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### Public Notice

**Subject: - Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes**

As you are aware, the revision of the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) is one of the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to instill innovation and flexibility in higher education. Keeping in view of NEP's recommendation, the UGC has revised the CBCS and developed Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes.

I am happy to share a copy of the Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes for implementation in Higher Educational Institutions. All Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) are requested to take necessary measures to adopt the Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate programmes.

  
(P. K. Thakur)

To: -

The Vice-Chancellors of all State/Private/ Deemed to be University

The Principals of all Colleges

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## Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes

### 3.0. Curriculum Framework

#### 3.1. Main features of the New Curriculum Framework

The new curriculum framework will have the following features:

- i. Flexibility to move from one discipline of study to another;
- ii. Opportunity for learners to choose the courses of their interest in all disciplines;
- iii. Facilitating multiple entry and exit options with UG certificate/ UG diploma/ or degree depending upon the number of credits secured;
- iv. Flexibility for learners to move from one institution to another to enable them to have multi and/or interdisciplinary learning;
- v. Flexibility to switch to alternative modes of learning (offline, ODL, and Online learning, and hybrid modes of learning).

Regulations for Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) and guidelines for Multiple Entry and Exit are already in place to facilitate the implementation of the proposed “Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes”.

#### 3.2 Definitions, Eligibility, and Duration of the Programme

##### 3.2.1 Semester/Credits:

- A semester comprises 90 working days and an academic year is divided into two semesters.
- A summer term is for eight weeks during summer vacation. Internship/apprenticeship/work-based vocational education and training can be carried out during the summer term, especially by students who wish to exit after two semesters or four semesters of study. Regular courses may also be offered during the summer on a fast-track mode to enable students to do additional courses or complete backlogs in coursework. The HEIs can decide on the courses to be offered in the summer term depending on the availability of faculty and the number of students.

##### 3.2.2 Major and Minor disciplines

**Major discipline** is the discipline or subject of main focus and the degree will be awarded in that discipline. Students should secure the prescribed number of credits (about 50% of total credits) through core courses in the major discipline.

**Minor discipline** helps a student to gain a broader understanding beyond the major discipline. For example, if a student pursuing an Economics major obtains a minimum of 12 credits from a bunch of courses in Statistics, then the student will be awarded B.A. degree in Economics with a Minor in Statistics.

### **3.2.3 Awarding UG Certificate, UG Diploma, and Degrees**

**UG Certificate:** Students who opt to exit after completion of the first year and have secured 40 credits will be awarded a UG certificate if, in addition, they complete one vocational course of 4 credits during the summer vacation of the first year. These students are allowed to re-enter the degree programme within three years and complete the degree programme within the stipulated maximum period of seven years.

**UG Diploma:** Students who opt to exit after completion of the second year and have secured 80 credits will be awarded the UG diploma if, in addition, they complete one vocational course of 4 credits during the summer vacation of the second year. These students are allowed to re-enter within a period of three years and complete the degree programme within the maximum period of seven years.

**3-year UG Degree:** Students who wish to undergo a 3-year UG programme will be awarded UG Degree in the Major discipline after successful completion of three years, securing 120 credits and satisfying the minimum credit requirement as given in table 2 (Section 5).

**4-year UG Degree (Honours):** A four-year UG Honours degree in the major discipline will be awarded to those who complete a four-year degree programme with 160 credits and have satisfied the credit requirements as given in table 2 in Section 5.

**4-year UG Degree (Honours with Research):** Students who secure 75% marks and above in the first six semesters and wish to undertake research at the undergraduate level can choose a research stream in the fourth year. They should do a research project or dissertation under the guidance of a faculty member of the University/College. The research project/dissertation will be in the major discipline. The students who secure 160 credits, including 12 credits from a research project/dissertation, are awarded UG Degree (Honours with Research).

**Infrastructure Requirement:** The Departments offering a 4-year UG Degree (Honours with Research) must have the required infrastructure such as the library, access to journals, computer lab and software, laboratory facilities to carry out experimental research work, and at least two permanent faculty members who are recognized as Ph.D. supervisors. The Departments already recognized for conducting the Ph.D. programme

may conduct a 4-year UG Degree (Honours with Research) without obtaining any approval from the affiliating University.

**UG Degree Programmes with Single Major:** A student has to secure a minimum of 50% credits from the major discipline for the 3-year/4-year UG degree to be awarded a single major. For example, in a 3-year UG programme, if the total number of credits to be earned is 120, a student of Physics with a minimum of 60 credits will be awarded a B.Sc. in Physics with a single major. Similarly, in a 4-year UG programme, if the total number of credits to be earned is 160, a student of Physics with a minimum of 80 credits will be awarded a B.Sc. (Hons./Hon. With Research) in Physics in a 4-year UG programme with single major.

**UG Degree Programmes with Double Major:** A student has to secure a minimum of 40% credits from the second major discipline for the 3-year/4-year UG degree to be awarded a double major. For example, in a 3-year UG programme, if the total number of credits to be earned is 120, a student of Physics with a minimum of 48 credits will be awarded a B.Sc. in Physics with a double major. Similarly, in a 4-year UG programme, if the total number of credits to be earned is 160, a student of Physics with a minimum of 64 credits will be awarded a B.Sc. (Hons./Hon. With Research) in Physics in a 4-year UG programme with double major.

**Interdisciplinary UG Programmes:** The credits for core courses shall be distributed among the constituent disciplines/subjects so as to get core competence in the interdisciplinary programme. For example, a degree in Econometrics requires courses in economics, statistics, and mathematics. The total credits to core courses shall be distributed so that the student gets full competence in Econometrics upon completion of the programme. The degree for such students will be awarded as B.Sc. in Econometrics for a 3-year UG programme or B.Sc. (Honours) / B.Sc. (Honours with Research) in Econometrics for a 4-year UG programme.

**Multidisciplinary UG Programmes:** In the case of students pursuing a multidisciplinary programme of study, the credits to core courses will be distributed among the broad disciplines such as Life sciences, Physical Sciences, Mathematical and Computer Sciences, Data Analysis, Social Sciences, Humanities, etc., For example, a student who opts for a UG program in Life sciences will have the total credits to core courses distributed across Botany, Zoology and Human biology disciplines. The degree will be awarded as B.Sc. in Life Sciences for a 3-year programme and B.Sc. (Honours) in Life Sciences or B.Sc. (Honours with Research) for a 4-year programme without or with a research component respectively.

The statutory bodies of the Universities and Colleges such as the Board of Studies and Academic Council will decide on the list of courses under major category and credit

distribution for double major, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programmes.

### **3.2.4 Credit hours for different types of courses**

The workload relating to a course is measured in terms of credit hours. A credit is a unit by which the coursework is measured. It determines the number of hours of instruction required per week over the duration of a semester (minimum 15 weeks).

Each course may have only a lecture component or a lecture and tutorial component or a lecture and practicum component or a lecture, tutorial, and practicum component, or only practicum component. For example, a three-credit lecture course in a semester means three one-hour lectures per week with each one-hour lecture counted as one credit. In a semester of 15 weeks duration, a three-credit lecture course is equivalent to 45 hours of teaching.

One credit for tutorial work means one hour of engagement per week. In a semester of 15 weeks duration, a one-credit tutorial in a course is equivalent to 15 hours of engagement.

A one-credit course in practicum or lab work, community engagement and services, and fieldwork in a semester mean two-hour engagement per week. In a semester of 15 weeks duration, a one-credit practicum in a course is equivalent to 30 hours of engagement.

A one-credit of Seminar or Internship or Studio activities or Field practice/projects or Community engagement and service means two-hour engagements per week. Accordingly, in a semester of 15 weeks duration, one credit in these courses is equivalent to 30 hours of engagement.

A course can have a combination of lecture credits, tutorial credits, and practicum credits. For example, a 4-credit course with three credits assigned for lectures and one credit for practicum shall have three 1-hour lectures per week and one 2-hour duration field-based learning/project or lab work, or workshop activities per week. In a semester of 15 weeks duration, a 4-credit course is equivalent to 45 hours of lectures and 30 hours of practicum. Similarly, a 4-credit course with 3-credits assigned for lectures and one credit for tutorial shall have three 1-hour lectures per week and one 1-hour tutorial per week. In a semester of 15 weeks duration, a four-credit course is equivalent to 45 hours of lectures and 15 hours of tutorials.

The following types of courses/activities constitute the programmes of study. Each of them will require a specific number of hours of teaching/guidance and laboratory/studio/workshop activities, field-based learning/projects, internships, and community engagement and service

- **Lecture courses:** Courses involving lectures relating to a field or discipline by an expert or qualified personnel in a field of learning, work/vocation, or professional practice.
- **Tutorial courses:** Courses involving problem-solving and discussions relating to a field or discipline under the guidance of qualified personnel in a field of learning, work/vocation, or professional practice.
- **Practicum or Laboratory work:** A course requiring students to participate in a project or practical or lab activity that applies previously learned/studied principles/theory related to the chosen field of learning, work/vocation, or professional practice under the supervision of an expert or qualified individual in the field of learning, work/vocation or professional practice.
- **Seminar:** A course requiring students to participate in structured discussion/conversation or debate focused on assigned tasks/readings, current or historical events, or shared experiences guided or led by an expert or qualified personnel in a field of learning, work/vocation, or professional practice.
- **Internship:** A course requiring students to participate in a professional activity or work experience, or cooperative education activity with an entity external to the education institution, normally under the supervision of an expert of the given external entity. A key aspect of the internship is induction into actual work situations. Internships involve working with local industry, government or private organizations, business organizations, artists, crafts persons, and similar entities to provide opportunities for students to actively engage in on-site experiential learning.
- **Studio activities:** Studio activities involve the engagement of students in creative or artistic activities. Every student is engaged in performing a creative activity to obtain a specific outcome. Studio-based activities involve visual- or aesthetic-focused experiential work.
- **Field practice/projects:** Courses requiring students to participate in field-based learning/projects generally under the supervision of an expert of the given external entity.
- **Community engagement and service:** Courses requiring students to participate in field-based learning/projects generally under the supervision of an expert of the given external entity. The curricular component of 'community engagement and service' will involve activities that would expose students to the socio-economic

issues in society so that the theoretical learnings can be supplemented by actual life experiences to generate solutions to real-life problems.

### **3.2.5 Number of Credits by Type of Course**

The hallmark of the new curriculum framework is the flexibility for the students to learn courses of their choice across various branches of undergraduate programmes. This requires that all departments prescribe a certain specified number of credits for each course and common instruction hours (slot time). **The proposed number of credits per course and the credit distribution is suggestive and the HEIs may decide on course credits and distribution over 6/8 semesters in a manner that will facilitate the students to meet the minimum credit requirements as given in Table 2 (Section 5).**

#### **a. Major and Minor Courses:**

All discipline-specific courses (major or minor) may be 4 credits or as appropriate. An additional one to two credits may be allotted for tutorials or practicals.

#### **b. Other Courses:**

All courses under the Multi-disciplinary, Ability Enhancement (language), and Skill Enhancement categories may be of 3-credits or as appropriate;

#### **c. Common Value-Added Courses:**

Courses under Value Added, Summer Internship/ Apprenticeship/ Community outreach activities, etc., for all majors, may be of 2-credits or as appropriate;

d. Final year Research project / Dissertation etc., may be of 12 credits.

Tables 2 and 3 in the following sections provide the minimum credit requirements under each category and the distribution of course levels across 6/8 semesters.

### **3.3 Eligibility for the UG Programmes**

Senior Secondary School Leaving Certificate or Higher Secondary (12<sup>th</sup> Grade) Certificate obtained after successful completion of Grade 12 or equivalent stage of education corresponding to Level-4.

### **3.4 Duration of the Programme**

- i. The duration of the UG programme is 4 years or 8 semesters. Students who desire to undergo a 3-year UG Programme will be allowed to exit after completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. If a student wants to leave after the completion of the first or second year, the student will be given a UG Certificate or UG Diploma, respectively, provided



they secure the prescribed number of credits (as given in table 3). Students who exit with a UG certificate or UG diploma are permitted to re-enter within three years and complete the degree programme.

- ii. Students may be permitted to take a break from the study during the period of study but the total duration for completing the programme shall not exceed 7 years.

## 5.0. Structure of the Undergraduate Programme

The UG programme will consist of the following categories of courses and the minimum credit requirements for 3-year UG and 4-year UG (Honours) or UG (Honours with Research) programmes are given below:

**Table 2: Minimum Credit Requirements to Award Degree under Each Category**

S. No.	Broad Category of Course	Minimum Credit Requirement	
		3-year UG	4-Year UG
1	Major (Core)	60	80
2	Minor Stream	24	32
3	Multidisciplinary	09	09
4	Ability Enhancement Courses (AEC)	08	08
5	Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC)	09	09
6	Value Added Courses common for all UG	06 - 08	06 – 08
7	Summer Internship	02 - 04	02 – 04
8	Research Project / Dissertation	-	12
	Total	120	160

**Note:\*** Honours students not undertaking research will do 3 courses for 12 credits in lieu of a research project / Dissertation.

## 5.1. Curricular components of the undergraduate programme

The curriculum consists of major stream courses, minor stream courses and courses from other disciplines, language courses, skill courses, and a set of courses on Environmental education, understanding India, Digital and technological solutions, Health & Wellness, Yoga education, and sports and fitness. At the end of the second semester, students can decide either to continue with the chosen major or request a change of major. The minor stream courses include vocational courses which will help the students to equip with job-

oriented skills.

#### **5.1.1. Disciplinary/interdisciplinary major:**

The major would provide the opportunity for a student to pursue in-depth study of a particular subject or discipline. Students may be allowed to change major within the broad discipline at the end of the second semester by giving her/him sufficient time to explore interdisciplinary courses during the first year. Advanced-level disciplinary/interdisciplinary courses, a course in research methodology, and a project/dissertation will be conducted in the seventh semester. The final semester will be devoted to seminar presentation, preparation, and submission of project report/dissertation. The project work/dissertation will be on a topic in the disciplinary programme of study or an interdisciplinary topic.

#### **5.1.2 Disciplinary/interdisciplinary minors:**

Students will have the option to choose courses from disciplinary/interdisciplinary minors and skill-based courses relating to a chosen vocational education programme. Students who take a sufficient number of courses in a discipline or an interdisciplinary area of study other than the chosen major will qualify for a minor in that discipline or in the chosen interdisciplinary area of study. A student may declare the choice of the minor and vocational stream at the end of the second semester, after exploring various courses.

***Vocational Education and Training:*** Vocational Education and Training will form an integral part of the undergraduate programme to impart skills along with theory and practical. A minimum of 12 credits will be allotted to the 'Minor' stream relating to Vocational Education and Training and these can be related to the major or minor discipline or choice of the student. These courses will be useful to find a job for those students who exit before completing the programme.

#### **5.1.3 Courses from Other Disciplines (Multidisciplinary) (9 credits):**

All UG students are required to undergo 3 introductory-level courses relating to any of the broad disciplines given below. These courses are intended to broaden the intellectual experience and form part of liberal arts and science education. Students are not allowed to choose or repeat courses already undergone at the higher secondary level (12<sup>th</sup> class) in the proposed major and minor stream under this category.

- i. ***Natural and Physical Sciences:*** Students can choose basic courses from disciplines such as Natural Science, for example, Biology, Botany, Zoology, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Physics, Biophysics, Astronomy and Astrophysics, Earth and Environmental Sciences, etc.

- ii. **2. Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Applications:** Courses under this category will facilitate the students to use and apply tools and techniques in their major and minor disciplines. The course may include training in programming software like Python among others and applications software like STATA, SPSS, Tally, etc. Basic courses under this category will be helpful for science and social science in data analysis and the application of quantitative tools.
- iii. **Library, Information, and Media Sciences:** Courses from this category will help the students to understand the recent developments in information and media science (journalism, mass media, and communication)
- iv. **Commerce and Management:** Courses include business management, accountancy, finance, financial institutions, fintech, etc.,
- v. **Humanities and Social Sciences:** The courses relating to Social Sciences, for example, Anthropology, Communication and Media, Economics, History, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, etc. will enable students to understand the individuals and their social behaviour, society, and nation. Students be introduced to survey methodology and available large-scale databases for India. The courses under humanities include, for example, Archaeology, History, Comparative Literature, Arts & Creative expressions, Creative Writing and Literature, language(s), Philosophy, etc., and interdisciplinary courses relating to humanities. The list of Courses that can include interdisciplinary subjects such as Cognitive Science, Environmental Science, Gender Studies, Global Environment & Health, International Relations, Political Economy and Development, Sustainable Development, Women's and Gender Studies, etc. will be useful to understand society.

#### **5.1.4 Ability Enhancement Courses (AEC) (08 credits): Modern Indian Language (MIL) & English language focused on language and communication skills.**

Students are required to achieve competency in a Modern Indian Language (MIL) and in the English language with special emphasis on language and communication skills. The courses aim at enabling the students to acquire and demonstrate the core linguistic skills, including critical reading and expository and academic writing skills, that help students articulate their arguments and present their thinking clearly and coherently and recognize the importance of language as a mediator of knowledge and identity. They would also enable students to acquaint themselves with the cultural and intellectual heritage of the chosen MIL and English language, as well as to provide a reflective understanding of the structure and complexity of the language/literature related to both the MIL and English language. The courses will also emphasize the development and enhancement of skills such

as communication, and the ability to participate/conduct discussion and debate.

### **5.1.5 Skills Enhancement Courses (SEC):**

These courses are aimed at imparting practical skills, hands-on training, soft skills, etc., to enhance the employability of students. The institution may design courses as per the students' needs and available institutional resources.

### **5.1.6 Value-Added Courses (VAC) Common to All UG Students (6-8 credits)**

- i. ***Understanding India:*** The course aims at enabling the students to acquire and demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of contemporary India with its historical perspective, the basic framework of the goals and policies of national development, and the constitutional obligations with special emphasis on constitutional values and fundamental rights and duties. The course would also focus on developing an understanding among student-teachers of the Indian knowledge systems, the Indian education system, and the roles and obligations of teachers to the nation in general and to the school/community/society. The course will attempt to deepen knowledge about and understanding of India's freedom struggle and of the values and ideals that it represented to develop an appreciation of the contributions made by people of all sections and regions of the country, and help learners understand and cherish the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution and to prepare them for their roles and responsibilities as effective citizens of a democratic society.
- ii. ***Environmental science/education:*** The course seeks to equip students with the ability to apply the acquired knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values required to take appropriate actions for mitigating the effects of environmental degradation, climate change, and pollution, effective waste management, conservation of biological diversity, management of biological resources, forest and wildlife conservation, and sustainable development and living. The course will also deepen the knowledge and understanding of India's environment in its totality, its interactive processes, and its effects on the future quality of people's lives.
- iii. ***Digital and technological solutions:*** Courses in cutting-edge areas that are fast gaining prominences, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3-D machining, big data analysis, machine learning, drone technologies, and Deep learning with important applications to health, environment, and sustainable living that will be woven into undergraduate education for enhancing the employability of the youth.
- iv. ***Health & Wellness, Yoga education, sports, and fitness:*** Course components relating to health and wellness seek to promote an optimal state of physical, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual, and environmental well-being of a person.

Sports and fitness activities will be organized outside the regular institutional working hours. Yoga education would focus on preparing the students physically and mentally for the integration of their physical, mental, and spiritual faculties, and equipping them with basic knowledge about one's personality, maintaining self-discipline and self-control, to learn to handle oneself well in all life situations. The focus of sports and fitness components of the courses will be on the improvement of physical fitness including the improvement of various components of physical and skills-related fitness like strength, speed, coordination, endurance, and flexibility; acquisition of sports skills including motor skills as well as basic movement skills relevant to a particular sport; improvement of tactical abilities; and improvement of mental abilities.

The HEIs may introduce other innovative value-added courses relevant to the discipline or common to all UG programmes.

### **5.1.7 Summer Internship /Apprenticeship (2 – 4-credits)**

A key aspect of the new UG programme is induction into actual work situations. All students will also undergo internships / Apprenticeships in a firm, industry, or organization or Training in labs with faculty and researchers in their own or other HEIs/research institutions during the summer term. Students will be provided with opportunities for internships with local industry, business organizations, health and allied areas, local governments (such as panchayats, municipalities), Parliament or elected representatives, media organizations, artists, crafts persons, and a wide variety of organizations so that students may actively engage with the practical side of their learning and, as a by-product, further improve their employability. Students who wish to exit after the first two semesters will undergo a 4-credit work-based learning/internship during the summer term in order to get a UG Certificate.

**Community engagement and service:** The curricular component of 'community engagement and service' seeks to expose students to the socio-economic issues in society so that the theoretical learnings can be supplemented by actual life experiences to generate solutions to real-life problems. This can be part of summer term activity or part of a major or minor course depending upon the major discipline.

**Field-based learning/minor project:** The field-based learning/minor project will attempt to provide opportunities for students to understand the different socio-economic contexts. It will aim at giving students exposure to development-related issues in rural and urban settings. It will provide opportunities for students to observe situations in rural and urban contexts, and to observe and study actual field situations regarding issues related to socioeconomic development. Students

will be given opportunities to gain a first-hand understanding of the policies, regulations, organizational structures, processes, and programmes that guide the development process. They would have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the complex socio-economic problems in the community, and innovative practices required to generate solutions to the identified problems. This may be a summer term project or part of a major or minor course depending on the subject of study.

#### **5.1.8 Research Project / Dissertation**

Students choosing a 4-Year Bachelor's degree (Honours with Research) are required to take up research projects under the guidance of a faculty member. The students are expected to complete the Research Project in the eighth semester. The research outcomes of their project work may be published in peer-reviewed journals or may be presented in conferences /seminars or may be patented.

#### **5.1.9 Other Activities:**

This component will include participation in activities related to National Service Scheme (NCC), National Cadet Corps (NCC), adult education/literacy initiatives, mentoring school students, and other similar activities.