

Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program 2015 Assessment Preparation Guide

Revision History

Revision Date	Revision Summary
09-18-2014, 2:30pm (Eastern Time)	Initial release
10-08-2014, 4:10pm (Eastern Time)	 Essay character count clarification
	"Systems Requirements for the On-Line Assessment" clarification
11-19-2014, 2:45pm (Eastern Time)	 Minor updates for the In-Person Assessment content
	 Added content and screen shots for Semi-Finalists
	scheduling/rescheduling their In-Person Assessment

Introduction

Congratulations on deciding to apply to the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program. This Assessment *Preparation Guide* ("Guide") will help you prepare for the rigorous assessment process used by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to select a diverse PMF candidate pool. This Guide is specific to the 2015 PMF Program assessment process and will familiarize you with its key features so that you know what to expect and are prepared to do your best. In addition, this Guide is the official PMF Program Office instructions regarding the assessment process; you should ignore any third-party guidance or what you may be told from former applicants, Fellows, etc., as these instructions and procedures may have changed.

The PMF Program will continue a track featuring Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). This guide includes the specific aspects of the assessment process for the STEM track. New and returning applicants are recommended to review the Job Opportunity Announcement (JOA) and the program requirements in their entirety when deciding to which track you will apply. Throughout this guide the STEM pilot will be referred to as the PMF STEM track.

You are highly encouraged to thoroughly review this Guide and refer to it as you complete the assessment process. This Guide is subject to change and any updates will be posted to the "Become a **PMF\Assessment Process**" section on the PMF website at <u>www.pmf.gov</u>. Please review the "quick facts" below to further assist you during this process. Additional information can be found under the "Become a PMF" section on the PMF website at www.pmf.gov and within the announcement.

There are two parts to the assessment:

- Phase One is an on-line assessment that all applicants must complete during the application process
- Phase Two is a half-day, in-person assessment for Semi-Finalists selected from the total applicant pool

Once a Finalist is hired by a Federal agency, he/she officially becomes a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF; Fellow).

NOTE: Only selected Finalists who applied to the PMF STEM track are eligible for hire by Federal agencies into designated PMF STEM track positions.

Key Features of Phase One:

The on-line assessment includes three components:

1. A video-based situational judgment assessment;

- 2. A questionnaire designed to assess specific work styles and work-related characteristics required for success and fit in the PMF Program; and,
- 3. Essay questions that are collected during the application process, but factored into the in-person assessment.

The on-line assessment is administered in an un-proctored environment and is *not* timed. The on-line assessment provides a screening process on job-related criteria and allows the PMF Program Office to identify Semi-Finalists to participate in the in-person assessment.

Key Features of Phase Two:

The in-person assessment is a half-day immersion experience that puts Semi-Finalists through a series of group and individual exercises designed to simulate "the day in the life" of a PMF. The in-person assessment includes three components:

- 1. Group exercise,
- 2. Behavioral interview, and
- 3. Written exercise. (completed on a computer)

Semi-Finalists will be timed, observed, and/or evaluated by a panel of assessors in each in-person exercise.

Both phases of the assessment process are designed to uncover evidence of the following competencies that are critical to success on the job across all PMF occupations:

- 1. Adaptability Learns quickly and readily adapts to changing circumstances and unexpected events; manages self effectively under pressure; aware of strengths and development needs; and, proactive in learning and self-development.
- 2. **Personal Accountability** Behaves in an honest, fair, and ethical manner; holds self-accountable for high quality, timely, and cost effective results; and, takes responsibility and learns from mistakes.
- 3. **Motivation to Serve** Demonstrates initiative, commitment, and effort in working to serve the public; perseveres in the face of challenges and measures success by accomplishments, not status; and, demonstrates humility and respect for co-workers.
- 4. **Problem Solving** Identifies problems; determines accuracy and relevance of information; and, uses sound judgment to generate and evaluate alternatives, and to make recommendations.
- 5. **Interpersonal Skills** Shows understanding, friendliness, courtesy, tact, empathy, concern, and politeness to others; develops and maintains effective relationships with others; may include effectively dealing with individuals who are difficult, hostile, or distressed; relates well to people from varied backgrounds and different situations; and, is sensitive to cultural diversity, race, gender, disabilities, and other individual differences.
- 6. **Oral Communication** Communicates information to individuals or groups effectively, taking into account the audience and nature of the information (for example, technical, sensitive, controversial); makes clear and convincing oral presentations; and, listens to others, attends to nonverbal cues and responds appropriately.
- 7. Written Communication Recognizes or uses correct English grammar, punctuation, and spelling; expresses information (for example, facts, ideas, or messages) in a succinct and organized manner; and, produces written information, which may include technical material that is appropriate for the intended audience.

The PMF Program is deeply committed to building a fellowship that reflects the Nation's diverse population. The next section of the guide will walk applicants through the process in which to request reasonable accommodation(s).

NOTE: Current PMF Class of 2014 Finalists who choose to reapply to the PMF Program for the Class of 2015, if you initiate an application and the on-line assessment, you will forfeit your standing as a current Finalist (5 CFR 362.403).

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:

Reasonable accommodations are provided to applicants with disabilities where appropriate, as qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations for either phase of the assessment process when applying to the PMF Program. The PMF Program Office will review each request during the application process and contact you directly to adjudicate your request. Remember that the on-line assessment is un-proctored and not timed, so requests for additional time are not necessary; however, it must be completed prior to the closing of the announcement. During the application process, applicants are prompted on whether or not a reasonable accommodation is needed. If the applicant makes a request for the on-line assessment, he/she is instructed to not participate in the on-line assessment **until** the PMF Program Office can adjudicate their request; however, the applicant may continue with the rest of their application as long as he/she does not submit their final application until completing the on-line assessment. If an applicant makes such a request, the application system will prompt him/her to write a brief description of the accommodation needed and upload supporting documentation. Review the steps below for submitting supporting documentation.

Do You Need a Reasonable Accommodation for the On-Line Assessment?

The following accommodations are already incorporated into the on-line assessment:

- <u>Time adjustments</u>: The assessments are untimed and can be completed at your own pace.
- <u>Modified computer equipment</u>: The assessments are un-proctored, meaning you do not need to take them at a certain location or at a certain time. You can complete the assessments using your personal computer, taking advantage of your own assistive technology.
- Sign language interpreter: The videos shown during the on-line assessment are closed captioned.
- <u>Reader</u>: All the test items can be "read aloud" following the instructions provided and using your computer speakers.
- <u>Magnification or low-vision aids</u>: The assessments are completed using your personal computer, allowing you to take advantage of your own assistive technology for this purpose.

Documentation

If an applicant makes a request for reasonable accommodations, supporting documentation for the request must be submitted as part of the application. Follow the steps below:

STEP 1: Under the "Documents" section of the application, the applicant must submit all supporting documentation for any such requests;

STEP 2: Supporting documentation should include: An evaluation of the nature and impact of your claimed disability and how the disability would affect performance during the assessment process (i.e., the specific tasks or functions affected by the disability); the specific assessment accommodation being requested; and,

STEP 3: Documentation from a qualified professional (e.g., medical doctor, rehabilitation counselor) who has training and experience related to the disability. **Your failure to provide supporting documentation may result in a delay or the inability to grant your request.**

Reasonable accommodations are provided to applicants with disabilities where appropriate, as qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Semi-Finalists requesting an accommodation for the in-person assessment will be provided additional information on scheduling their in-person assessment.

Phase One: On-Line Assessment

The on-line assessment consists of three parts: Situational Judgment Test, Questionnaire, and Essay Questions. Each component of the on-line assessment is administered in an un-proctored environment and is *not* timed.

Part I: Situational Judgment Assessment

In this section of the on-line assessment, you will watch a series of videos that reflect situations found in a typical office environment that illustrate interpersonal scenarios PMFs could encounter on the job. For each scenario, you will be asked to choose **the most effective** course of action *and* **the least effective** course of action out of four possible courses of action for that particular scenario. You should choose a particular course of action based on the experiences you may have had in your current or previous jobs, in school, or in social, athletic, or volunteer organizations. You should choose the course of action you consider the best for a particular scenario AFTER watching the video and reading through the four courses of action.

We highly recommend you start and finish this portion of the on-line assessment in one sitting. However, once you start this portion of the on-line assessment you may pause during this portion and return later to complete.



TIP: For each scenario, select the course of action you consider the best, not the course of action you think others might select, or the course of action you think is expected of you.



PROCESS: The videos can be viewed in closed captioning by clicking on the QUOTE icon for **each** video located below the screen.

Part II: Questionnaire

The questionnaire is designed to assess the competencies required for success in professional, managerial, and leadership roles. It is based upon extensive research exploring the skills required to be successful in today's economy and business climate, and so is uniquely well suited for PMF candidates. In this section of the on-line assessment, you will be presented with short behavioral statements that ask about your interests and work preferences. You will be asked to rate each behavioral statement on a five-point scale ranging from *Strongly Disagree* to *Strongly Agree*. Read each statement carefully, decide which of the five possible responses most accurately describes you, and then click on that response.

Part III: Essay Questions

During the essay portion of the application process, you will be asked to complete essays about your accomplishments and experiences. Applicants **must** answer all essay questions in order for an application to be considered complete. The essay questions will be factored into the in-person assessment process.

The essays are not timed; however, applicants must complete their application, on-line assessment, and the essays prior to the closing of the announcement, on their own, without any assistance.

Applicants may use a word processor to draft their responses and then cut-and-paste their responses into the text boxes provided. When doing so, please review your essays for formatting and spacing. Avoid using special characters, font attributes, etc.; if you cut-and-paste, be sure to double-check your essay for formatting. You CANNOT answer one essay and later come back to answer the remaining two. After entering your essays,

be sure to click "Next" during the application to save your essays. You may make edits to your essays up to the closing of the announcement. All essays must be answered in one session. Essays must be a minimum of 2,000 characters and no more than 3,000 characters each (includes punctuation and spaces); DO NOT go over the maximum number of characters.

A few notes to keep in mind during the on-line assessment process:

- When reading the questions on the assessments, you may wonder how they are related to your potential as a PMF. We know from extensive research that these characteristics are essential to success in the PMF Program, which is why they are measured during the selection process.
- Do not get hung up on one or two questions it is not the individual items that are important, it is the whole person represented by measured characteristics that the assessment evaluates.
- When reading the questions on the assessments, you may not be able to tell what characteristics they
 are measuring, which is by design to discourage applicants from guessing what the desired response is
 versus answering according to their personal characteristics; this ensures a person cannot "fake good"
 on the assessment. Also, some of the questions may be related to multiple characteristics.
 - "Fake good" means that you should not respond in such a way as to try to "fake" the system, but rather respond in the way you would actually respond to the situation presented.
- It is important that you are candid and honest in your responses to all assessment questions. Attempts
 to distort your answers or try to make a positive impression by answering in what you think is the "best"
 way are likely to lead to invalid or inconsistent responses.
- It is best to complete the entire on-line assessment in one sitting.
- A large percentage of applicants tend to wait until the closing deadline to complete their application and on-line assessment.

Applicants are encouraged to complete and apply early.

General Assessment-Taking Tips

- 1. Allow yourself plenty of time. Do not wait until the last few hours to take the on-line assessment as it will take between 1 and 2 hours to complete in addition to any time needed to complete the rest of your application and essays.
- 2. Get a good night's sleep before you participate in any portion of the assessment process.
- 3. Eat a light, nutritious meal to increase your energy level.
- 4. Read all instructions carefully before beginning.
- 5. Review the system requirements below.
- 6. For each question, read the entire question and all response options carefully before choosing an answer.
- 7. Ensure you can access the Internet from a distraction-free environment.
- 8. Turn on the speakers on your computer or use headphones before you begin the assessment.
- 9. Try to complete the on-line assessment in one sitting. However, if you have to stop and come back, your previous answers will be saved.
- 10. The on-line assessment requires thoughtful consideration, and it is important for you to complete it during a time in which you can give it your full attention and effort.

System Requirements for the On-Line Assessment

Please check your computer for the following requirements BEFORE you begin the on-line assessment. These settings may be different than the system requirements needed to complete your application. System and browser requirements for the application process can be found under the "Become a PMF\Application Process" section on the PMF website at <u>www.pmf.gov</u>.

Operating System

We highly recommend that you complete the on-line assessment on one of the following **Windows-based** operating systems:

- ✓ Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2)
- ✓ Windows XP Service Pack 3 (SP3)
- ✓ Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 2 (SP2)
- ✓ Windows Server 2003 R2
- ✓ Windows Vista
- ✓ Windows 7
- ✓ Windows Server 2008

The on-line assessment is **not** supported on the following Windows-based operating systems:

- ✓ Any version prior to Windows XP Service Pack 2 (released in August 2004)
- ✓ Windows 2003 (prior to Service Pack 2 or R2) (released in March 2007)

The on-line assessment is **not** supported on any mobile devices, such as hand-held devices (e.g., devices with touch screen input), smart phones, and tablets.

The on-line assessment can be completed on a **dual boot Mac machine**, if the assessment is completed in a Windows environment (virtual machine) using **Internet Explorer version 7 (or higher).** If you attempt to complete the assessment on any other browser, including **Internet Explorer version 6 (or lower), AOL, or Firefox**, you may experience technical difficulties. To check which version you are using, click the **Help** button on your Internet Explorer menu bar and select **About Internet Explorer**.

The supported browsers for the on-line assessment includes: Internet Explorer 8, 9, 10, and 11 (not in compatibility mode); Firefox (current version, must use auto-update); Chrome (current version, must use auto-update); and Safari for the Mac 5.0+.

Monitor Size/Screen Resolution

The on-line assessment is best viewed on a **17**" monitor with a screen resolution of **1024 x 768 pixels or higher.** To check your screen resolution, right click anywhere on your desktop, click on **Properties**, and select the **Settings** tab. If using Windows 7, right click anywhere on your desktop and click on Screen resolution. If the screen resolution is smaller than 1024 x 768 pixels, increase the resolution and then click **OK**.

Internet Explorer Settings

The following settings in Internet Explorer should be checked PRIOR TO completing the on-line assessment.



TIP: If you need to change any of these settings, you will want to make note of the original settings so you can change them back to your preferred settings after you finish the on-line assessment.

✓ Active Scripting (JavaScript) must be enabled. To confirm this setting, click on Tools on your Internet Explorer menu bar, click on Internet Options, select the Security tab, click on the Custom level button, and scroll to Scripting, select Enable for Active Scripting, and then click OK.

- ✓ ActiveX Controls must be enabled. To confirm this setting, click on Tools on your Internet Explorer menu bar, click on Internet Options, select the Security tab, click on the Custom level button, scroll to Internet ActiveX Controls and Plugins, select Enable for Run ActiveX Controls and Plugins and Script ActiveX Controls Marked Safe for Scripting, then click OK.
- Cookies must be enabled. To confirm this setting, click on Tools on your Internet Explorer menu bar, select Internet Options, click on the Privacy tab, click on the Advanced button, check the Override automatic cookie handling box and the Always allow session cookies box, then click OK. NOTE: Cookies are used by the on-line assessment site, but will not be stored on your computer. They will be deleted when you finish your on-line assessment.
- ✓ SSL encryption must be enabled. To confirm this setting, click on Tools on your Internet Explorer menu bar, click Internet Options, select the Advanced tab, scroll to the Security section, make sure the Use SSL 3.0 and Use TLS 1.0 options are checked, and then click OK.
- ✓ Your Internet browser text display size must be set to Medium or Smaller. To confirm this setting, click on View on your Internet Explorer menu bar, point to Text Size, and select either Medium or Smaller.
- ✓ Your Zoom Level should be set at 100%. To confirm this setting, click on the zoom feature in the lower right hand corner of your Internet Explorer window and select 100%. NOTE: If you have any difficulties viewing the "Start" or "Continue" buttons when completing your on-line assessment, the zoom setting may need to be decreased to 90%.

Pop-up Blockers

Please check to see if you have pop-up blocking software installed on your computer. If so, please **disable the pop-up blocking software until the on-line assessment is complete** because this software may prevent the on-line assessment from opening correctly.

Pop-up blocking software is included and turned on by default in some anti-virus, Internet security, personal firewall, browsers, and many of the free toolbars available, including the toolbars supplied by Google, MSN, and Yahoo. The instructions on how to uninstall or disable each particular pop-up blocker will vary depending on that particular software.

The places that pop-up blocking software can exist are too numerous to name; however, here is a list of the most common areas to find pop-up blockers:

Internet Explorer: Includes a pop-up blocker that is enabled by default. To disable this, click on **Tools** on your Internet Explorer menu bar, point to **Pop-up Blocker**, and select **Turn Off Pop-up Blocker**.

Toolbars: Look at your browser's toolbar for **Google**, **MSN**, or **Yahoo** toolbars. Most, if not all, of these toolbars include a pop-up blocker. To temporarily disable these pop-up blockers, click on the "**blocked**" button on the toolbar.

Bypassing pop-up blockers can often be accomplished by holding down the **Ctrl** key on your keyboard while clicking on the link that you will be accessing to complete your testing.

System Requirement Check

An automatic system check is performed prior to launching the on-line assessment. If the local system does not meet the requirements a warning message is displayed to the user. Although a warning is displayed, you are permitted to continue on to the on-line assessment; however, the assessment may not perform as expected. You may also check the local browser settings. If your local system meets all requirements, you will be taken directly into the on-line assessment. Below are screen shots of the system check:

Browser Requirements

WARNING: The browser you are using is not supported. Continuing may result in unexpected performance or incorrect results.

We recommend that you verify the system requirements and install a supported browser or utilize an alternate machine.

View Browser Info

Click to Continue

Does your system meet our	requirements?	
Microsoft Internet Explorer 7/8 OR Active Scripting (JavaScript) is ena Session cookies are enabled? Minimum screen resolution of 1024 CSS is Enabled? AJAX is Enabled? Additional Information	bled?	Passed Passed Passed Passed Passed
Additional Information		
Operating System:	WinNT	
Browser:	IE	
Major Version:	8	
Minor Version:	0	
ECMA Version:	3.0	
JScript Version:	6.0	
Screen Resolution:	1280 × 800	
.NET Framework Version:	3.5.30729	
Supports ActiveX?	Yes	
Is Web Crawler?	No	
Supports Frames?	Yes	
Is Beta?	No	
Supports Java Applets?	Yes	
W3C DOM Version:	1.0	
MS DOM Version:	8.0	
IS AOL?	No	
Is Mobile Device?	No	

Browser Compatibility Warning

	Browser Requirements
VARNING: The browser y esults.	ou are using is not supported. Continuing may result in unexpected performance or incorrect
ve recommend that you v	verify the system requirements and install a supported browser or utilize an alternate machine
	<u>View Browser Info</u>
	Click to Continue

2015 PMF Assessment Preparation Guide



IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do NOT share any emails and/or links provided to you during the application and assessment process with anyone else. The emails and links are personalized for you as the applicant.

Notification of the On-Line Assessment Results

All applicants will be notified whether or not they are selected as Semi-Finalists. Please refer to the timeline posted under the "Become a PMF\2015 Application" section on the PMF website at <u>www.pmf.gov</u> for any updates. Semi-Finalists will be invited to participate in the in-person assessment and given information on how to schedule their in-person assessment.

Phase Two: In-Person Assessment

The in-person assessment is an immersion experience that simulates a day in the life of a PMF. You will participate in a series of three timed exercises structured around issues relevant to the Federal Government today: Group Exercise, Behavioral Interview, and a Written Exercise. A panel will evaluate the degree to which you demonstrate the PMF critical competencies assessed in each exercise.

The in-person assessment will last **approximately five hours*** and is designed to be a challenging, highly engaging experience. You should be prepared to have little downtime. All Semi-Finalists must participate in the in-person assessment (all exercises) to be considered for selection as a Finalist. The in-person assessment center will have accessible restrooms, food and beverages within walking distance, and access to public transportation.

*Semi-Finalists should ensure ample time for arrival and departure of the in-person assessments. Semi-Finalists will not be able to leave early due to travel commitments.

All 2015 in-person assessments will be conducted in Washington, DC. The location and dates will be posted the PMF website.



TIP: Allow sufficient time for arrival. There could be delays with public transportation or inclement weather. Schedule any return flights at least 2 hours later to allow for any delays and commute time.

The Written Exercise will be collected via a laptop provided at the in-person assessment. The essay will be collected at the end of the assessment and scored by assessors. To request a reasonable accommodation for using a laptop for the written exercise, please follow the steps to submit a request for reasonable accommodation **during the open on-line application period**.

Semi-Finalists' Coffee Chat

The PMF Program Office will invite Semi-Finalists (via a separate email) to an on-line Coffee Chat, shortly after selecting Semi-Finalists. The Coffee Chat will include tips for scheduling, a general overview of the in-person assessment process, and next steps; similar to what this Guide already provides. This Coffee Chat is strictly for 2015 Semi-Finalists and by invitation only. This is a one-time only webcast and will not be recorded for future viewing.

In-Person Assessment Admission Rules

- ✓ Semi-Finalists should check the PMF website's "News & Events" (on the homepage) for any notices on delays or closures due to inclement weather and/or emergencies.
- ✓ You must report to the assessment center at the scheduled time. The Washington, DC, location is a Federal Government building and may require additional time to clear security. If you arrive late, you may **not** be allowed to participate in the in-person assessment. Accommodating late arrivals will be at the discretion of the Site Coordinator.
- You must bring valid government-issued State or Federal photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. The security guard at the assessment center may retain your identification upon check-in. Immediately upon your arrival, please proceed through the security check-in so that you are processed in time. Inform security you are here for the "Presidential Management Fellows Program In-Person Assessments." Please double-check you receive *your* identification upon departure if collected by security. Résumés, dictionaries or other reference material will not be permitted.
- ✓ Any snacks or bottled beverages brought must be consumed in designated areas only. A room will be provided for participants to store personal belongings. You will be asked to silence any cell phones. The PMF Program Office is not responsible for personal belongings so please use best judgment with items you elect to bring.
- ✓ You must return all assessment materials, including scratch paper, provided by the assessment staff before departing the center. We suggest bringing extra pens.



TIP: Use the Internet to map the assessment location; plan to arrive early; search for local restaurants, lodging, and parking garages, if applicable; and get plenty of rest before your scheduled assessment. You are expected to show up on time and be prepared for the full exercise.

Inclement Weather (covering the Washington, DC, metro area)

If the Federal Government is "closed" due to inclement weather or other unforeseen events, the in-person assessments impacted will also be cancelled. If the in-person assessment closes on the day of your scheduled assessment, you will need to reschedule; we will attempt to contact those participants impacted. Hence, you should use your cell phone number when registering so we can reach you quicker. In such situations, we may have vacancies the following scheduled date. NOTE: The PMF Program Office may cancel a scheduled session in *anticipation* of inclement weather. If such should occur, a notice will be posted to the "News & Events" section on the PMF website and an email sent to impacted Semi-Finalists and staff.

If the Federal Government announces a "delayed arrival", Semi-Finalists should still attempt to arrive on-time in a safe fashion. The scheduled in-person assessment will commence once a sufficient number of Semi-Finalists, Assessors, and staff assemble. Late arrivals may need to wait until the next available session (space permitting) or reschedule, if additional sessions are available. If the Federal Government announces an "early departure," the Site Coordinator will inform you.

If the Federal Government announces an "unscheduled leave\telework" option, the in-person assessments for that day will continue as scheduled.

You are responsible for monitoring email and the PMF website for all notices regarding the in-person assessment. The PMF Program Office will do its best to monitor such situations and post any news worthy events to the "News & Events" section on the PMF website at <u>www.pmf.gov</u>. In-person assessments are not conducted on Federal holidays or weekends.

To monitor the operating status for the Washington, DC, metro area, go to OPM's website at <u>www.opm.gov</u> and click on the "Operating Status" link at the top of the page. We encourage you to download the "OPM Alert mobile app" and/or subscribe to the listserv from this website.

TIP: A change in Operating Status may impact your commute and travel. Please adjust accordingly.

Scheduling/Rescheduling Your In-Person Assessment

Please read this entire section to prevent any mistakes or delays. The reservation system is referred to as Event Scheduler and is associated to the same system used for the application. Please follow the System and Browser Requirements posted under the "Become a PMF\Application Process" section at www.pmf.gov.

Semi-Finalists will receive a personalized email with instructions on how to schedule their in-person assessment. Please note that registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis, and the link to register is *personalized for you only*. All in-person assessments must take place during the advertised timeline on the PMF website. Sessions fill up quickly and registration will close at the date and time referenced in the invitation. You should retain your invitational email as it will contain your personalized link. You can use this link to initially schedule your assessment, reschedule your reservation (up to the registration deadline), and view your reservation throughout the assessment process.

Please be sure to follow the registration steps thoroughly. Upon successful registration for your initial reservation, or a reschedule up to the registration deadline, the system will send you an email confirmation. The system is associated to the email address we have on record for your application.

Semi-Finalists should follow the steps below for making their reservation:

- 1. Semi-Finalists will receive a personalized invitational email from the PMF Application email address. The email will include general instructions and the personalized link to register. The email will also identify the Semi-Finalist by their first/last name and their Applicant ID#.
- 2. Upon receipt you should review the rest of this Guide, along with the Scheduling Tips referenced below.
- 3. When ready, click on the personalized link. You will be taken to Event Scheduler and the initial screen will look similar to the screen shot below:



- 4. You will see a list of available dates/times. NOTE: If you applied as a PMF STEM applicant you will only be presented with dates/times designated for PMF STEM Semi-Finalists.
- 5. Click the "Select" button under the date/time you wish to register for. The screen will refresh showing the date/time you selected on the right-hand side and gray-out the "Select" button under the session you are registering for. The screen will look similar to the screen shot below:



2015 PMF Assessment Preparation Guide

- 6. To process your selection, click the "Register" button at the top right-hand corner of the screen.
- 7. You will be sent a confirmation email that only confirms a registration was completed.
- 8. The screen will refresh showing a message at the top of the screen confirming your registration and will look similar to the screen shot below:



- 9. You may add this reservation to your calendar by clicking on the "Add to Calendar" link.
- 10. You may want to print the screen or write down your reservation. Again, the confirmation email strictly confirms you completed a registration and it does NOT reference the date/time of your reservation. This is another reason for keeping your invitational email containing your personalized link. You can click on that link to confirm the date/time of your reservation after registering.

Scheduling Tips

Here are some schedule tips to consider:

- 1. Be sure to sync any travel arrangements with the date/time you plan to register.
- You are not confirmed for a reservation until you complete the registration process and receive a confirmation email. The confirmation email will come from <u>pmfapplication@opm.gov</u> with the subject "Confirm Registration."
- 3. When registering, if you do not see your preferred date/time, the date/time selected may be full.
- 4. Note the day of the week, date, and time of your reservation.
- 5. There are several hotels in the area that are Metro accessible. You may want to consider a hotel's cancellation policy if adjustments are needed.
- 6. Reagan National Airport (airport code: DCA) is the closest airport; followed by Dulles International Airport (airport code: IAD) and Baltimore-Washington International Airport (airport code: BWI).
- 7. Event Scheduler does NOT send a reminder email.
- 8. Check the "News & Events" section on the PMF website at <u>www.pmf.gov</u> for any updates.

Reschedules

Please select your appointment carefully as appointments AFTER THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE will only be rescheduled based on availability. Emergency situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Semi-Finalists may reschedule on their own, up to the registration deadline, by clicking on the personalized link found in their invitational email.

2015 PMF Assessment Preparation Guide

Page 13 of 15

Updated: 11-19-2014

To reschedule AFTER the registration deadline, send a message from the email address associated to your application and include the following: full name, Applicant ID#, original scheduled appointment, and reason for requesting a reschedule. If approved, a separate confirmation email will be sent from the PMF Program Office. Any "no shows" may be withdrawn from further consideration.

Follow these steps to reschedule (prior to the registration deadline):

- 1. Click on your personalized link.
- 2. You will be taken to your existing reservation and the screen will look similar to the screen shot below:

BECOME & PMF	CURRENT PMFs	AGENCIES	ACADEMIA	FAQs	HELP
MF STEM - 12/12/201	4 - PM				
IDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014 FR	OM 13:00 TO 18:00				
When & Where				Reservation	confirmation
	and * Lanthersburg Rockville Wheaton	Gien Burnie South Gate			onfirmed for this event. You firmation email from Event haif of the host.
and the second s	Potoma Silver Greenb	elt Crofton	spolis (e) cra	My Events	
a Chartelly	McLeon Oum Washington Annandale Suitland	Bowie	Later	View All My Ever	ts With PMF
	rke Alexandria s t Springfield	Deale Be	191	View My	Events
Woo Quanticu Prince United William	patiendige St Obarles	Unite Chesapeake	Reach Chapter 25 km		
tates Press tate Department Annex 44 01 4th St, SW Vashington IC 20547					
riday, December 12, 2014 from	13:00 to 18:00				
Reschedule					
Add to my calendar					
request help with this session					

- 3. Click the "Reschedule" button in the bottom left-hand corner of the screen.
- 4. The screen will refresh listing all available dates/times.
- 5. Click the "Select" button for the date/time you wish to reschedule to.
- 6. The screen will refresh prompting you to confirm "Replace Registered Session?"
 - a. If you answer "Yes", the previous reservation will be released.
 - b. If you answer "No", you will be taken back to the list of available dates/times.
 - c. If you decide to keep the previous reservation, select "No" and you will be taken back to the previous screen. Simply close the browser for no action.
- 7. If you answered "Yes" and wish to reschedule, the screen will refresh showing the newer date/time you selected (if still available). You must click the "Schedule With These Sessions" button in the upper right-hand corner of the screen to confirm.
 - a. NOTE: This button is labeled differently when scheduling the initial reservation.
- 8. Upon clicking the above button, you will be sent a confirmation email which strictly confirms you completed a registration, and the screen will refresh to look similar to the screen shot below:

BECOME & PMF	CURRENT PMFs	AGENCIES	ACADEMIA	FAQs	HELP
NF STEM - 12/12/201	4 - PM				
NDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014 F SHINGTON	ROM 09:00 TO 14:00				
When & Where				Reservation	confirmation
Leaburg	Rockville Cloverty Luu	Glen Burnle South Gate	Rick Rick Cherts Rest		onfirmed for this event. You firmation email from Event tail of the host
Adibum	Potomac Silver Green	selt Crotton	apolis in Gra	My Events	
1	McLean Oum	Bowie	And Andrews	View All My Even	ts With PMF
Cupeity	Annandale Suitland	Shady	sale and	View My	Durate
Manassas We	arke Alexandria 3	Deale Se	1	view my	Events
	odbridge Brand	fywiner Chesapeake	Beach Churter		
glapd United William	St Charles	e 2014 Nexis : e 2014	and the second se		
te Department Annex 44 I 4th St, SW shington 20547					
nday, December 15, 2014 fro	m 09:00 to 14:00				
Reschedule					
Add to my calendar					
quest help with this session					

9. If you previously used the "Add to Calendar" feature, you may need to add again or edit to reflect your rescheduled reservation.

Notification of the In-Person Assessment Results

Semi-Finalists will be notified whether or not they are selected as Finalists via email. Please refer to the timeline posted under the "Become a PMF\2015 Application" section and any updates posted to the "News & Events" section on the PMF website at <u>www.pmf.gov</u>.

Contact Information

Any and all inquiries regarding the application and assessment process must be sent via email to <u>pmfapplication@opm.gov</u>. This mailbox will be monitored during the in-person assessments.

We are delighted that you are interested in being appointed into the Federal Government as a Presidential Management Fellow. The opportunities available to PMFs are as extraordinary as are the challenges facing our Nation today. The assessment process you are about to go through is rigorous, demanding, and highly competitive, helping OPM find top talent with strong management potential for this elite program. We wish you well in the assessment process and hope to see you on the other side!

Please be sure to check for any updates to this Guide. A "Revision History" appears at the top to identify if and when any revisions have been made.

PLEASE NOTE: Assessment results are not provided and there is no appeal process.