



CMMI® Certification – Certified CMMI Practitioner Policy

Purpose

This policy guide outlines the requirements to become a Certified CMMI Practitioner, details of the exam and exam day rules, and how to maintain the CMMI Practitioner certification.

Scope and Applicability

This policy applies to all individuals currently certified or interested in becoming certified as a CMMI Practitioner.

Requirements to receive a CMMI Practitioner Certification:

To receive a CMMI Practitioner certification, a candidate must:

- Successfully complete the Building Organizational Capability Course
- Possess an understanding of the CMMI V3.0 Model principles, and how to interpret and navigate the Model. Exam questions are aligned to the content within the Model.
- Take and pass the CMMI Practitioner Exam

Registering for the CMMI Practitioner Certification Exam

- The CMMI Practitioner Certification Exam is bundled with the Building Organizational Capability (BOC) Course and may be accessed as soon as the Instructor marks the course as completed and submits the final roster.
- The CMMI Practitioner certification exam eligibility is valid for 30 days from the day the BOC course is marked as completed by the instructor. Extensions to exam eligibility are not allowed. If candidates do not take their exam within those 30 days, they must purchase a new exam voucher for \$500 US. New exam vouchers are valid for 30 days upon purchase. To purchase an exam voucher, please contact CMMI Institute's [Customer Experience Center](#).

PLEASE NOTE: License to the CMMI Model Viewer will begin 7 days prior to the start date of the BOC course and is available for 30 days. It is the responsibility of the Model licensee to understand when Model access ends and take the Practitioner exam during this access period.

The CMMI Practitioner Certification Exam Details

All exams are scored in the same manner and candidates are scored based on their combined performance across the domains within the Exam Content Outline.

- The CMMI Practitioner certification exam contains 120 multiple-choice exam questions testing knowledge, skills, and abilities outlined in the [Exam Content Outline \(ECO\)](#). Exam development best practice was applied during the development of the Practitioner Certification exam to ensure questions assess the knowledge outlined of the ECO and the V3.0 Model.
- The CMMI Practitioner Certification exam is an open model, non-proctored exam. Since navigation of the Model is being tested, candidates are allowed access to the Model during their exam session.
- Candidates will have four (4) hours to complete the exam.
- The CMMI Practitioner certification exam is available in English, Spanish, and Simplified Chinese.

Please note that CMMI does not publicize the percentage necessary to pass the exam. Besides complying with credentialing best practices, the reason for not publicizing the passing percentage is so test takers do not study just to obtain the passing percentage but obtain a working knowledge of the concepts within the ECO. Also, each time the Exam Content Outline changes, the passing percentage changes and not publicizing the pass percentage avoids confusion for test takers.

Taking the CMMI Practitioner Exam

Exam Day Rules

The exam rules provide guidelines for what is acceptable and what is prohibited during the exam. **CMMI Institute reserves the right to invalidate exam scores of those that are found violating the exam day rules.**

- Candidates may access their licensed copy of the CMMI Model as well as their own course notes during the exam. All other internet usage is strictly prohibited. This includes but is not limited to access to generative AI software, remote access by a proxy tester, content-relevant websites to look up answers.
- Candidates must be alone in the exam room. Visitors are strictly prohibited.
- Pausing the exam and logging out and logging back into the same exam is strictly prohibited.
- Giving or receiving assistance during the exam is strictly prohibited.
- Capturing any content of the exam via note taking or taking screenshots or photos of any portion of the exam is strictly prohibited.
- Use of any of the following communication, surveillance, or recording devices are strictly prohibited:
 - Mobile phones, electronic devices, or recording devices.
 - Tablets
 - Smart watches or glasses
 - Headphones / earbuds

Achieving and Maintaining the Certified CMMI Practitioner Certification

- Individuals with a passing exam score may view and print their CMMI Practitioner certificate

by selecting “Achievements” within the CMMI Training Center. Please note CMMI Institute has implemented a new policy that prohibits the publication of the passing point/percentage for the exam.

- Certified CMMI Practitioner status is valid for three years after successfully passing the exam. Certified CMMI Practitioners must remain in good standing to be eligible for renewal; “good standing” is defined as having no outstanding invoices and having no [Code of Professional Conduct](#) or program requirement violations.
- To renew certification, certified individuals must retake and pass the CMMI Practitioner exam every three years prior to the certification validity period ending.
- Individuals who let their CMMI Practitioner certification lapse must meet the requirements to become a Certified Practitioner prior to retaking the exam.
- All individuals who simultaneously hold a CMMI Associate Certification and a CMMI Practitioner Certification will have their CMMI Associate Certification renewed by virtue of meeting the renewal requirements of the CMMI Practitioner certification.
- Being a Certified CMMI Practitioner is a prerequisite to serving as an Appraisal Team Member (ATM) on a CMMI Appraisal for any domain.

Additional References

- Questions regarding this policy should be submitted via support.isaca.org
- Published Policies are available at [cmmiinstitute.com](https://cmmiinstitute.com/partners/policies) on the policy page: <https://cmmiinstitute.com/partners/policies>

Revision History

Version Number	Date Published	Date Effective	Changes
V1.2	11 July 2025	31 October 2023	Updated with CMMI Institute branding
V1.1	18 December 2023	31 October 2023	Updated to include additional information regarding exam day rules.
V1.0	31 October 2023	31 October 2023	Initial Release.

Appendix A: CMMI Practitioner Exam Content Outline

Topic	Topic Level 1	Percentage of Questions
Content Area 1	CMMI Core (50%)	50%
1	Describe the components and core Practice Areas of CMMI	15%
	1.1.1 Model Architecture (Capability Area, Category, Domain, Appendices, Overview, Glossary, Practice Group Level overview and capability)	
	1.1.2 Practice Areas (Practice Area Intent, Additional Required, Explanatory)	
	1.1.3 Practice Intent and Value, Required and Additional Information	
	1.1.4 Example Activities	
	1.1.5 Work Products	
	1.1.6 Context-Specific Model Component	
2	Connect the CMMI Model with business value	30%
	1.2.1 Ensuring Quality (PR, VV, PQA, RDM)	
	1.2.2 Supporting Implementation (CM, DAR, CAR)	
	1.2.3 Sustaining Habit and Persistence (II and GOV)	
	1.2.4 Improving Performance (PCM, PAD, MPM)	
	1.2.5 Managing Business Resilience (RSK)	
	1.2.6 Planning and Managing the Work (PLAN, EST, MC)	
	1.2.7 Managing the Workforce (OT,)	
	1.2.8 Interrelationships between Practice Areas and Practices	
	1.2.9 Lifecycle models: e.g., Development, Services, Process, Measurement	
3	Understand the high-level value of an appraisal	5%
	1.3.1 Adoption Guidance	
	1.3.2 Appraisals	
Content Area 2	CMMI for Development (15%)	
1	Best Practices in Engineering and Development	15%
	2.1.1 Model Architecture (Capability Area, Category, Domain)	
	2.1.2 Practice Areas (Practice Area Intent and Value, Additional Required, Explanatory)	
	2.1.3 Practice Intent and Value, Required and Additional Information	
	2.1.4 Example Activities	
	2.1.5 Work Products	
	2.1.6 Context-Specific Model Component (Development, Agile Development)	
Content Area 3	CMMI for Services (15%)	
1	Best Practices in Delivering and Managing Services and Managing Business Resilience	15%

	3.1.1 Model Architecture (Capability Area, Category, Domain)	
	3.1.2 Practice Areas (Practice Area Intent and Value, Additional Required, Explanatory)	
	3.1.3 Practice Intent and Value, Required and Additional Information	
	3.1.4 Example Activities	
	3.1.5 Work Products	
	3.1.6 Context-Specific Model Component (Services)	
Content Area 4	CMMI for Security and Safety (5%)	
1	Best Practices in Managing Security and Safety	5%
	4.1.1 Model Architecture (Capability Area, Category, Subdomian)	
	4.1.2 Practice Areas (Practice Area Intent and Value, Additional Required, explanatory)	
	4.1.3 Practice Intent and Value, Required and Additional Information	
	4.1.4 Example Activities	
	4.1.5 Work Products	
	4.1.6 Context-Specific Model Component (Security, Safety)	
Content Area 5	CMMI for Supplier Management (5%)	
1	Best Practices in Selecting and Managing Suppliers	5%
	5.1.1 Model Architecture (Capability Area, Category, Subdomian)	
	5.1.2 Practice Areas (Practice Area Intent and Value)	
	5.1.3 Practice Intent and Value	
	5.1.4 Example Activities	
	5.1.5 Work Products	
	5.1.6 Context-Specific Model Component (Supplier Management)	
Content Area 6	CMMI for Data Management (5%)	
1	Best Practices in Managing Data	5%
	6.1.1 Model Architecture (Capability Area, Category, Domain)	
	6.1.2 Practice Areas (Practice Area Intent and Value)	
	6.1.3 Practice Intent and Value	
	6.1.4 Example Activities	
	6.1.5 Work Products	
	6.1.6 Context-Specific Model Component (Data Management)	
Content Area 7	CMMI for People Management (5%)	
1	Best Practices in People Management, flexible/agile workforce	5%
	7.1.1 Model Architecture (Capability Area, Category, Domain)	
	7.1.2 Practice Areas (Practice Area Intent and Value)	
	7.1.3 Practice Intent and Value	
	7.1.4 Example Activities	
	7.1.5 Work Products	
	7.1.6 Context-Specific Model Component (People Management)	
		Total
		100%