DASSM

Disciplined Agile® Senior Scrum Master (DASSM)
Examination Content Outline

Project Management Institute

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Table of Contents

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Introduction

PMI certifications are developed by practitioners for practitioners. Our certifications are based on rigorous standard and ongoing research to meet the real-world needs of organizations. PMI agile certifications span beyond any single approach and tailor your way of working to your unique situation. PMI offers a range of agile training and certifications. From a comprehensive introduction to leading agile and lean approaches like Scum, Kanban, SAFe, and more, to mastery of accelerating value delivery. The Disciplined Agile Senior Scrum Master (DASSM) certification equips you to lead agile teams by delving deeper into the Disciplined Agile toolkit, which includes proven practices and approaches. With the DASSM certification, an individual will understand how to customize their team's way of working optimizing their approach for the situation faced in the organization and industry. The DASSM certification is open to individuals who have a fundamental understanding of the DA Toolkit and who have at least 2 years of Agile experience. Candidates must complete the workshop prior to taking the exam. The DASSM course may be taken in an instructor-led virtual workshop through a PMI Authorized Training Provider (ATP), or by self-paced online course. Upon completing the DASSM course, candidates become eligible to take the DASSM certification exam.

PMI certifications are developed by practitioners for practitioners. Our certifications are based on rigorous standard and ongoing research to meet the real-world needs of organizations. PMI agile certifications span beyond any single approach and tailor your team's way of working to your unique situation. PMI offers a range of agile training and certifications. From a comprehensive introduction to leading agile and lean approaches like Scum, Kanban, SAFe, and more, to mastery of accelerating value delivery. The Disciplined Agile Senior Scrum Master (DASSM) certification equips you to lead agile teams through key enterprise activities, such as planning, coordinating, and reporting, and be ready to show your improvements in areas where your organization is struggling. With the DASSM certification, an individual will understand how to improve value delivery for your customers by empowering others in your organization, nurturing emotional intelligence, and resolving conflicts. Candidates must complete the workshop prior to taking the exam. The DASSM course may be taken in an instructor-led virtual workshop through a PMI Authorized Training Provider (ATP), or by self-paced online course. Upon completing the DASSM course, candidates become eligible to take the DASSM certification exam.

PMI conducted a global practice analysis (GPA), which included both extensive market research and a job task analysis (JTA). The GPA identified a number of trends that were used as inputs into the JTA and ensure the validity and relevance of the DASSM examination. Validation assures that each examination measures the most critical and frequently performed elements of the project management profession in terms of real settings. PMI strives to ensure its certifications meet market needs and expectations as well as deliver value to both individuals and organizations.

The DASSM examination is the final step in earning this professional certification, thus it is imperative that the exam accurately reflects the practices of Agile Practitioners. All the questions on the examination have been written and extensively reviewed by subject matter experts and can be found in a minimum of two references. These questions are mapped to the DASSM ECO to ensure that an appropriate number of questions are in place for valid examination.

PMI retained Alpine Testing Solutions to develop the global DASSM ECO. Alpine Testing Solutions provides psychometric, test development, and credential management solutions to credentialing and educational programs.

Finally, it is important to note that the volunteer taskforce involved in the GPA study described previously were not bound by any one particular practice guide or textbook. The taskforce members were charged with outlining critical job tasks of individuals at the agile coach level based on their experience and pertinent resources.

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Examination Content Outline

The following table identifies the proportion of questions from each domain that will appear on the examination.

1	Team Development for high performance teams	14%
2	Emotional intelligence for high performance teams	10%
3	Tactical scaling in complex situations	6%
4	Removing Impediments	22%
5	Coordinating and collaborating across teams	10%
6	Conflict management for high performance teams	12%
7	Pragmatic Planning and Reporting	26%
		100%

1	**Team Development for high performance teams**	**14%**
1.1	Describe the Tuckman Team Development Model	
1.2	Determine team development at each stage of the Tuckman team model	
1.3	Solve problems at different stages	
2	**Emotional intelligence for high performance teams**	**10%**
2.1	Define emotional intelligence	
2.2	Explain each component of emotional intelligence	
2.3	Identify why one should create psychological safety and embrace diversity	
3	**Tactical scaling in complex situations**	**6%**
3.1	Explain the significance of agility in an organization	
3.2	Determine how to scale agility	
4	**Removing Impediments**	**22%**
4.1	Describe the Disciplined DevOps layer	
4.2	Use the DA toolkit to solve challenges in the DevOps layer	
4.3	Optimize the delivery with the "test-first" method as it relates to the quality of requirements	
4.4	Determine the criteria for what "done" might look like	
4.5	Describe the value stream layer in the Scope of DA diagram	
4.6	Use the DA toolkit to solve challenges in the value stream layer	
5	**Coordinating and collaborating across teams**	**10%**
5.1	Explain the Coordinate activities process goal	
5.2	Identify how to improve the value creation structure of teams	
5.3	Use the DA tool kit to optimize the flow of work and solve challenges related to coordinating and collaborating across teams	
6	**Conflict management for high performance teams**	**12%**
6.1	List examples of when conflict can be healthy	
6.2	Explain the Thomas-Kilmann Conflict resolution model	
6.3	Demonstrate how to use healthy and unhealthy language to solve a conflict	
7	**Pragmatic Planning and Reporting**	**26%**
7.1	Describe the concept of sufficient planning	
7.2	Define the five levels of scope including who focuses on each	
7.3	Determine how to solve a planning problem using the Release Planning goal diagram	

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7.4	Explain how organizations and teams approach metrics	
7.5	Explain what types of measurement work or do not work	
7.6	Explain how to choose and design specific metrics to measure improvements against areas related to team performance that need improvement (GQM, OKRs)	
7.7	Demonstrate how to solve a measurement problem using the Govern Delivery Team goal	

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DASSM Eligibility, Application, and Payment

DASSM Eligibility Requirements

The first step towards obtaining the DASSM certification is to successfully complete either the instructor-led DASSM course offered by a PMI Authorized Training Provider (ATP); or the DASSM eLearning Online Course. Upon completion of the course, candidates may submit an application for the certification exam.

To be eligible for the DASSM certification, you need two years of experience working in an agile team, ideally in a leadership role such as Disciplined Agile scrum master, scrum master, product owner, or architecture owner. Candidates need to have an understanding of the fundamentals of the DA tool kit by having done one or more of the following:

- Taken the *Disciplined Agile Scrum Master (DASM)* course (recommended but not required)
- Taken *The Basics of Disciplined Agile* online course
- Read section 1, or more, of *Choose Your WoW*—Complementary digital copy included with DASSM

How to Record Your Agile Experience on the Application

Use the agile experience section of the online application to record the required three years of experience.

Enter your experience beginning with the most recent. The application will automatically calculate the total months from the start date to finish. Overlapping experience entries will not be calculated as separate entries.

You will be prompted to complete the following fields:

- Project/Product Name
- Organization
- Job Title
- Functional Reporting Area
- Organization Primary Focus
- Team Size
- Agile Methodology
- Experience Description *(high-level description summarizing the experience, including outcome, role, responsibilities, and deliverables – typical response: 200-500 words)*

Application Processing
PMI strives to process applications in a timely manner. Applications will be processed within five business days. This processing timeframe does not apply if your application has been selected for PMI's audit process (refer to the PMI Audit Process section in the handbook for more details).

DASSM Certification Fees

The fees for obtaining the DASSM Certification are subject to membership and regional pricing. Membership is NOT required to obtain the DASSM. Initial examination fees must be paid after applications have been approved before you can schedule your examination. The course fee includes your first exam attempt; eLearners can pay when purchasing the course through their PMI profile. For those utilizing one of PMI's Authorized Training Partners, your fee is paid directly to the ATP.

You are granted a 60-day eligibility period in which to pass the examination. During the eligibility period, you may take the examination up to three times, as candidates do not always pass the examination on their first attempt.

If you need to retake the exam, and your eligibility period is still current, you may do so by submitting the re-exam fee by accessing your candidate MyPMI profile on PMI.org.

The DASSM certification is valid for one year and can be renewed by earning & reporting 7 PDUs related to agile content and submitting the annual renewal fee. Renewing your DASSM Certification will require a payment based on membership and regional pricing

We currently support U.S. dollar, euro, Brazilian real (BRL), and Indian rupee (INR) currencies.

PMI accepts the following payment methods of credit cards and wire transfers.

Please note that reexamination fees are waived for candidates who have had their exam scores invalidated solely due to data forensics evidence.

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DASSM Examination Information

Exam Length

The DASSM exam is administered through Pearson VUE. The exam is an online, non-proctored test including 50 multiple-choice questions. There are no pretest questions included in the DASM exam. All questions are placed throughout the examination randomly. The total exam appointment is 120 minutes—30 minutes for the introduction, tutorial, and survey and up to 90 minutes for completing the exam.

No. of Scored Questions	No. of Pretest (Unscored) Questions	Total Examination Questions
50	0	50

The total time to complete the DASSM examination including disclosures and tutorials is **120 minutes.**

Allotted Examination Time
90 minutes

It may take some certification candidates less than the allotted 90 minutes to complete the examination.
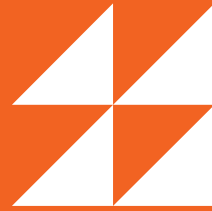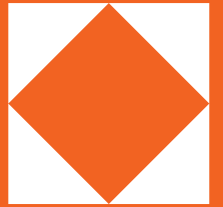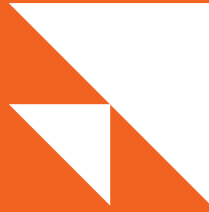
Score Report

To see your exam results immediately after taking the exam you can do so from your Pearson Vue Dashboard by clicking on "View Score Reports". PMI does not publish the passing score for any of their DA certifications. Only PASS or FAIL is given.

Retaking the Exam

Upon submitting payment for the exam, candidates a period of 60 days to take the exam. In the event of an unsuccessful exam attempt, candidates may submit payment to retake the exam. All candidates will receive an initial three exam attempts to pass the exam during the 60-day eligibility period. In the event that you encounter three unsuccessful exam attempts, there will be a 45-day eligibility waiting period prior to submitting payment again for an exam retake.

PMI encourages you to take this 45-day period to leverage the content provided to you from the course and experience to prepare the exam

Payment for the exam can be submitted from the MyPMI certification dashboard on PMI.org

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