

Know the Difference Between CCM[®], CACM, and PMP[®]



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WHAT IS IT? The CCM is administered by the Construction Manager Certification Institute (CMCI), an affiliate of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA). The CCM is based on CMAA's Body of Knowledge, which includes the full library of CMAA publications.

ACCREDITATION: The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accredits the CCM under the ISO 17024 standard for personnel certification programs.

HOW MANY ARE THERE? More than 6,000 professionals have earned the CCM as of 2023. These practitioners demonstrate their expert knowledge and experience managing construction projects and programs. CMCI believes these numbers highlight the key differences of these credentials.

STRENGTHS: A CCM is an expert who can lead all parts of construction projects and programs. The CCM requires responsible-in-charge (RIC) experience, which means the practitioner had authority to make decisions for the team. Typically, CCMs are corporate executives, directors, senior construction managers, chief estimators, or senior project controls staff.

The CMAA Body of Knowledge focuses on all parts of project/program delivery in the built environment, including cost, time, quality, safety, risk, and technology management, contract administration, sustainability, and professional practice.

ELIGIBILITY: To qualify for the CCM, a practitioner must have extensive design and construction experience, including a minimum of 48 months of RIC experience spread over all parts of a project/program.

The CCM also also requires an accredited degree or additional experience in design or construction.

WHAT IS IT? CMCI also administers the CACM, which is based on CMAA's *Construction Management Standards of Practice* and *Capstone: An Introduction to the Construction Management Profession*.

ACCREDITATION: The CACM follows the ISO 17024 standard, but is not yet accredited through ANAB.

HOW MANY ARE THERE? Since the CACM launched in 2023, nearly 100 professionals have earned the designation and demonstrated they can manage part of a construction project or program. Again, CMCI believes these numbers highlight key differences between these credentials.

STRENGTHS: The CACM is intended for mid-career design and construction professionals who are ready to lead part of a construction project or program. CACMs are often assistant construction managers, schedule analysts, cost estimators, claims analysts, office engineers, and inspectors.

CMAA's *Standards of Practice* and *Capstone* set industry standards for the basic services any construction manager should be prepared to perform, regardless of the type of project/program, delivery method, owner, etc.

ELIGIBILITY: The CACM requires a practitioner to have 48 months of general design or construction experience, or 12 months of RIC experience in any project/program area.

The CACM also requires an accredited degree or additional experience in design or construction.

WHAT IS IT? The PMP credential is administered by the Project Management Institute (PMI) and is based on *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK[®] Guide)*.

ACCREDITATION: The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accredits the PMP under the ISO 17024 standard for personnel certification programs.

HOW MANY ARE THERE? More than one million practitioners across multiple industries hold the PMP.

STRENGTHS: The PMP evolved as a credential for general practitioners of project management. The PMP is well-recognized in the information technology industry. However, PMI has worked to expand its coverage to other fields in recent years.

PMI publishes a "Construction Extension" to the *PMBOK Guide*, covering a variety of topics that PMI notes are not covered by the *PMBOK Guide* or the PMP.

ELIGIBILITY: The PMP requires a minimum of 36 months of experience leading projects. The difference between leading and RIC is critical.¹

Additionally, the PMP requires a degree in any discipline and a minimum of 35 hours of project management education.

¹The *PMBOK Guide* describes leadership as "...influencing, motivating, listening, enabling, and other activities having to do with the project team." See *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK Guide)*, 7th ed., Project Management Institute, 2021, page 17.

CMCI defines RIC as "the candidate's experience must be recognized during project execution as a key part of a delivery team. The candidate must have had sufficient accountability to assure direct responsibility for the supervision of the construction management staff, for project decision making, the delivery of construction management services, and communication with and coordination of the other participants, specifically owners, design professionals, consultants, suppliers, vendors, and contractors." See *CCM Application Handbook*, Construction Manager Certification Institute, 2023, page 7.

CMAA believes the PMP recognizes basic project management skills and can provide a strong start toward earning the more selective and specialized CACM and CCM. We urge the industry to use these credentials in a complementary way.