PDUs explained: how professional development units work, and how IICTP TDUs compare

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If you hold a PMI certification, you keep it by earning professional development units, or PDUs. If you hold an IICTP credential, you keep it with Technical Development Units, or TDUs. This post explains how PDUs work according to PMI's own handbook, then sets out how TDUs compare.

TL;DR The short version

- PMI credentials are kept current with professional development units (PDUs); IICTP credentials with Technical Development Units (TDUs).
- PDUs come in two kinds, Education and Giving Back, and are logged in PMI's CCRS through myPMI or the mobile app.
- The post compares the two systems side by side and notes where PMI's mature tooling is ahead.

Read online, listen to it, or change the text size: https://blogs.iictp.org/pdus-explained-how-to-earn-and-log-pdus

PMI facts in this post were read on 10 November 2026 from PMI's Continuing Certification Requirements (CCR) Handbook, last updated April 2026, and pmi.org. They may have changed since. PMI® and PMP® are marks of Project Management Institute, Inc. IICTP is not affiliated with or endorsed by PMI.

What a PDU is

In PMI's handbook, one PDU equals one hour of activity, claimed in quarter-hour steps: 15 minutes counts as 0.25. Every PMI certification has a three-year cycle and a PDU requirement for that cycle.

How many PDUs you need

PMI CERTIFICATION	PDUS PER 3 YEARS	EDUCATION (MINIMUM)	GIVING BACK (MAXIMUM)
PMP, PgMP, PfMP, PMI-PBA	60	35	25
PMI-ACP, PMI-RMP, PMI-SP, PMI-CP, PMI-CPMAI, CSPP	30	18	12
CAPM	15	9	6

From PMI's CCR Handbook (April 2026), read 10 November 2026. Each tier also sets a minimum per Talent Triangle skill area: 8, 4 and 2 PDUs respectively.

Two kinds of PDU

- **Education:** courses, organisation meetings, online and digital media, and self-directed reading, among others.
- **Giving Back:** volunteering, creating knowledge, working as a professional (with caps per type), and coaching or mentoring. PMI says Giving Back PDUs count toward every certification a person holds.

How to log PDUs

1. Sign in to PMI's Continuing Certification Requirements System (CCRS) through myPMI, or use the PMI mobile app.
2. Choose the category and enter the provider or activity name, a description and the dates.
3. Split the hours across the Talent Triangle skill areas.
4. Confirm the accuracy statement and submit. PMI says some providers' activity is reported automatically.

Evidence is not uploaded with the claim. PMI asks holders to keep it for at least 18 months after the cycle ends, because a random percentage of holders are audited and must send proof before they can renew.

Renewal and what happens if you miss it

When the PDUs are met, PMI emails a renewal link and the holder pays a renewal fee, which is separate from membership. Payment is due no later than 90 days after the cycle ends. According to the handbook, a holder who misses the requirements is suspended for 12 months, during which the credential may not be used; after that it expires, and getting it back means a new application, fees and exam.

How IICTP TDUs compare

	PMI PDUS	IICTP TDUS
Unit	1 hour, in quarter-hour steps	1 hour of learning or giving back
Cycle	3 years	3 years
Requirement	15, 30 or 60 depending on the credential	30 (ATP, CSTP), 45 (specialists) or 60 (CTP, PgTP, PfTP)
How you log	Online in CCRS or the PMI mobile app	A log emailed to the registry with each activity, its date and hours
Evidence	Keep for 18 months after the cycle ends	Keep for 18 months after the cycle ends
Audit	A random percentage of holders	One log in ten, at random; 30 days to send evidence
Missed deadline	Suspended for 12 months, then expired	90-day grace period shown as Suspended, then the credential lapses

PMI column from the CCR Handbook (April 2026), read 10 November 2026. IICTP column from iictp.org/certifications/maintain.

Where each system is stronger

PMI's system is mature: it has online logging, a mobile app and automatic reporting from some providers. IICTP's logging is a simple emailed record today. What TDUs are designed to reward is technical growth: learning in the TPBOK domains and giving back through mentoring, open source and teaching. If you hold both kinds of credential,

one well-documented activity, such as a course on engineering leadership, may be relevant to both logs, as long as it meets each body's own rules. Read how IICTP renewal works for the details.

Sources and further reading

1. Project Management Institute. Continuing Certification Requirements (CCR) Handbook, last updated April 2026. pmi.org/-/media/pmi/documents/public/pdf/certifications/ccr-certification-requirements-handbook.pdf. Read 10 November 2026.
2. Project Management Institute. Maintain your certification. pmi.org/certifications/certification-resources/maintain. Read 10 November 2026.
3. IICTP. Maintain your credential. iictp.org/certifications/maintain.

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