



Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs (GAC)

3 September 2013

Dear GAC Program Representative,

This letter is to update you regarding a change in the PMP® and PgMP® credential project management experience requirements for graduates of programs accredited by PMI Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs (GAC).

The policy that grants 1,500 hours of credit toward the PMP® or PgMP® experience requirement for those candidates who graduate from a GAC-accredited program has produced concern that PMI's eligibility requirements are not consistent for all candidates. There has been confusion and criticism of this policy by some stakeholders. This matter was brought to the attention of the PMI Certification Governance Council, a group established by PMI's Board of Directors to provide governance to the certification program. The Certification Governance Council was specifically asked to review the policy for its continued feasibility and to vote on whether the policy should continue in its current form.

After its review, the Certification Governance Council voted that the policy as it presently stands should be eliminated and that all candidates for these credentials should adhere to the same eligibility criteria. Given the result of this vote there will no longer be a credit of 1,500 hours granted towards the experience requirement for graduates of GAC-accredited programs.

To ease the transition to this new policy, PMI is implementing a "grandfather clause" stating that any student graduating from a GAC-accredited degree program will continue to qualify for the 1,500 hour credit towards the PMP® or PgMP® experience requirement provided s/he is matriculated in or has been accepted into the program as of 30 June 2014 and apply for the credential examination no later than 30 June 2017.

The GAC program provides significant value to academic programs at institutions of higher education that seek such accreditation, as well as to the students and employers who seek out GAC-accredited programs for their project management educational needs. The change in the eligibility requirement for graduates of these programs is not meant to negatively impact anyone, but to instead maintain the quality and consistency of the PMI credentials worldwide.

For additional clarification, please refer to the attached information, prepared in a question and answer format. If you need any additional clarification on certification requirements, please contact PMI Global Operations Center Customer Care team at customercare@pmi.org or +1 855 746 4849 in the U.S. Outside of the U.S., please call 610-356-4600, option 8.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Saul M. Spivack'.

Saul M. Spivack Ph.D.
Manager





Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs (GAC)

Additional Information on the Changes to the PMP® and PgMP® Work Experience Hours Requirement

1. How is the project management experience requirement changing for the PMP® and PgMP® credentials?

The general PMP® and PgMP® credential work experience requirement has not changed, requiring 4,500 work experience hours for all applicants. What has changed is that PMI will no longer offer 1,500 hour project management experience credits for PMP® or PgMP® applicants enrolled in GAC-accredited programs.

2. Why did PMI decide to remove this 1,500 hour project management experience credit from GAC accredited programs?

The decision was made because of the importance project management experience is in relation to PMI credentials and to ensure global consistency in the experience level of all candidates.

3. How are students enrolled in GAC-accredited programs affected by this change?

Students matriculated or graduating from a GAC-accredited program by 30 June 2014 continue to qualify for the 1,500 work experience credit but must apply for their credential exam no later than 30 June 2017. For example, a student enrolled in the accredited program as of 30 June 2014 qualifies for the credit, but a student who enrolls in the GAC accredited program as of 1 July 2014 would not qualify under the grandfather clause.