



PROJECT MANAGEMENT
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

A.J. CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Civil & Environmental Engineering Department



SO YOU WANT TO BE A FEDERAL PM??

LaTanya Anderson, Greg Jackson, Bianca Roberson
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So You Want to be a Federal PM?

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The Federal Government has determined what it takes to be a successful PM!

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (OPM)

PM Duties and Tasks

Regardless of the subject matter area involved, the project manager function is characterized by a *common set* of duties/tasks. A project manager generally applies all of these duties/tasks to meet project requirements, as follows:

- Determines appropriate products or services with clients or customers to define project scope, requirements, and deliverables;
- Develops, modifies, or provides input to project plans;
- Implements project plans to meet objectives;
- Coordinates and integrates project activities;
- Manages, leads, or administers project resources;
- Monitors project activities and resources to mitigate risk;
- Implements or maintains quality assurance processes;
- Makes improvements, solves problems, or takes corrective action when problems arise;
- Gives presentations or briefings on all aspects of the project;
- Participates in phase, milestone, and final project reviews;
- Identifies project documentation requirements or procedures; and
- Develops and implements product release plan.

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/reference-materials/interpretive-guidance-for-project-manager-positions.pdf>



What do you think is an important ability or skill to possess in order to do a government PM job successfully?

Accountability

Political Savvy

Reading Comprehension

Contracting/Procurement

All of the above

GENERAL

Leadership

GENERAL

1. Accountability
2. Attention to Detail
3. Conflict Management
4. Creative Thinking
5. Customer Service
6. Decision Making
7. External Awareness
8. Flexibility
9. Influencing/Negotiating
10. Information Management
11. Integrity/Honesty
12. Interpersonal Skills
13. Leadership
14. Legal, Government and Jurisprudence
15. Manages Human Resources
16. Manages Resources
17. Oral Communication
18. Organizational Awareness
19. Partnering
20. Planning and Evaluating
21. Political Savvy
22. Problem Solving
23. Reading Comprehension
24. Reasoning
25. Strategic Thinking
26. Teaching Others
27. Team Building
28. Teamwork
29. Technical Competence
30. Technical Credibility
31. Technology Application
32. Writing

TECHNICAL

1. Requirements Development and Management Process
2. Systems Engineering
3. Test & Evaluation
4. Life Cycle Logistics
5. Contracting
6. Business, Cost, & Financial Management
7. Leadership

TECHNICAL

1. Acquisition Strategy
2. Business Process Reengineering
3. Capital Planning and Investment Assessment
4. Change Management
5. Compliance
6. Contracting/Procurement
7. Cost-Benefit Analysis
8. Financial Analysis
9. Financial Management
10. Knowledge Management
11. Performance Measurement
12. Program Management
13. Project Management
14. Quality Management
15. Requirements Management
16. Risk Management
17. Schedule Management
18. Scope Management
19. Stakeholder Management



You have the ability to perform the duties and you say you possess the competencies....let's test if you know how to apply them!



Real-world Federal PM Environment

Scenario #1: An Acquisition Career Manager has contacted you about her concerns with your senior-level FAC-P/PM application. She would like to discuss a few things with you before she can approve your application for this certification.

What are your thoughts?

I have a PMP. I shouldn't have to even apply for a FAC-P/PM certification.

What is an Acquisition Career Manager?

I'd be more than happy to address any of her concerns because my application package was perfect and I know more about PM than she does.

My supervisor said that if I had any problems with getting my FAC-P/PM certification to let him know and he/she will take care of it.

I look forward to the discussion.



Real-world Federal PM Environment

Scenario #2: As a PM you are responsible for the development of a new system that must be implemented within 12 months. Half way through the project, an entire new set of requirements are identified by a stakeholder. The project budget and timeline will be impacted if the new requirements are incorporated.

As a PM, what would you do?

Implement the requirements
in phases

Ask the project sponsor to
increase budget and timeline

Throw in towel

Laugh heartily or cry



Real-world Federal PM Environment

Scenario #3: The senior executives at your agency have determined that they would like you to be the government's PM for the development of an enterprise-wide system that tracks the biographical information and duty locations of the agency's summer volunteers. They want the system to be live in 30 days but need to know how soon the product can be delivered. The project will require a contractor who has expertise on the platform that the agency wants the system to be placed on and who is located locally so that they can receive in-person status briefings.

What is your response to the senior executives?

Will do!

Send me the requirements in writing.

Tell me the company that you want the contract to go to.

Let me speak with a Contracting Officer and I will get back to you.

Find someone else. I quit!



Final Talking Points

1. Be flexible
2. Think critically, but strategically
3. Communicate early and communicate often
4. Continue to improve yourself constantly through professional development



Questions or Comments

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Thank you 