

Putting Off Getting Your PMP Credential?

Take Note – the PMBOK® Guide is Changing Soon!

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It's fairly typical for PMI chapters to consist of about 50 percent PMPs, and PMI-NAC is no exception. Of course, chapter membership is of great value to people who aren't yet eligible for the exam.

If you are exam eligible – and for whatever reason haven't taken or passed your exam – take time to read on to become more aware of near-term changes at PMI Global which will affect future PMP exam candidates.

The PMBOK® Guide – Fourth Edition is scheduled for release December 31, 2008. The new exam supporting the Fourth Edition is scheduled for release July 1, 2009.

That means it's very much in your interest to make that New Year's resolution to start right away and get ready for your exam using the *PMBOK® Guide – Third Edition* that you already own and have studied so well.

We at PMI-NAC also have a plan prepared to help make this easier for you!

Our own, and very talented, Marc Stettner has developed an ideal preparation course for this purpose. This course will be offered in early 2009. That will leave plenty of time for you to get ready for the exam based on the content of the Third Edition.

This prep course is designed for those people who have previously studied for the PMP certification exam but have not applied to take the test or perhaps need just a little help with a part of their game or level of confidence to step up and go for it on the exam.

If, on the other hand, you have taken the test and failed before – here's a perfect point in time to show your determination and succeed. Believe me – I can relate.

I didn't pass the Program Management Professional (*PgMPSM*) credential examination on the first try. In fact, with the PgMP it's quite common to have to repeat some of the steps more than once. So I had to pick myself up. I did so by pursuing a tough schedule of study and test-taking simulations to get it right. But that's what it will take to earn your PMP – the determination to see it through.

If you can muscle up just enough determination to go for it – we'll be here to help you succeed at your PMP Exam. I'm writing to emphasize that if you can go for it now – the chances are excellent you will do well and get that PMP you've worked hard to earn.

The sections that follow provide additional details about the process and approach this PMI-NAC PMP Exam Preparation special course for early 2009.

First and foremost, this PMI-NAC PMP Exam Preparation special course will be laser-focused on mastering test-taking techniques and working through many, many practice questions. This truly is a real "hands-on" course.

Participants will spend in-class time working through exam questions in small groups.

This is an advanced approach to test preparation!

Benefits

- Learn advanced test-taking skills
- Receive a review/refresher of each knowledge area
- Gain valuable test taking experience by extensively practicing multiple choice questions similar to the ones on the actual exam
- Learn test tips from other students as well as the instructor
- Benefit from an instructor-led review and discussion of test questions
- Experience a structured approach to set aside the time necessary to succeed and keep you motivated during the process

Suggested Prerequisites/Students

- Anyone who has previously taken a PMP preparation course
- Anyone who has self studied the PMBOK or related material
- Students should own a copy of the *PMBOK® Guide – Third Edition*

Course Format

- The beginning of the course will focus on test-taking techniques
- Instructor will illustrate how to dissect test questions
- A review of each knowledge area will be presented
- Each knowledge area will have a 1 hour exam practice session
- The instructor will review and discuss the correct answers for each practice session

Textbook

PMP® Exam: Practice Test and Study Guide, by J. LeRoy Ward, PMP, PgMP, 2006, Seventh Edition (spiral-bound).

Details will be provided at www.northalabamapmi.org and in this newsletter.

If you believe this is the PMP Exam Preparation course you've been waiting for – then don't delay – please email us at professionaldevelopment@northalabamapmi.org to receive important email updates about the course.

More about The PMBOK® Guide – Fourth Edition

The PMBOK® Guide – Fourth Edition reflects the evolving knowledge in the profession of project management. Much like previous editions, it represents generally recognized good practice in the profession.

However, the Fourth Edition also reflects a focus on improved consistency and clarity. Great consideration was given by the project teams to remove redundant information and add clarifying statements where needed. Terminology was updated only to present process names consistently in a verb-noun format. *The new PMBOK will continue the tradition of excellence in project management with a standard that is easy to understand and implement.*

Major differences between the Third Edition and Fourth Edition include

- All process names are in a verb-noun format.
- Enterprise Environmental Factors were more clearly defined to avoid confusion with Organizational Process Assets.
- A standard approach for discussing requested changes, preventive actions, corrective actions and defect repairs was employed.
- The total number of processes was reduced from 44 to 42. Two processes were deleted and two processes were added. Six processes were reconfigured into four processes in the procurement Knowledge Area.
- To provide clarity, a distinction was made between the project management plan and project documents used to manage the project.
- The distinction between the information in the Project Charter and the Project Scope Statement was clarified.
- Process flow diagrams at the beginning of chapters 4-12 have been deleted and replaced with data flow diagrams.
- A data flow diagram for each process has been created.
- A new appendix was added that addresses key interpersonal skills a project manager utilizes when managing a project.