

## **PMT 4890V & 4990V DoD Program Management (PM) Certification Exams Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)s**

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### **1) What are the eligibility requirements to sit for the PM Practitioner and Advanced exams?**

Both exams require the candidate to be coded as an acquisition functional area member, have completed all other training requirements for the respective certification, and gain authorization through their respective Agency Training/Talent Application System (TAS). Candidates for certification are expected to meet the training and experiential requirements before applying to take the respective certification exam. Candidates should be within 6 months of meeting the minimum certification experience (3 ½ and 7 ½ years).

- PM Practitioner Certification requires at least four (4) years of relevant acquisition experience with evidence of demonstrated proficiency in PM competencies.
- PM Advanced Certification requires eight (8) or more years of relevant program management experience, with at least two (2) of these years with cost, schedule and performance responsibilities in a program management office or similar organization (dedicated matrix support to a PM, PEO, DCMA program integrator, or supervisor of shipbuilding).

**2) What is the passing score?**

Candidates must obtain a score of 70% or higher to pass the PM Certification Exams.

**3) How many questions are on the exams?**

Each exam has 100 questions, each randomly pulled from a robust database ensuring each exam delivered is different from the next. DAU will employ a common industry practice of periodically reviewing exam item performance to determine whether adjustments are needed to any exam questions, or to the passing score.

**4) Is the PMT 4890V/4990V Certification Exam open or closed book?**

The PMT 4890V/4990V Program Management Certification Exams are both completely closed book. Examinees will not be able to use or reference any subject material during the exam, to include but not limited to notes, books, computers, personal devices, etc.

**5) Where can an individual take the exams?**

Both exams are delivered by Pearson VUE, a commercial test service provider under contract with the Department of Defense (DoD). Examinees may choose one of two ways to take an exam, either virtually on a personal computer using OnVUE – a Pearson VUE software client application, or in-person at a Pearson VUE test center. The following links provides excellent information to exam candidates for both options:

Defense Acquisition University (DAU) OnVUE exam information // Pearson VUE

<https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/dau.html>

An Additional Resource: <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/test-takers/resources.html>

Candidates who decide to take the exam using the OnVUE application will need specific personal computer equipment and must be able to download a software add-on. Additionally, exam candidates will have to conduct a mandatory system check prior to taking the exam. Please check the link below for system requirements and to run a system check for the OnVUE application: Defense Acquisition University (DAU) OnVUE exam information // Pearson VUE

<https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/dau/onvue.html>

An additional resource: <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/test-takers/onvue-online-proctoring.html>

**6) Are there any advantages to taking an exam in-person (at a Pearson VUE test center) vs. virtually (OnVUE)?**

Although both exams are the same regardless of delivery method, historical data reflects an apparent advantage to taking the exam in-person vs. virtually. Statistically speaking, the passing rate is ~5% higher for tests taken at a test facility. There are several factors that may contribute to the delta in the rates, i.e., IT/connectivity issues, increased test anxiety in the virtual environment, early termination due to examinee test environment compromise, etc. As such, it is recommended that examinees take the exams at a physical Pearson VUE test location, and only choose the OnVUE virtual option by exception.

**7) How much time is allotted to take the exam?**

Candidates will have two (2) hours to take the exam. This exam duration encompasses all “seat time” at the Pearson VUE test facility, and includes the exam intro, tutorial, 100-question exam, any breaks, and any pre-submission review.

**8) How many times can an individual take the exam?**

DoD allows for the exam to be taken no more than three times in a 12-month period, with a minimum of 30 days between attempts. Agencies may set local policy for the number of times the exam can be taken within the grace period allowed for achieving certification (to include extensions obtained through waivers).

**9) What material is covered in the exam, what is being tested?**

Candidates will need to be able to demonstrate a foundational understanding of the PM courseware learning objectives which can be found in each certification course concept card on <https://icatalog.dau.edu/onlinecatalog/tabnavlas.aspx>.

The questions in the exams, and more importantly, the correct answers, are derived from the terminal and enabling learning objectives associated with the DAU certification training required for the PM Practitioner and PM Advanced certification tiers.

**10) How many questions are on the exams for each of the required certification courses?**

The tables below depict the distribution of questions in the exam per required course:

***Practitioner Exam Weighting Factors and Question Allocation***

Course	Weighting Factor	# Exam Questions
ACQ 0030 Acquisition Ethics	2%	2
ACQ 1010 Foundational Systems Acquisition	25%	25
ACQ 2020 Intermediate Systems Acquisition, Part A	40%	40
ACQ 2030 Intermediate Systems Acquisition, Part B	25%	25
PMT 0140 Team Management & Leadership	5%	5
PMT 2570 Program Management Tools	3%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100</b>

**Advanced Exam Question Weighting Factors & Question Allocation**

Course	Weighting Factor	# Exam Questions
ACQ 315 Understanding Industry	10%	10
PMT 0120 Program Scheduling	15%	15
PMT 0130 Work Breakdown Structure	5%	5
PMT 0170 Risk Management	20%	20
PMT 3400 Leadership and Organization	15%	15
PMT 3500 Business Aspects	5%	5
PMT 3600 Program Management Office	30%	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100</b>

**11) Is there any TDY or travel required to take the Exam?**

It is anticipated all candidates will be able to take the PM Exams at a Pearson VUE test location within commuting distance from their home of record. In the event there is not a Pearson VUE test site available within commuting distance, and if testing virtually is not a viable option, then the candidate must ensure travel authorization is received prior to scheduling the exam. More information about travel may be found in the DAU Student Policy Handbook link on the following webpage: [Student Policies & Information \(dau.edu\)](https://dau.edu/Student-Policies-and-Information)

**12) What if an exam needs to be rescheduled for a medical or family emergency?**

Candidates will be asked to submit documentation from a medical professional that contains clinic letterhead, candidate name (or family member name), and date(s) covered. Pearson VUE Customer Service will review the documentation and then assist the candidate with rescheduling. If the document provided is not sufficient, Pearson VUE will ask for additional documentation from the candidate.

Additionally, candidates may submit emergency reschedule requests for car accidents, death of a family member, military deployment, and ID loss. Documentation for these events can include a police report, obituary, military orders, and copy of application for a new ID.

**13) If an individual does not pass the exam, do they have to retake any training?**

After each unsuccessful exam attempt, the individual and their Agency will be notified of the results. The Agency will determine any required remedial actions to include retaking training, mandatory time between subsequent attempts, and Agency “counseling.” At each unsuccessful attempt, DoD recommends individuals review their exam performance feedback in detail.

After the third unsuccessful attempt to take the exam in a 12-month period, individuals must review their exam performance feedback and the associated study materials obtained from the course. All remedial steps the individual took should be confirmed and endorsed by their Agency before they are allowed to attempt the exam again.

**14) What happens if an individual exhausts all options? Is there a potential an employee could be removed from the AWF or federal government if they fail the exam and have exceeded their certification grace period?**

Yes. Achievement of the DoD PM certification is a condition of employment for PM-coded acquisition workforce positions. Individuals unable to meet their conditions of employment may be subject to employment actions in accordance with agency procedures and as defined in the position description.

**15) Will promotions be withheld if employees fail the exam and are still within their grace period?**

Agencies will determine eligibility for promotion based on organization policies and position requirements (i.e., Key Leadership Positions (KLP) requiring certification upon hire). However, the agency must consider the following;

- a. Certification grace period (five years for Practitioner and 4 years for Advanced) will not reset for individuals promoted into a new role within the Program Management Functional Area unless their requirement changes from Practitioner to Advanced with the promotion.
- b. If an individual leaves a Program Management-coded position and then returns, the grace period will reset.
- c. Any waiver for certification grace period must be submitted IAW DoDI 5000.66 policy for an individual to maintain position compliance if they fall outside of the prescribed grace period.

**PMT 4890V/PMT 4990V  
CANDIDATE EXPERIENCE ROADMAP**

