



# FAQ's

## APICS Certified in Planning & Inventory Management CPIM Instructor-Supported Online Course

### **About ASCM**

The Association for Supply Chain Management (ASCM) is the global leader in supply chain organizational transformation, innovation and leadership. As the largest non-profit association for supply chain, ASCM is an unbiased partner, connecting companies around the world to the newest thought leadership on all aspects of supply chain. ASCM is built on a foundation of APICS certification and training spanning 60 years. Now, ASCM is driving innovation in the industry with new products, services and partnerships that enable companies to further optimize their supply chains, secure their competitive advantage and positively impact their bottom lines. For more information, visit [ascm.org](http://ascm.org).

### **About APICS**

APICS is the industry leader in supply chain certification, training and networking. For more than 60 years, APICS has provided world-class supply chain training and certification to foster supply chain talent and improve end-to-end performance. Now under the Association for Supply Chain Management (ASCM), APICS Certified in Planning and Inventory Management (CPIM); APICS Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP); and APICS Certified in Logistics, Transportation and Distribution (CLTD) designations continue to set the industry standard. For more information, visit [apics.org](http://apics.org). As an educational provider, Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) works closely with the Association and the local Fox Valley Chapter of APICS to provide high quality online and classroom education.

### **What is the APICS CPIM?**

The APICS Certified in Planning and Inventory Management (CPIM) designation demonstrates that you have the expertise and knowledge of planning and inventory management. The APICS CPIM contains two modules; APICS CPIM Part 1 and CPIM Part 2. After taking each of the two modules, candidates must take and pass a certification exam to achieve their CPIM Certification.

### **How much does an APICS CPIM instructor-supported online course cost?**

There are two different options to purchase. The first option is the Class Option, and anyone can register for this online course that includes the instructor-supported online class, and the APICS learning system. The Class Option does not include the APICS exam. The exams may be purchased separately directly from ASCM. The Class Option course fee for the APICS CPIM Part 1 class is \$1,450.00 for ASCM Certification Upgrade (PLUS) members, or \$1,750.00 for ASCM Base Member/Non-Member. The Class Option course fee for the APICS CPIM Part 2 class is \$1,850.00 for ASCM Certification Upgrade (PLUS) members, or \$2,250.00 for ASCM Base Member/Non-Member. The ASCM Certification Upgrade (PLUS) member prices will not be applied retroactively. A list of study materials and exam information is available at [www.fvtc.edu/APICS-CPIM](http://www.fvtc.edu/APICS-CPIM).

The second option is the Package Option, which is available for ASCM Certification Upgrade (PLUS) members **ONLY**. This option includes the instructor-supported online class, the APICS learning system, and the exam. The Package Option course fee for the APICS CPIM Part 1 is \$1,995.00, and \$2,395.00 for the APICS CPIM Part 2.

**Will I have to be online at a specific time to take this class?**

No, this online class does not have a required meeting time each week. This is an asynchronous class, meaning that there are no required activities that all students must attend together at a specific time; however, there are weekly deadlines for assignments. In other words, you may complete your work for each week at a time that is most convenient for you, as long as you stay current with the course schedule and meet the course deadlines.

**Are these “live” instructor led sessions or taped?**

These are not live sessions, so you can login when it is convenient for you and complete your work throughout the week. The courses are available to you 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The courses are designed to provide a variety of learning activities which aids distance learning success rates. There is audio recorded elements, learning activities, subject matter expert interviews, videos from Films on Demand subscription services, You Tube videos, module review exercises, student blogs & journal assignments and online discussion boards’ forums. Multiple choice assessments are available at [apics.partnerrrc.com](http://apics.partnerrrc.com), and certain elements are included as a portion of the course grade.

**Are there “structured” date/times for the sessions, or can we go at our own pace?**

There are no structured meeting times (not a webinar course, no one time everyone has to log on), but the course is organized into a schedule of 10 weeks for CPIM Part 1, and 14 weeks for CPIM Part 2 with an instructor. Students who wish to progress ahead of the rest of the class for assignments are welcome to do so, but a primary component of the course involves the interaction and discussion with other group participants in weekly discussion board assignments and journals. Those students who wish to progress ahead may be missing out on some interaction which aids learning. The student is also given access to the course content and activities for an additional four weeks after the instructor-support ends to be used as self-study to review before taking the exam.

**Are there instructors available to speak to regarding questions?**

Yes, an instructor is assigned to each class. The instructor’s role is leading and summarizing discussions, reviewing, commenting, grading assignments, and being available for general content / course questions. The instructor is available during office hours, or by appointment. The instructor’s contact information is listed within the Blackboard course.

**How much interaction will I have with an instructor?**

Your instructor will respond within one business day in response to your assignments, discussion board posts, or other general inquiries.

**How will I navigate through the online course?**

Want to get the look and feel of the CPIM online experience? Visit our virtual tour at [www.fvtc.edu/APICS-CPIM](http://www.fvtc.edu/APICS-CPIM) and click on the tab “Online Virtual Tour”.

**Is the online class interactive?**

Yes, you will submit assignments to your instructor and receive feedback within one business day, and you will post to a discussion board for each chapter that allows you to communicate with other students as well. In addition, each course has educational games, and interactive learning objects.

**How long would it take to complete the two classes?**

There are two courses to the APICS CPIM certification; the APICS CPIM Part 1 course is 10 weeks, and students receive four additional weeks of access to use this time to self-study, and review before taking the exam. The APICS CPIM Part 2 is 14 weeks, and students receive four additional weeks of access to use this time to self-study, and review before taking the exam.

**How much time do I need to spend each week on the class?**

You can spend, on average, between 2 to 6 hours per week completing the assignments, and complete the reading that is required. This varies with each individual.

**Is my computer compatible for this course?**

Go to <https://FVTC.blackboard.com>, click on TechReady.io to run and analyze your computer to see that it is compatible for this online course. You can also see the Technical Recommendations and [Supported Technologies](#).

**Can I take the APICS exam online?**

APICS exams are administered via computer-based testing at [Pearson VUE test centers worldwide](#) and online through the OnVUE system.

**Will the APICS CPIM make me more marketable in the workforce?**

APICS certifications are recognized worldwide as standards of professional excellence and quality within the manufacturing and service industries. Take a look at the job-search website Monster.com (link: [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)) and enter "CPIM" in the keyword search. This will give you an idea of how many companies require or prefer CPIM certification! APICS CPIM Certified individuals earn 27% more than their uncertified peers on average, according to the 2021 ASCM Salary Survey.

**Can I use this course anywhere?**

The course is 100% online, and you can log-in from any computer connected to the internet around the world 24 hours a day/7 days a week. You may also access your online course on your mobile device.

**What are the payment options?**

You can pay with an e-check, MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover credit cards. If you want your company billed or you want to pay with a purchase order, choose "Bill My Organization" as a payment option and FVTC will bill your company directly.

**How do I get an ASCM Certification Upgrade (PLUS) Membership?**

There are many benefits to having an ASCM Certification Upgrade (PLUS) Membership. Please go to the ASCM website at [www.ascm.org/membership-community/member-benefits](http://www.ascm.org/membership-community/member-benefits) for more information, or call ASCM directly at 773-867-1777.

### **How do I get the ASCM Certification Upgrade (PLUS) discount for the course?**

During the registration process for the Class Option you will be asked if you have an ASCM Certification Upgrade (PLUS) membership, by answering “yes” and entering your ASCM Certification Upgrade member number the discounted rate will apply to your account. By clicking on the make a payment button you will see that the ASCM Certification Upgrade (PLUS) member rate was applied to your individual account balance.

You are required to have a current ASCM Certification Upgrade (PLUS) membership when registering for the Package Class option, and no additional discount is provided for this Package. The Certification Upgrade (PLUS) membership will be verified with ASCM for eligibility.

### **When does the next class begin?**

The APICS CPIM Instructor Supported class start dates are available on our web site at [www.fvtc.edu/APICS-CPIM](http://www.fvtc.edu/APICS-CPIM) under Courses & Start Dates.

### **Is there a recommended order to take the CPIM classes?**

APICS CPIM Part 1 needs to be the first class of the two, as it is a prerequisite for the CPIM Part 2 course. We recommend that a student register for the APICS CPIM Part 1 course, complete that course, take the APICS certification exam for Part 1 (if they are intending to become CPIM certified), then register for the next course, APICS CPIM Part 2.

### **What if I already purchased the APICS CPIM Part 1 Learning System, or I purchased Part 1 and Part 2 Learning Systems as a bundle?**

You may email us at [APICSOnline@fvtc.edu](mailto:APICSOnline@fvtc.edu) to let us know that you are interested in the APICS CPIM instructor-supported online course, and that you already have the APICS Learning System. Please provide the following information in your email: first and last name, address, phone number, email you provided when you purchased the learning system, the learning system version, and the date you purchased the learning system. Your Learning System online web access must be active and open for the duration of the course. We will then check to see if you qualify for a discount on the course fee. This discount **does not** apply to the Package Option.

### **Are the classes worth any credits?**

Yes, the APICS CPIM Part 1 is a 10-week, 36-hour course and is worth 2 associate degree credits or 3.6 CEU's through Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC).

The APICS CPIM Part 2 is a 14-week, 54-hour course and is worth 3 associate degree credits or 5.4 CEU's through Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC).

### **Can I get Financial Aid for the APICS CPIM classes?**

No, the APICS courses do not qualify as a fundable program for Financial Aid. If you are in a fundable program, and receiving financial aid, you can check with your Financial Aid office to see if this APICS course can count towards your program.

### **Does the APICS CPIM qualify for Veterans Benefits?**

Contact our Veterans office at [veterans@fvtc.edu](mailto:veterans@fvtc.edu) or phone 920-735-5651, to ask if your specific benefit will qualify for the APICS Instructor Supported online course.

**How do I register?**

Registration must be done on-line at [www.fvtc.edu/APICS-CPIM](http://www.fvtc.edu/APICS-CPIM) and click on Register Now! Enrollments for these courses are located on the business and industry portal “My training”.

**Once I register when do I receive my materials?**

Nine business days prior to the class start date (Last Day to Register & Make Payment Date listed on class date schedule) we begin to order the books (APICS CPIM Learning System) as long as the payment has been paid in full, or you’ve selected the “Bill my organization” as a payment option. The books will be sent to the mailing address on your account via FedEx. (We cannot ship to a PO Box, or an APO)

**Does the APICS Learning System have an online component?**

Yes, it does. You will receive an email from APICS Learning System Customer Care seven days prior to the class start date. This email will instruct you to create your username and password for the web-based component of the APICS learning system at <http://apics.partnererc.com>. Once you activate your Learning System account you will also have the ability to view a digital version of the materials online right away with the E-Reader (internet connection required) by clicking on the module link within the online tools. If you need assistance, please telephone 1-888-266-9079 (USA/Canada) or +1-651-905-2664 (worldwide) or email [customercare@apicslearningsystems.com](mailto:customercare@apicslearningsystems.com).

**Are there any extra fees or cost related to the books?**

Shipping charges for the books are included in the course fee; however, we have no control of charges (duties, tariffs, taxes) imposed by the “Ship To” country. There may be additional charges for international book orders. This is the responsibility of the recipient to pay these costs.

**When do I receive access to the FVTC online course?**

A welcome letter will be emailed to you seven days prior to the class start date. This welcome letter will provide you with your log in instructions for the online course with FVTC, and access into the course at – <http://fvtc.blackboard.com>.

**What is the Refund Policy?**

The APICS CPIM Instructor-Supported Online classes, and any of the components are **non-refundable and non-transferable** once the materials have been ordered.

**Who do I contact if I have additional questions about the APICS CPIM courses?**

You may email us at [APICSONline@fvtc.edu](mailto:APICSONline@fvtc.edu), or phone 920-993-5150 or 1-800-735-3882 ext. 5150.