



APICS Certified in Production and Inventory Management (CPIM) Reconfiguration FAQ

What is changing in the CPIM Reconfiguration?

The number of exams to earn the CPIM designation will drop from the current five to two exams. The two exams will be the Basics exam and a new (yet unnamed) “combo” exam that will include all of the topics and terms for the Master Planning of Resources (MPR), Detailed Scheduling and Planning (DSP), Execution and Control of Operations (ECO) and Strategic Management of Resources (SMR) exams.

Why is the CPIM program changing?

A Task Force, made up of 12 APICS members who represent APICS major CPIM stakeholders, and facilitated by an external psychometrician/facilitator, reviewed and considered an abundance of data including:

1. Customer feedback on program length and dissatisfaction on the number of exams required.
2. Misalignment with the format and delivery expectations of other comparable industry Certification programs.
3. Content overlap between modules.

Are we watering down the CPIM program?

We don't believe so. First, there is no change to the topics or terms covered in the Exam Content Manuals (ECMs). We will still be testing the same body of knowledge. Second, the new exam will be a 3 ½ hour exam, with 150 questions. We are working with a psychometrician – a statistician who specializes in measuring psychological attributes, including the knowledge, skills, and abilities a professional might need to work in a particular job or profession – to ensure the new exams will be reliable and the test results are valid.

What about those candidates who have already started the path to CPIM?

We are very interested in helping those candidates who have already taken one or more CPIM exams.

Because there is no real content change, we can continue to offer the current courseware and exams concurrently with the new courseware and exams, just like we've done for the last two major CSCP updates. We want candidates who are currently working on their CPIM to finish their certification classes and exams.



How can we compress 5 exams into 2?

First, a new exam committee will review the exam content outlines, looking for ways to streamline them without affecting the psychometric validity of the new exams. The new exams will be longer in both the number of items – 150 items, 20 of which will be pretest (or unscored) items – and in the length of time – the new exams will be 3 ½ hours long. A psychometrician will ensure that the new exam is just as valid as the previous four exams. At this time, we believe that each of the original four modules will contribute 25% of the items to the new exam.

How will dropping from 5 exams to 2 exams affect current classes?

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When will the new exams and courseware be ready?

We're still working on the project plans and time-tables and will release them as they become available. We expect the reconfiguration of the exams, courseware and instructor materials, to be complete in Q3, 2017.

After the new exams have been released there will be a minimum three-month period where no one will receive their scores. After 200+ candidates take the new exams, APICS will work with the psychometrician and a Cut Score committee to determine the passing score for each exam. After that, candidates will be notified of their success and exams will start giving immediate scores.

How long with the legacy CPIM exams be available?

The current (legacy) CPIM Basics of Supply Chain Management (BSCM) exam and retake exam will be available through **December 31, 2017**.

The Master Planning of Resources (MPR), Detailed Scheduling and Planning (DSP), Execution and Control of Operations (ECO) and Strategic Management of Resources (SMR) exams and retake exams will be available through **December 31, 2018**.



CPIM Basics Pricing for Students

Pricing for students for the new reconfigured Part 1 exam will be \$350.00, nearly 30% off the public member price, where currently the discount is between 8 – 16% (depending on regional location). Additionally, the total cost of obtaining CPIM certification for a student with the new 2-module configuration will be decreased by \$75.00. For institutions that purchase APICS courseware for your programs, the pricing will vary whether you purchase directly from APICS or through your local APICS partner.