

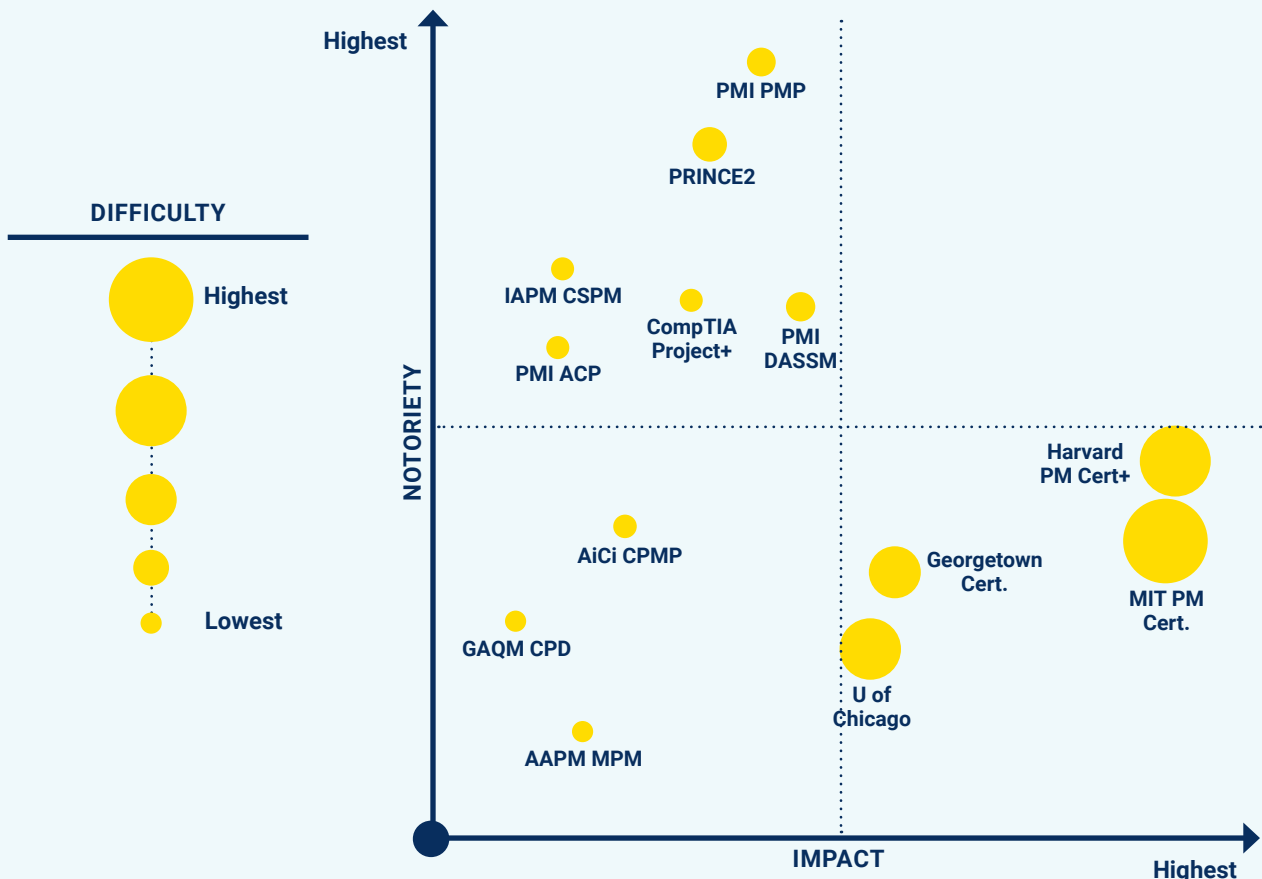
Project Management Certification

Project management is a difficult discipline that cuts across organizations globally. Global demand for top-talent in project management continues to rise, and organizations are increasingly seeking advice on how to identify and hire the best project managers.

In their search for the best talent, organizations commonly seek individuals who have one or more project management certifications. There are many reputable project management certifications in the marketplace, and it can be difficult to identify the best choice. We examined some of the most

popular project management certifications in the market and evaluated them based on Notoriety, Impact, and Difficulty of achievement. We summarize the results of that evaluation in the Best Of the Best (B.O.B) Chart below. We provide further details on subsequent pages.

B.O.B. Chart - Project Management Certification



Definition of Terms

Our evaluation includes Notoriety, Impact, and Difficulty of Achievement. The definition of those terms follow:

- 1) **Notoriety** is the extent to which the certification is broadly known amongst organizations and practitioners,
- 2) **Impact** is the extent to which the certification increases the competency level of the practitioner and correlates with improved project management outcomes, and
- 3) **Difficulty** of achievement is the subject matter complexity and average level of effort required to receive the certification.

Discussion

The industry for project management certifications forms two strategic trends: 1) Certifications that are relatively easy to achieve and are high in notoriety, and 2) certifications that are difficult to achieve and high on impact. To differentiate themselves by focusing on niche topics of project management, there is also an emergence of project management certifications with

a sector specialization (e.g. Information Technology, Marketing, etc.). A key example of an information technology focused certification is the CompTIA Project+. The AiCi Certified Project Management Professional focuses on marketing competencies.

Ultimately, there are many project management certifications and no clear winner for the title of Best of the Best (B.O.B.). Therefore, a combination of a certification that is high in notoriety and a second that is high on impact is the one-two punch needed by professionals to differentiate themselves within industry. Contracting Officers and organization stakeholders should also begin to take a closer look at the certifications driving impact. By only focusing on the certifications with the highest notoriety, they are missing out on opportunities to hire project managers that can have greater impact on project outcomes – about which they should care the most.

Top Project Management Certifications of 2022

#	Organization	Certification	Notoriety	Impact	Difficulty
1	Harvard Extension School	Project Management Graduate Certification	47	91	High
1	Project Management Institute	Project Management Professional	94	40	Low
2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Professional Certificate in Technical Project Management	39	88	Highest
2	AXELOS	PRINCE2 - Practitioner	87	38	Low
5	Project Management Institute	Disciplined Agile Scrum Master (DASM)	64	45	Low
6	CompTIA	Project+	65	35	Lowest
7	Georgetown University	Certificate in Project Management	32	59	Medium
8	International Association of Project Managers	Certified Senior Project Manager	68	20	Lowest
9	Project Management Institute	Agile Certified Practitioner	61	19	Lowest
10	University of Chicago	Strategy Essentials of Project Management	23	55	High
11	American Industrial Certification Institute	Certified Project Management Professional	48	24	Lowest
12	Global Association for Quality Management	Certified Project Director	27	11	Lowest
13	The American Academy of Project Management	Master Project Manager	14	16	Lowest

*Difficulty does not adversely affect the ranking. It is included to further inform professionals who are considering a certification.