

Intermediate-User Workshop Comparison

Integrated Process Solutions, Inc.'s CMMI[®] User Workshop is an excellent choice for anyone who needs intermediate-to-advanced-level CMMI[®] training. Our workshop is essential, *even* (and perhaps *especially*) for those who want to acquire CMMI[®] credentials and need to complete Intermediate Concepts of CMMI[®] in order to be admitted to an SEI instructor or SCAMPISM course. The following course comparison will help to explain why we feel this is the case.

Intermediate Concepts	User Workshop
The course includes four days of instruction.	The workshop includes five full days of instruction
The course is targeted at individuals who are, or will be, seeking credentials as Introduction to CMMI [®] instructors or SCAMPI SM lead appraisers/team leads.	The workshop is targeted at anyone who will be using CMMI-DEV, Version 1.2, including those seeking CMMI [®] credentials.
A primary objective is to provide the SEI with information it needs to evaluate potential credentials candidates.	The overriding objective is to provide participants with the ability to apply the model to meet their needs.
A written test, administered first thing on the fifth day, is required to pass the course.	Participants record information relevant to their intended use of the model in an exercise workbook as they progress through the workshop.
Participants are done after they have completed the test, demonstrating to the SEI (if they pass) that they have enough model knowledge to be enrolled in credentials courses.	Participants are done after they consolidate the short- and long-term implementation ideas and actions they have developed during the workshop.
Participants are informed only of their test score; they are given no information on “strong” or “weak” areas of knowledge.	Participants record and aggregate information relevant to their needs and challenges throughout the workshop.
The course is only available at the SEI and is taught by authorized full-time or part-time (visiting scientists) SEI staff.	The workshop is only available through Integrated Process Solutions, Inc. (The SEI wanted to purchase the course, but we were unable to come to mutually-agreeable terms.)
Introduction to CMMI [®] , Version 1.2, is a course prerequisite.	Completing the Introduction to CMMI [®] , Version 1.2, course is helpful for participating successfully in the workshop, but is not required.
The course text is the Addison-Wesley book, <i>CMMI[®] Second Edition: Guidelines for Process Integration and Product Improvement</i> . This book is not provided as part of the course materials.	The workshop text is the Addison-Wesley book, <i>CMMI[®] Second Edition: Guidelines for Process Integration and Product Improvement</i> . This book is not provided as part of the workshop materials.
CMMI [®] -DEV, Version 1.2, reference cards and wall charts are provided as supplementary reference materials.	CMMI [®] -DEV, Version 1.2, reference cards and wall charts are provided as supplementary reference materials. An additional resource, Integrated Process Solutions, Inc.'s CMMI [®] User's HandyReference, is used as an exercise and learning aid.
Course instructors teach all material related to the model and appraisal.	Dr. Chuck Myers, workshop designer/developer, teaches the entire workshop.
Model content is taught one process area (PA) at a time. Some links to other PAs are identified as each PA is discussed.	CMMI [®] content is taught in the context of themes and threads that flow through the model.
PA sequence of coverage is the same as in the Introduction to CMMI [®] course.	A design objective was that PAs would be addressed only in their implementation context during the workshop.
The slides used for instruction are almost entirely text, much like those used in the Introduction to CMMI [®] course.	The slides used for instruction are a rich mix of text and dynamic graphics that illustrate and emphasize model component relationships.

Integrated Process Solutions, Inc.'s CMMI[®] User Workshop is based on “CMMI[®] for Development, CMMI-DEV, V.1.2”, CMU/SEI-2006-TR-008,ESC-TR-2006-008 © 2006 by Carnegie Mellon University; however, neither Carnegie Mellon University nor the Software Engineering Institute directly or indirectly endorse it.

This course is not a Software Engineering Institute course and does not qualify attendees for any Software Engineering Institute course credit.

Intermediate Concepts

User Workshop

The SCAMPISM method is described in a dedicated module, and an associated exercise addresses some of the key mechanics associated with appraisal.

Appraisal is addressed in a dedicated module, and extensive workbook materials are provided to help participants identify the most effective ways to use appraisal to support their FMA.

Instructors have (on average) approximately 20 minutes to cover each PA. (By comparison, an average of approximately 15 minutes is available to teach each PA in the Introduction to CMMI[®] course.)

The instructor spends as much time as necessary to discuss PA specifics in their implementation context.

The course is punctuated by several exercises that are similar in nature (though different in their specifics) to those in the Introduction to CMMI[®] course.

Extensive exercises, consuming about half of the class time, are an integral part of the training experience.

- The exercises are built around pre-defined hypothetical scenarios.
- Exercises are completed in small groups followed by full-class debrief conducted by the instructors.
- Exercises are provided to participants as handouts.

- Participants use their own circumstances as case material and complete extensive workbook materials based upon a focused model application (FMA) they have chosen for themselves.
- Participants engage in exercises at three levels (individual, pairs, and entire class) that provide time for reflection, discussion, and information/idea exchange.
- A separate workbook binder, consisting of 115 pages, contains the exercise materials and is provided as a part of each participant's workshop materials.

Participants are exposed to a few subpractices in each PA.

Participants are exposed to informative material in depth--through lectures, class discussions, and exercises.

Each participant is required to design and deliver a presentation on implementing a PA assigned by the SEI.

Participants complete a brief advance exercise that helps them to determine what their FMA will be during the workshop.

Frequent opportunities are provided for participants to share implementation and application thoughts, ideas, and experiences in pairs, small groups, and as an entire class.

Participant presentations consume nearly as much class time as the instructors are able to spend covering PA content.

Class time is devoted 100% to lectures presented by the instructor, class discussion of PA content and component interaction, and exercises dedicated to each participant's FMA.

A written test on model content is required the morning of the fifth course day.

Participants complete a "next steps" exercise toward the end of the fifth training day to capture general and specific themes developed during the exercises.

Participants must pass the test (minimum 80%) in order to receive completion credit for the course.

Participants identify short-, medium-, and long-term actions that can be applied to their FMA upon return to their organizations.

The course is a requirement for obtaining CMMI[®] credentials (Introduction to CMMI[®] Instructor, SCAMPISM Lead Appraiser/Team Lead).

The workshop is not a requirement for CMMI[®]-related credentials or certificates.

Successful course completion is a requirement for several of the certificates that can be earned through the SEI's certificate program.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are awarded by Carnegie Mellon University to those who successfully complete the course.

CEUs are not awarded for successful workshop completion.

The Intermediate course "punches the ticket." The User Workshop provides robust across-the-boundaries knowledge and understanding in a practical context of application and implementation.

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