

Agile Certification Comparison

Certification	Vendor	Vendor's Pitch	Certification Exam	Initial Cost	Exam Prerequisites	Maintenance	Like it	Leave it	What's interesting
Certified Scrum Master (CSM)	Scrum Alliance	A Certified ScrumMaster helps project teams properly use Scrum, increasing the likelihood of the project's overall success. CSMs understand Scrum values, practices, and applications and provide a level of knowledge and expertise above and beyond that of typical project managers.	Format: Multiple choice Number of Questions: 35 Time limit: None specified Passing score: 24 correct answers Number of attempts permitted: 2 attempts within 90 days of completing the CSM course	Free with Certified Scrum Master Course registration. Course costs generally range between CDN\$1,500 and CDN\$2,000 in the Greater Toronto Area	Applicants must attend an in-person, two-day (16 hour) CSM course taught by a Scrum Trainer that's been certified by The Scrum Alliance	Renewal fee: \$US100 renewal fee payment every 2 years	Ease and speed with which you too can be certified agile. You're in, you're out... SHA-BOOM! You're a CSM.	Joining the club comes with a hefty price since you must take a sanctioned course.	Upon completion of the CSM course, students are eligible for 16 Scrum Education Units (SEUs) that can be used for earning and renewing additional Scrum Alliance certifications such as the CSP, CEC, and/or CST.
Professional Scrum Master I (PSM I)	Scrum.org	Unlike other Scrum certifications that require only class attendance, Scrum.org certification requires a minimum score on an online assessment. Attending a course is neither required nor sufficient for certification. This gives Scrum.org certification teeth and ensures that it has true value in the marketplace.	Format: Multiple choice, multiple answer and true/false Number of Questions: 80 Time limit: 60 minutes Passing score: 85% Number of attempts permitted: Number of attempts permitted: Apparently no limit (assuming your wallet holds out)	US\$150 per attempt	- None - Recommended courses: Professional Scrum Foundations or Professional Scrum Master - Recommended Practice Assessment: Scrum Open	None; it's yours for life.	No mandatory training or experience required; the price of admission is a mere 150 greenbacks	80 questions in 60 minutes and an 85% passing score—make sure you've eaten your Wheaties before sitting the exam.	- Scrum.org provides a free trial exam ("Open Assessment") that allows candidates to gauge their basic knowledge of Scrum, the structure of a Scrum Team, and the fundamentals of scaling Scrum. - The Scrum Guide and Nexus Guide, which provide Scrum fundamentals, are downloadable for free from the Scrum.org website
PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP)	PMI	Compared with other agile certifications based solely on training and exams, the PMI-ACP is evidence of your real-world, hands-on experience and skill.	Format: Multiple choice Number of Questions: 120 Time limit: 3 hours Passing score: PMI doesn't disclose this; however, it's estimated to be 70% Number of attempts permitted: 3 within the 1-year eligibility period	Member: US\$435 Non-member: US\$495 Re-Examination, Member: US\$335 Re-Examination, Non-Member: US\$395	- 2,000 hours of general project experience working on teams. A current PMP or PgMP will satisfy this requirement but is not required to apply for the PMI-ACP. - 1,500 hours working on agile project teams or with agile methodologies - 21 contact hours of training in agile practices.	- 30 Professional Development Units (PDUs) in agile topics every 3 years - Renewal fee: US\$60 (PMI members); US\$150 (PMI non-members) every 3 years	Three letters: P M I	US\$435 to sit the exam (plus US\$335 if you need to re-write it)? 1,500 demonstrated agile hours? 21 hours of training? Seriously? Tell me the part again about how I get a return on my investment?	There is no de facto passing score. PMI relies on people it deems to be subject matter experts to determine how many questions each candidate must answer correctly to pass the exam.