Project Management Professional Certification Course

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MRIGlobal

Introduction

The Project Management Institute (PMI) is a globally recognized professional organization that develops management standards and offers certifications and other credentials, to include the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification.

The PMP certification is a project management credential that validates the knowledge and experience to successfully plan, lead, and deliver projects. To qualify for the exam, a candidate must meet minimum education requirements, possess project management experience, and complete PMI contact hours.

The PMTraining® 6-week PMP prep course is PMI-approved and meets the requirements for PMI contact hours. The content is broken down into three domains (people, processes, and business environment) and three project management approaches (predictive, agile, and hybrid).
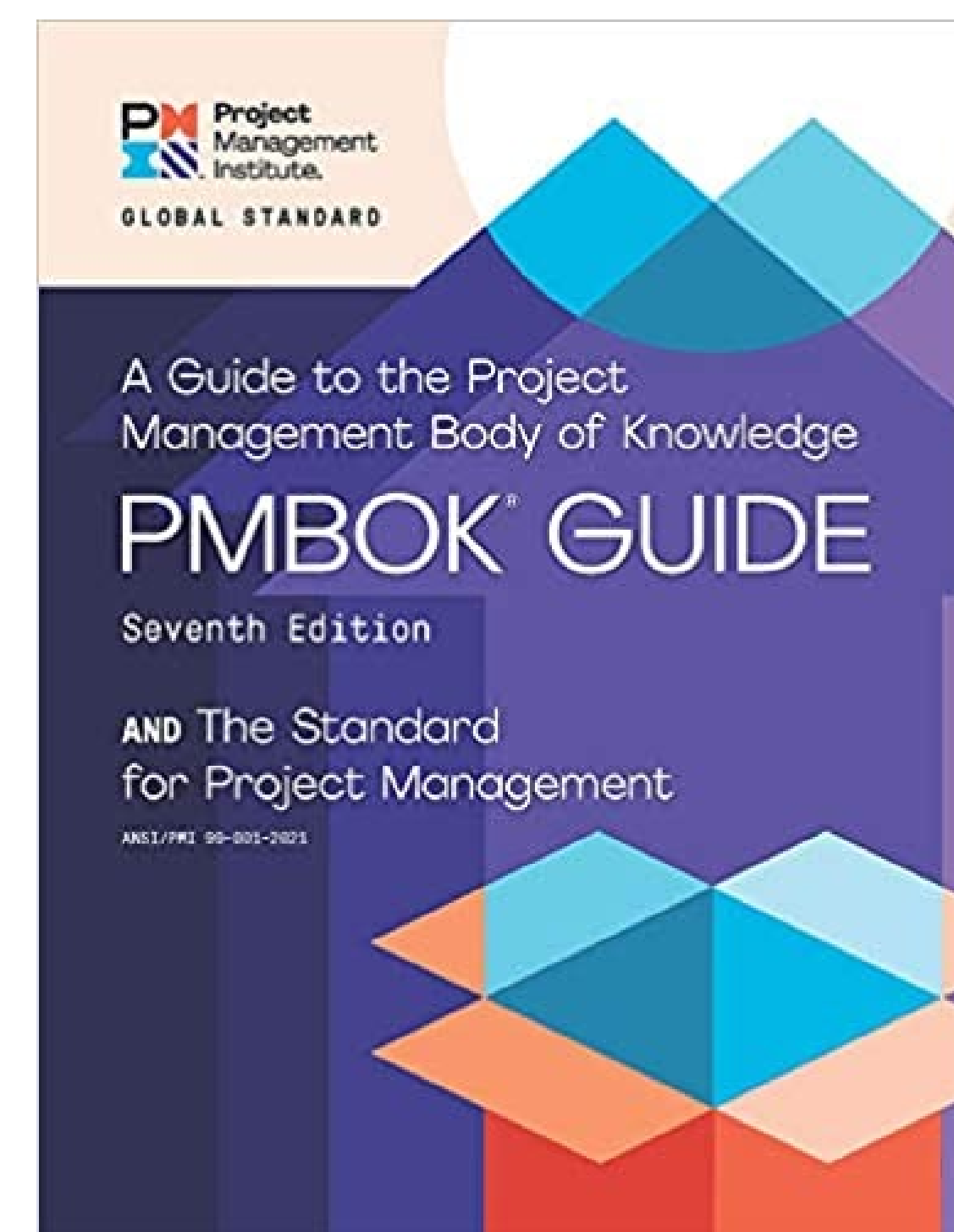
Participation in the course and registration for the exam was funded by the 2022 Jeff Maillie Memorial Staff Development Award. The course cost was $1498. Successful completion of the course and earning a certification demonstrates my competency to serve as Program Manager. The poster presentation will provide a course overview, highlight key concepts, discuss applications in program management, and provide a critique of the course.

Course Structure

PMTraining®'s Live virtual course offers open registration for either a 2-week Bootcamp with classes twice a week for 7 hours a day or a 6-week mini course with classes twice a week for 2 hours a day. The Live Course is taught by a certified instructor and requires attendance and participation from the students to earn the course certificate that certifies the 35 PMI contact hours that are required to qualify for the PMP exam. There are suggested readings and assignments, in addition to required quizzes and mock exams. As part of the Live course package, students have free access to a Dropbox™ of resources, the On-demand (pre-recorded) course that will provide 30 professional development units (PDUs), and mock exams.

The course curriculum includes the following modules:

- Introduction and PMP Exam Overview
- An introduction to the PMBOK® Guide
- Understanding the Project Environment
- The Role of the Project Manager
- Creating a High-Performing Team
- Starting the Project
- Doing the Work
- Keeping the Team on Track
- Keeping the Business in Mind
- Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct
- Course Review Areas

The course was also separated into domains:

- Team
- Stakeholders
- Professional Responsibility
- Planning
- Project Work
- Development Approach and Life Cycle
- Delivery
- Measurement
- Uncertainty

PMTraining® guarantees PMP success and has a 100% money back policy!!
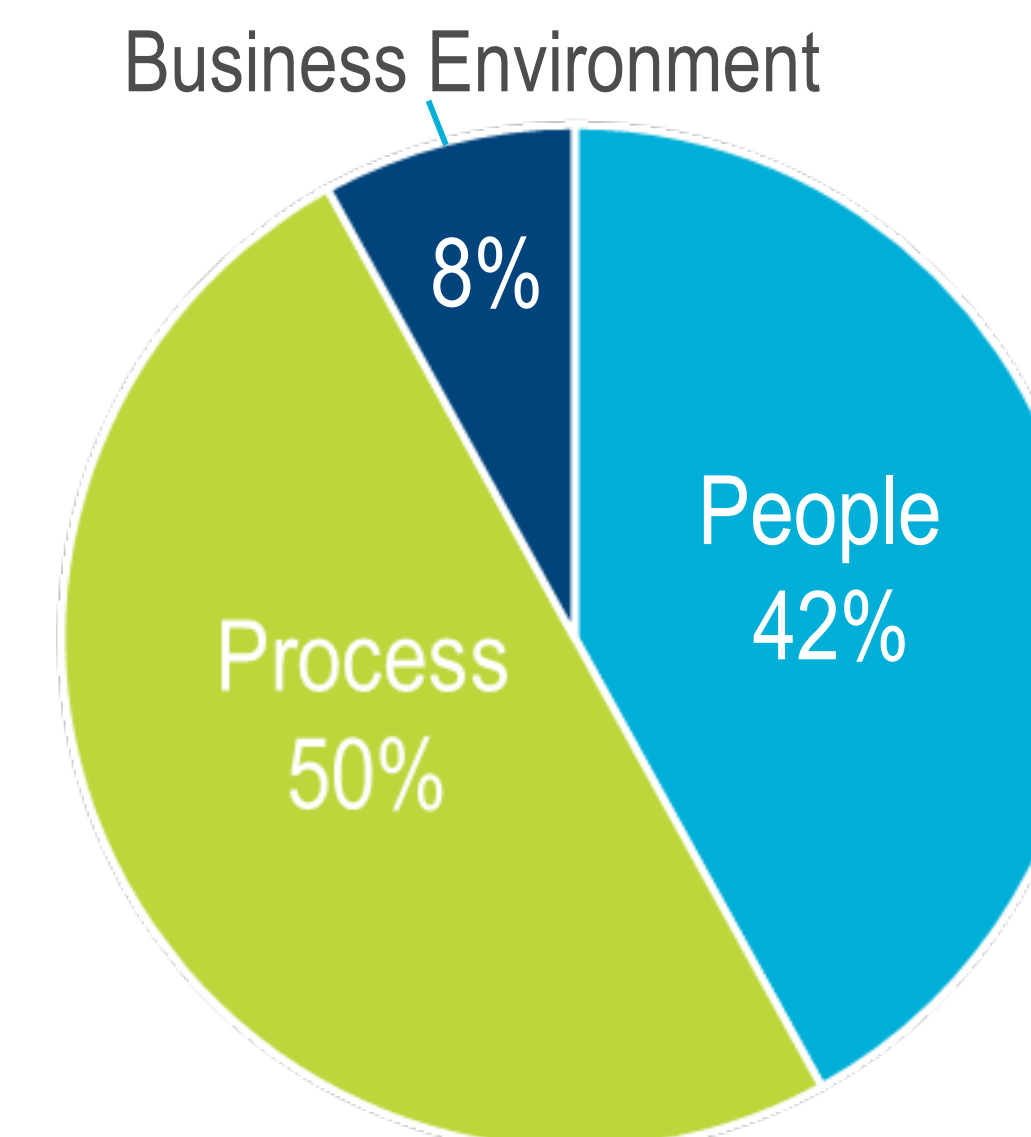
PMP Exam

The PMP exam is a 230-minute and 180-question multiple-choice test that can be completed in-person or through a proctored-online format. It's designed to validate the skills of project management Professionals in three categories and three methodologies:

Categories
- People- soft skills necessary to lead a project team
- Process- technical aspects involved in successful management of projects
- Business Environment- connection between projects and organizational strategy

Methodologies
- Predictive (waterfall)- for projects with well-understood components
- Agile- for projects with uncertainty
- Hybrid- for projects with some clearly-defined and some unclear aspects

Business Environment 8%
People 42%
Process 50%

Useful Applications at MRIGlobal

- Application of the various methodologies based on the project uncertainty
- Steps in project life cycle
- Techniques for managing stakeholder engagement
- Tools for conflict resolution
- Fundamental understanding of project plans and artifacts.
- Time management tools
- Realization of business value

Lessons Learned

The PMTraining® Live course **builds a strong foundation** to build program management knowledge. The course requires a significant amount of independent learning and is geared toward self-learners who require less guidance. The assignments, readings, and quizzes were completed at-will and completion was only required before receiving the course certificate. At minimum, students should leave the Live course receiving a good overview of PMP concepts.

The OnDemand course was more appropriate for students who require more direct instruction. The lessons are very structured and cover all of the key points and provides examples of mathematical problems and graphical tools. The OnDemand course strongly suggested completing the supporting quiz at the end of each lesson, which helped reinforce the concepts. Students should gain a **strong understanding of Program Management** approaches after completion of this course.

The mock exams provided performance charts that reported results for each domain area. This created a **knowledge baseline** and emphasized areas that required additional attention.

The exam primarily focused on the **People category** and didn't include any formulas or visual tools.

Conclusions

Overall, the PMTraining® course was effective in preparing me for the PMP exam. My key takeaways were:

- Based on my learning style, the OnDemand course provided better instruction through the structured lectures. It allowed for notetaking (by pausing the video) and immediate reinforcement of the concepts through quizzes.
- While I was able to build a strong understanding of the PMP principles and applications related to my daily job, the content covered on the exam was extremely limited.
- The PMTraining® course recommended taking the extra mock exams until you consistently earned an 80% on the exams. I felt that this goal was challenging to reach due to each exam presenting a new concept. However, I think it is critical to complete every mock exam to build a strong understanding of the concepts.
- Acquiring the PMI way of thinking is necessary to pass the PMP exam. The answers aren't always intuitive.
- The PMP provides approaches that can be tailored to your project needs.

Acknowledgement

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