

CM vs. PMP: Compare or Combine?

Written by: Kiran Dambala, CM, PMP | May 19, 2015



Many professionals approach certification by comparing and contrasting the differences between the Certified Manager (CM) and Project Management Professional (PMP) certifications; however, numerous benefits can be gained from acquiring both certifications. The CM and PMP certifications complement each other, and leaders in any industry, armed with skills validated by these two certifications, are well-positioned to excel in their careers.

People or Processes

The CM certification develops and validates *interpersonal skills* or those skills used to interact with and manage *people* (skills such as leading, communicating, listening, and problem solving), while the PMP certification validates *project management skills* or those skills used to manage *processes* with tools and templates (skills such as planning, scheduling, budgeting and evaluating). Both skill sets (people and process) overlap and are necessary in order to successfully accomplish organizational goals in an efficient and effective manner.

Body of Knowledge

The *body of knowledge* for both the CM and PMP certification share many similarities, but with a different focus. For example, in the area of resource management, PMPs need skills to ensure adequate resources are planned and secured for an organization to meet project objectives; whereas CMs need skills to manage and administer resources to meet organizational objectives. Similarly with teaming, PMPs need tools and templates to plan and monitor projects and key team performance parameters to measure progress, while CMs need the ability to form diverse teams to brainstorm best practices and make informed decisions to benefit the organization as a whole.

Form and Function

The scenario-based learning and testing methodology of both the CM and PMP certification enable leaders to hone their analytical and critical thinking skills. These skills directly apply to the workplace and enable leaders to respond quickly to challenging situations and unforeseen events. In summary, both the CM and PMP certification offer significant value and validate essential skills that can help leaders to excel professionally in their career, as well as personally.

About the Author



Kiran Dambala, CM, PMP

Kiran Dambala was the 2014 Chairman of the Board for the NMA...The Leadership Organization