7 exam bundle	\$701, eBook included
Practitioner V7 exam bundle	\$778, no eBook
PeopleCert Plus	\$133 a year
Three years of Plus, to renew by CPD	\$399
Rescheduling: over 48h / 48h to 4h / inside 4h	Free / \$60 / \$120, plus tax
Three years via Foundation, self-study	\$1,878, manual included
Three years via a CAPM instead	\$1,477, plus the manual

PRINCE2 isn't the cheap alternative to the PMP, and on PeopleCert's own US prices it isn't close. Two routes, both three years of self-study: Foundation then Practitioner plus \$399 of Plus is \$1,878, or a CAPM in place of Foundation for \$1,477. Buy that CAPM on the \$300 voucher, which anyone can buy. The \$225 one is members only and saves less than PMI membership costs. The PMP over the same three years, a PMI member throughout, is \$882: a \$425 exam, \$10 to join, three years of PMI global dues at \$129, and a \$60 renewal that only exists at the

member rate. Chapter dues are optional, separate and about \$25 to \$40, and they don't change the exam price. So more than twice via Foundation, and about two thirds more via the CAPM. Three things narrow it. The PMP needs 35 contact hours and the CAPM 23, neither priced above. PRINCE2's total buys two exams, because nothing takes you to Practitioner from zero with one. And the Foundation bundle includes the official manual while nothing in the CAPM route does, so price it in before you compare. PeopleCert prices read August 21, 2026 and labeled "Incl. VAT," European boilerplate, so treat your checkout total as the authority. PMI's fees come from Pearson VUE's government store, read August 22, 2026, where \$425 is the store's own member price and PMI publishes no exam fee of its own. A co-host of this show owns a company that trains for the PMP and the CAPM. Those are the two credentials this page points you toward.

5 Getting it paid for

- Start with the funding asymmetry, because it's an argument in itself. Onward to Opportunity's course catalog, read in August 2026, trains for the PMP, the CAPM and CompTIA's Project+ among others. PRINCE2 isn't in it. Be precise about the money: training is free, but an exam fee is covered only if you're currently unemployed or active duty inside your final six months, so employed veterans, Guard, Reserve and spouses train and then pay to sit. Even so, when the programs built to get you employed teach three PM credentials and not the fourth, that's the market telling you which ones US employers screen for.
- No service lists it, and the reason is structural rather than an oversight. DoD COOL's Agency dropdown names every certifying body on the system, and neither PeopleCert nor AXELOS is on it, so no PRINCE2 product at any level can be listed for any service. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard COOL and the DoD-wide credential search each return nothing for it, read in a browser on August 21, 2026. Air Force COOL covers Space Force as well, so there's no sixth site to try. Army Credentialing Assistance funds credentials listed on Army COOL, which leaves nothing to select in ArmyIgnitED, and every other service pays only for what's on its own list.
- No PeopleCert, PRINCE2 or AXELOS entry was found in VA's approved licensing and certification test search as of August 21, 2026, so don't budget on the GI Bill paying for this. Check the Comparison Tool yourself the week you plan to sit, and apply anyway on Form 22-0803: VA's own page says you may submit a request for a test that isn't approved yet. If one does get approved, VA reimburses up to \$2,000 per test, failing doesn't bar you, and the charge is prorated at one month per \$2,578.64 for 2026 to 2027, so a full \$2,000 costs about 23 days.
- Neither SkillBridge nor VET TEC 2.0 pays an exam fee. SkillBridge is authorized time in your last 180 days with your pay continuing, and the industry partner supplies the training, so any exam it covers is that partner's choice, not a DoD benefit. VET TEC pays approved high-technology programs directly, and PRINCE2 on its own isn't one.
- WIOA is the strongest public route once you've separated, and it isn't an entitlement. A local American Job Center can approve a course and its exam fee through an Individual Training Account, but only if that exact program and provider sit on your state's Eligible Training Provider List. Get written authorization before you enroll, and treat "WIOA eligible" in another state as meaningless in yours.
- For spouses, the SpouseWorks Scholarship, formerly MyCAA, may cover a standalone exam leading to a recognized certification. Military OneSource puts it at up to \$4,000 across all ranks and pay grades as of August 2026. The per-year and time limits on that \$4,000 are only shown once you have a SpouseWorks account, so

confirm them there before planning on the whole amount. PeopleCert or the testing organization has to participate and the expense has to be in the approved training plan, so don't expect retroactive reimbursement.

- The route with no catch is an employer. A US employer asking you for PRINCE2 is almost always a multinational with a UK or European parent, and those employers usually fund it. If PRINCE2 is the right answer for you, the organization asking for it is generally also the one paying.

6 Keeping it

Cycle	3 years
Required	20 CPD points a year, for 3 years
Renewal fee	\$133 a year for PeopleCert Plus

Three routes, and the cheapest is the one PeopleCert states least precisely. CPD at \$399 needs continuous Plus membership across all three years, which the product pages don't mention. A qualifying exam pass in the same suite renews everything you hold in it, so one pass covers Foundation and Practitioner. A re-sit works too.

How current this is

Everything above was checked against published material from PeopleCert 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: PeopleCert 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 PeopleCert, 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

- **PRINCE2 7 Foundation product page (PeopleCert)** (<https://www.peoplecert.org/browse-certifications/project-programme-and-port-folio-management/PRINCE2-2/PRINCE2-7-foundation-3579>) The \$701 bundle price and contents, the exam format, and the "60 CPD points" wording this guide doesn't follow.

- **PRINCE2 7 Practitioner product page (PeopleCert)** (<https://www.peoplecert.org/browse-certifications/project-programme-and-portfolio-management/PRINCE2-2/PRINCE2-7-practitioner-3581>) The \$778 price, what it leaves out, the accepted prerequisite list, the 56 questions worth 70 marks, and the same "60 CPD points" line.
- **Keep your certification current (PeopleCert)** (<https://www.peoplecert.org/Certifications/keep-your-certification-current-peoplecertplus>) The governing renewal policy: three years, the three routes, 20 CPD points a year, and the product suite rule.
- **PeopleCert Membership** (<https://www.peoplecert.org/Membership>) The \$133 a year Plus price, and that CPD renewal runs through Plus.
- **PeopleCert help and support FAQ** (<https://www.peoplecert.org/help-and-support/FAQ>) Self-study booking, 12-month voucher validity, the upload process, lapsed recovery, and the continuous-membership requirement the policy page doesn't carry. Read August 22, 2026: also the \$60 and \$120 rescheduling charges and the 25% more time in a second language.
- **"What's New at DAU," Defense Acquisition magazine, March-April 2024** (<https://www.waru.edu/library/damag/march-april2024/whats-new-dau>) DAU's own magazine, and the source of the "equivalent qualification" wording, read August 22, 2026 in the Internet Archive copy, since dau.edu now redirects to waru.edu. PMT 4990V is at waru.edu/courses/pmt-4990v and the November 7, 2025 memo is on media.defense.gov.
- **Continuing Certification Requirements Handbook, ©2022 (PMI)** (<https://www.pmi.org/-/media/pmi/documents/public/pdf/certifications/resources/ccr-certification-requirements-handbook.pdf>) The \$60 member and \$150 non-member renewal in the cost comparison. The current edition, last updated April 2026, keeps the PDU rules and publishes no fees at all, which is why these carry a date. Both read August 21, 2026. PMI's own membership and exam pages refuse automated reading, which is why the next entry exists.
- **Pearson VUE government store, PMI exam vouchers** (<https://govstore.pearsonvue.com/p/PMI-PMP>) The PMI fees in the cost comparison, read August 22, 2026. Separate member and non-member vouchers with one price on each page: PMI-PMP at \$675, PMI-PMP-MBR at \$425, PMI-CAPM at \$300, PMI-CAPM-MBR at \$225.
- **Vacancies and job descriptions (NSPA and NCIA, NATO)** (<https://nsipa-nato.career.empty.com/>) Read August 22, 2026: every NSPA posting naming PRINCE2 offered it as an example rather than requiring it. One reads "a recognised project management certification (e.g. PRINCE 2, and Project Management Professional)." The board renders in JavaScript, so a plain fetch reports none. NCIA job description 240962 reads the same way.
- **Research Related Credentials, agency and keyword search (DoD COOL)** (<https://www.cool.osd.mil/research-related-credentials.htm>) Read in a browser on August 21, 2026. "axelos" returns no results in the Agency dropdown and "people" returns only the Association of People Supporting Employment, so neither certifying body is registered. PRINCE2 also returned zero on Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard COOL.
- **Licensing and certification tests (VA)** (<https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/licensing-and-certification-tests/>) The \$2,000 per test cap, Form 22-0803, and the line permitting a request for an unapproved test.
- **Approved test search tool (VA)** (<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/licenses-certifications-and-prep-courses>) Searched for PeopleCert, PRINCE2 and AXELOS on August 21, 2026 and none was found. A JavaScript form, not a queryable database.
- **O2O learning pathways (IVMF, Syracuse)** (<https://ivmf.syracuse.edu/programs/career-training/learning-pathways/>) Onward to Opportunity's catalog, read August 2026, and its exam-fee rule. The PMP, the CAPM and Project+, not PRINCE2.
- **OEWS, Project Management Specialists (BLS)** (<https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes131082.htm>) The \$102,320 median for May 2025, released May 15, 2026. It prices the occupation, not the credential.