

NATIONAL POLICY OF EDUCATION (NEP-2020)

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognizes that higher education plays a crucial role in promoting human and societal well-being, and in developing India as envisioned in its Constitution—a democratic, just, socially conscious, and humane nation that upholds liberty, equality, fraternity, and justice for all. The NEP 2020 notes, "given the 21st-century requirements, quality higher education must aim to develop good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals."

UG DEGREE PROGRAMMES UNDER NEP-2020

At the initial stage of implementation of NEP2020, students shall have the following Degree Options:

A. The 3-year UG Programme shall have two-degree options:

- i. Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary
- ii. Single Core Discipline (Major)

- The students shall declare their Major and Minor, finally, at the end of the second semester.
- In both cases, the requirement of core and common courses remains the same.

B. The Four-year UG Programme shall have two-degree options:

- i. Honours
- ii. Honours with Research

- Students with 3-year Degrees in the Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary programme will have to choose, in the fourth year, only one of the disciplines in which they have studied six DSCs and five DSEs in the first three years.
- Students with a 3-year undergraduate degree in a Single Core Discipline (Major) will pursue a fourth year in their Major discipline.

Programme Components NEP-2020

The entire 3-year/4-year UG Programme curriculum is divided into two parts: (A) Core Courses and (B) Common Courses, which are described below.

A. List of Core Courses

The core courses comprise Discipline-Specific, Discipline-Specific Elective (DSE), and Minor courses. All core courses have a credit allocation of 4. Altogether, irrespective of any significant or minor options, a student will necessarily need to study 23 courses with a total credit allocation of 92 over a 3-year Programme. The degrees relevant to the core courses will be awarded.

i. Major Courses

Courses offered by a particular department for own students. The minimum credit requirement for a Single Core Discipline (Major) over 3 years is 64, which translates to 16 courses, including 5 DSEs.

ii. Minor Courses

One of the Major courses offered by the Department shall be treated as a Minor for students of other departments. The department may also offer a separate course or repeat the same course(s) as a Minor for students of other departments. The minimum credit requirement for a Minor Course over 3 years is 24, which translates to 6 courses.

B. List of Common Courses

As the name suggests, these courses must be studied by all students in the 3-year or 4- year undergraduate Programme. Together, the common courses have a credit allocation of 36, divided over five subdivisions.

i. Multidisciplinary Courses (MDC): Total Credits 9

Courses offered by a particular department shall be considered multidisciplinary for students of other departments. A student cannot opt for an MDC catering to their Core Courses (Major and Minor). The student should be motivated to opt for a different subject each semester.

ii. Ability Enhancement Course (AEC): Total Credits 8

Courses on Language and Communication Skills, viz. English, Hindi, and Sanskrit

iii. Skill Enhancement Course (SEC): Total Credits 9

The HEI/College will identify the Skill Enhancement Courses to be offered in a semester, and students will choose the skill course of his/her choice from the courses offered.

iv. I/A/P/C/(or Work-based Vocational Course*): Total credits 4

Internship/ Apprenticeship/ Minor Project/ Community Outreach(I/A/P/C) or Work-based Vocational Courses are courses common to all students and will be carried out during the winter and summer terms/vacations. Although offered in the second semester, students may be encouraged to make their choice at the end of the first semester, allowing them to carry out activities during winter vacation as well.

*This course will not be offered in the first (beginning) academic session.

v. Value-Addition Course (VAC): Total 6 Credits

These are the course(s) common to all students to be offered as a VAC category in a particular semester. The HEI/College will assign one or more teachers to teach these courses as required, regardless of the teacher's background or qualifications.

Duration for Award of UG Certificate, UG Diploma and Degree

The UG Programmes will be of either 3 or 4-year duration with appropriate certifications and exits, such as:

- i. UG Certificate after completing 1 year (2 semesters) of study in the chosen fields of study with **44 credits**, including four credits in I/A/P/C/ or work-based vocational course(s) offered during winter/or

summer term.

- ii. UG Diploma after 2 years (4 semesters) of study with **86 credits**.
- iii. 3-Year Bachelor's Degree after successful completion of three years (6 semesters) with 128 credits.
- iv. 4-Year Bachelor's Degree (Honours) after successful completion of four years (eight semesters) with **168 credits**.
- v. 4-Year Bachelor's Degree (Honours with Research) after successful completion of four years (eight semesters) with a Research Project or Dissertation under the guidance of an eligible regular faculty member, securing **168 credits**, out of which **12 credits** will be for the Research Project or Dissertation.
- vi. Students will be permitted to take a break from the study during the period of study, but the total duration of completing the programme shall not exceed 7 years.

It should be noted that any certificate/diploma/degree is awarded only if the student clears (i.e., passes) all the required courses (papers) up to that point in time.

CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM (CBCS)

The CBCS provides an opportunity for the students to choose courses from the prescribed courses comprising Core, Compulsory, Skill Enhancement and Elective Courses. The courses are evaluated by following a grading system. In order to bring uniformity in evaluation system and computation of the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) based on student's performance in examinations, the UGC has formulated the guidelines to be followed.

Outline of Courses under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS):

- **Core Course:** A course, which should compulsorily be studied by a candidate as a core requirement is termed as Core Course.
- **Elective Course:** Generally, a course which can be chosen from a pool of courses and which may be very specific or specialized or advanced or supportive to the discipline/subject of study or which provides an extended scope or which enables an exposure to some other discipline/subject/domain or nurtures the candidate's proficiency/skill is called an Elective Course.
- **Discipline Specific Elective (DSE) Course:** Elective course offered by the main discipline/subject of study is referred to as Discipline Specific Elective. The University/Institute may also offer discipline related Elective courses of interdisciplinary nature (to be offered by main discipline/subject of study).
- **Dissertation/Project:** An elective course designed to acquire special/advanced knowledge, such as supplement study/support study to a project work, and a candidate studies such a course on his own with an advisory support by a teacher/faculty member is called dissertation/project.
- **Generic Elective (GE) Course:** An elective course chosen generally from an unrelated discipline/subject, with an intention to seek exposure is called a Generic elective.
- **Ability Enhancement Courses (AEC):** The Ability Enhancement Courses (AE) may be of two kinds: Ability Enhancement Compulsory Courses (AECC) and Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC). "AECC" courses are the

courses based upon the content that leads to knowledge enhancement; (i) Environmental Science and (ii) English/MIL Communication. These are mandatory for all disciplines. Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC) are value-based and/or skill-based and are aimed at providing hands-on-training, competencies, skills, etc.

- **Ability Enhancement Compulsory Courses (AECC):** Environmental Science, English Communication/Modern Indian Language (MIL) Communication Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC): These courses may be chosen from a pool of courses designed to provide value-based and/or skill-based knowledge.

Introducing Research Component in Under-Graduate Courses:

Project Work/Dissertation is considered as a course involving application of knowledge in solving/analyzing/exploring a real-life situation/difficult problem. A Project Work Dissertation would be of 6 credits. A Project/Dissertation Work may be given in lieu of a discipline specific elective paper.

- The choices of papers from different disciplines under Generic Elective and Discipline Specific Elective will be as per the availability of the courses/faculty in the college.
- Universities/Institutes may evolve a system/policy about Extra Curricular Activities/General Interest and Hobby Courses/Sports/NCC/NSS/Vocational courses/related courses on their own.