



SHARDA
UNIVERSITY
Beyond Boundaries

**POLICY DOCUMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
NATIONAL CURRICULUM AND CREDIT FRAMEWORK
FOR FOUR YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES**

**SHARDA UNIVERSITY
GREATER NOIDA
UTTAR PRADESH- 201310
2023**

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POLICY DOCUMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL CURRICULUM AND CREDIT FRAMEWORK FOR FOUR YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

1. Introduction

1.1 The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 (hereafter referred to as NEP or Policy) recognizes that higher education plays an extremely important role in promoting human as well as societal well-being and in developing India as envisioned in its Constitution - a democratic, just, socially conscious, cultured, and humane nation upholding liberty, equality, fraternity, and justice for all. It notes that “given the 21st-century requirements, quality higher education must aim to develop good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals”.

The NEP 2020 states, “Assessments of educational approaches in undergraduate education that integrate the humanities and arts with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) have consistently shown positive learning outcomes, including increased creativity and innovation, critical thinking and higher-order thinking capacities, problem-solving abilities, teamwork, communication skills, more in-depth learning and mastery of curricula across fields, increases in social and moral awareness, etc., besides general engagement and enjoyment of learning”.

Further, it also recommends that “the undergraduate degree will be of either 3 or 4-year duration (Four Year Undergraduate Programme, hereafter-FYUGP), with multiple exit options within this period, with appropriate certifications, e.g., a UG certificate after completing 1 year in a discipline or field including vocational and professional areas, or a UG diploma after 2 years of study, or a UG (Bachelor’s) degree after a 3-year programme. The 4-year multidisciplinary UG (Bachelor’s) programme, however, shall be the preferred option since it allows the opportunity to experience the full range of holistic and multidisciplinary education in addition to a focus on the chosen major and minors as per the choices of the student”.

In accordance with the NEP 2020, the UGC has formulated a new student-centric “Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes (hereafter CCFUP)” incorporating a flexible choice-based credit system, multidisciplinary approach, and multiple entry and exit options. This will facilitate students to pursue their career path by choosing the subject/field of their interest.

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Sharda University acknowledges the importance of implementing the CCFUP to align with the recommendations of the National Education Policy, NEP-2020 and provide quality education to its students. This policy document outlines the guidelines for the implementation of the CCFUP for UG Programmes offered at Sharda University.

1.2 This intends to:

- provide flexibility to choose the course of choice
- promote inter/multi-disciplinary approach of learning
- provide flexibility for students to study at different times and at different institutions to complete one programme (ease mobility of students)
- credits earned at one institution can be transferred under academic bank of credit (ABC)
- rootedness and pride in India, and its rich, diverse, ancient, and modern culture, languages, knowledge systems, and traditions.

2. Scope

2.1 Introducing holistic and multidisciplinary undergraduate education that would help develop all capacities of human beings - intellectual, aesthetic, social, physical, emotional, ethical, and moral - in an integrated manner; soft skills, such as complex problem solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, communication skills; and rigorous specialization in a chosen field (s) of learning. Adoption of flexible curricular structures in order to enable creative combinations of disciplinary areas for study in multidisciplinary contexts that would also allow flexibility in course options that would be on offer to students, in addition to rigorous specialization in a subject or subjects.

2.2 This policy document applies to all UG programmes offered by various schools of Sharda University that refer to the curriculum and credit structure developed under UGC-CCFUP and NCrF-2023. However, for the schools governed by various Councils, the curriculum and credit structure may differ as per the policy-guidelines provided by the respective Regulatory Bodies/Councils.

2.3 For the schools governed by various Councils, value added and ability enhancement courses may be incorporated by making necessary provisions in the curriculum.

2.4 The policy covers the review and restructuring of degree programmes, multiple entry and multiple exit options, flexible degree choices, enriched curriculum, yearly credit system, and Academic Bank of Credit.

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3. Discipline, Course-type and credit under FYUGP

3.1 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 (50% of total credits) through core courses in the major discipline. In case of failing to secure minimum 50% of total credits through core courses in the major discipline, student will not be given degree in the Major subject but will be awarded with a Liberal Arts degree only.

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.

Students can opt for a change of major within the broad discipline (Natural and Physical Sciences, Mathematical, Statistics, and Computational Sciences, Library, Information and Media Sciences, Commerce and Management, and Humanities and Social Sciences) at the end of the first year.

3.2 Course type

According to the NEP-2020 based UGC guideline for FYUGP, courses in the programmes may be of following types:

- i. Major course
- ii. Minor course
- iii. Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary
- iv. Ability enhancement course
- v. Skill enhancement course
- vi. Value added course
- vii. Summer internship
- viii. Research Project/Dissertation

i. Major course

Major courses, also known as core courses or compulsory courses, are designed to provide students with a comprehensive and in-depth study of a particular subject or discipline. These

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courses are typically required for completion of a degree programmes and serve as the foundation upon which students can build their knowledge and skills in their chosen field of study. Major courses vary depending on the specific degree programmes.

ii. Minor course


These courses may be disciplinary or interdisciplinary where students have the option to select from disciplinary/interdisciplinary minors and skill-based courses. By completing a sufficient number of courses in a discipline other than their major, they can earn a minor in that field of study. These minors provide an opportunity to explore diverse subjects and expand their knowledge beyond their primary focus. Additionally, skill-based courses related to their vocational programme equip students with practical abilities and enhance their employability. The availability of these minors and skill-based courses allows students to customize their education, gain a well-rounded skill set, and increase their prospects in the job market. A student may declare a choice of the minor and vocational stream at the end of the second semester, after exploring various courses.

iii. Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary

A multidisciplinary course mandates students to undertake three introductory-level courses from a broad range of disciplines such as natural and physical sciences, mathematics, statistics and computer applications, library, information and media sciences, commerce and management, humanities, and social sciences. These courses aim to broaden students' intellectual experience and form an integral part of a liberal arts and science education. Importantly, students are not allowed to choose or repeat courses they have previously taken at the higher secondary level. By exploring diverse subjects, this course fosters interdisciplinary connections and develops critical thinking skills, preparing students for future challenges and providing a well-rounded education.

iv. Ability enhancement course

Ability enhancement courses are specialized courses that concentrate on enhancing Indian language and communication skills, specifically in modern Indian languages and English.

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These courses have a primary objective of equipping students with essential linguistic abilities, such as critical reading, expository writing, and academic writing skills. By developing these core skills, students can effectively express their thoughts, present their arguments coherently, and demonstrate clear thinking. The courses focus on enabling students to acquire and exhibit proficiency in language and communication, empowering them to articulate their ideas with clarity and precision.

v. Skill enhancement course

These courses are aimed at imparting practical skills, hands-on training, soft skills, etc, to enhance the employability of students. Vocational courses will form an integral part of the undergraduate programme to impart skills along with theory and practical.

vi. Value added course

Value-added courses are mandatory courses designed to equip students with knowledge and understanding of various important aspects. These courses aim to provide students with the necessary skills and insights into contemporary India, environmental science and education, digital and technological solutions, health and wellness, yoga education, sports, and fitness. By taking these courses, students not only gain a deeper understanding of these subjects but also develop practical skills that can be applied in real-life scenarios. These value-added courses are intended to enhance students' overall educational experience and prepare them for the challenges and opportunities of the modern world.

vii. Summer internship

A summer internship/apprenticeship is a structured program that allows students to gain practical work experience by being immersed in real-world work situations. It provides an opportunity for students to apply their theoretical knowledge in a professional setting. During the summer term, all students are required to undergo internships/apprenticeships in firms, industries, organizations, or training in labs with faculty and researchers. This hands-on experience helps students develop crucial skills, explore career paths, and build valuable connections within their chosen field. It serves as a bridge between academia and the professional world, preparing students for future career success.

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Students who wish to exit after the first year or after second year will undergo a 4-credit (120 Hours) work-based learning/internship during the summer term in order to get a UG Certificate or UG Diploma.

viii. Research Project/Dissertation for UG (Honours with Research) Degree

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- **UG (Honours with Research) Degree** 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 with **UG (Honours with Research) Degree**. The research outcomes of their project work may be published in peer-reviewed journals or may be presented in conferences/seminars or may patented.

Students not undertaking research and choosing **UG (Honours) Degree** in the fourth year will undertake 3 courses for 12 credits in lieu of a research project / Dissertation.

3.3 Credit-hours for different types of courses

The workload relating to a course is measured in terms of credit hours. A course can have a combination of lecture credits, tutorial credits, and practicum credits.

3.3.1 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.

3.3.2 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.

3.3.3 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.

3.3.4 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.

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M. Chakraborty

K. Ghosh

P. Singh

A. Chakraborty

4. Different level of Awarding UG Certificate, UG Diploma, and Degrees

4.1 UG Certificate: Students who opt to exit after completion of the first year and have secured min. 40 credits will be awarded a UG certificate if, in addition, they complete one internship/apprenticeship of 4 credits (120 Hours) 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.

4.2 UG Diploma: Students who opt to exit after completion of the second year and have secured min.80 credits will be awarded the UG diploma if, in addition, they complete one internship/apprenticeship of 4 credits (120 Hours) 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.

4.3 3-year UG (Bachelor's) 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 min. 120 credits and satisfying the minimum credit requirement.

4.4 4-year UG (Bachelor's) 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 min.160 credits and have satisfied the credit requirements.

4.5 4-year UG Degree (Bachelor's) (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 minimum 160 credits, including 12 credits from a research project/dissertation, are awarded UG Degree (Honours with Research).

This is the minimum credit requirement. Students can opt for more credits course (within the broad discipline) based on choice for enhanced learning.

5. Design of credit framework

5.1 As proposed under UGC-FYUP & NCrf, the design of curriculum and credit framework for select programmes has been summarized in Table 1 & the semester wise and broad course category wise distribution of credits is given.

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5.2. 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.

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

5.4 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;

5.5 Final year Research project / Dissertation etc., will be of 12 credits.

5.6 Tables 2 provides the minimum credit structure under each course category and the distribution of course across three/four years (six/eight semesters) adopted by the Sharda University.

6. Multiple entry and Multiple exit (ME-ME)

One of the notable features of the programmes at Sharda University is the option of multiple exit and multiple entry. This means that students have the flexibility to exit the programme at different levels of study and receive a certificate or diploma based on their completion of specific requirements. For instance, students are compulsorily required to complete a four-credit apprenticeship during the summer after the second semester of the first year or the fourth semester of the second year to fulfill the norms for the award of a certificate or diploma in their respective faculty. Further, the students with similar credential may enter to any of programmes fulfilling the pre-requisites (if any).

7. Credit Accumulation and Transfer: Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)

7.1 Sharda University facilitates the transfer of credits earned by students from other recognized institutions or universities, subject to the equivalence of the courses and UGC guidelines. As per NEP 2020, Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), which shall be a national-level facility, will promote the flexibility of the curriculum framework and interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary academic mobility of students across the HEIs in the country with appropriate 'credit transfer' mechanism. Students have the opportunity to accumulate credits over multiple semesters and utilize them towards the completion of their program.

7.2 The Academic Bank of Credits shall be a repository of all credits earned by a student. These credits shall be accumulated and redeemable provided the credits accumulated are within the same

assessment band. The credits accumulated shall have a validity/ expiry which will be defined with respect to each program.


8. Periodic Review and Revision

8.1. Sharda University periodically reviews and may revise the curriculum-credit framework and courses in line with updated guidelines of the respective statutory bodies, emerging trends, industry requirements, and feedback from stakeholders.

8.2. The review and revision process involves faculty members, academic experts, and industry professionals to ensure the curriculum remains up-to-date.

9. Conclusion

Sharda University is committed to implement the curriculum and credit framework as per the UGC guidelines for the academic year 2023-24. The framework will provide students with a flexible and holistic learning experience, empowering them to design their academic journey and enhance their employability. The university shall ensure effective implementation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of the framework to foster academic excellence and student success.

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A. Singh

Appendix

Table 1: 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

Source: UGC (2022). *Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes*. New Delhi: UGC. Online URL: https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/7193743_FYUGP.pdf

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Table 2: Minimum Credit structure for 3/4-Year UG degree with Single Major

Year	Sem.	Subject I		Subject II		Subject III		Subject IV		Vocational		Co-Curricular		Industrial Training/ Survey/ Research Project		{Minimum Credits} For the year	{Cumulative Minimum Credits} Required for Award of Certificate/ Diploma/ Degree
		Major	4/5 Credits	Major	4 Credits	Major	3/4/5 Credits	Project	Minor Elective	3/4 Credits	Minor	3 Credits	2 Credit	Major	2/3/9 Credits		
1	I	Own Faculty	Own Faculty/ inter or multidisciplinary	Own/Other Faculty/inter or multidisciplinary	Other Subject / Faculty	Other Subject / Skill Development Course	Co-Curricular Course	Inter/ Intra Faculty related to main/Subject	ARP (2)	ARP (2)	1 (3)	ARP (2)	VAC-1 (3)	VAC-2 (3)	40	{40} Certificate in Faculty	
		Th-1(5) or Th-1(4) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(5) or Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)									Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)
2	II	Th-1(5) or Th-1(4) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	RBL-1 ** (Audit) 0-0-4-0	1 (3)	ARP (2)	1 (3)	ARP (2)	1 (3)	ARP (2)	40	{80} Diploma in Faculty				
		Th-1(5) or Th-1(4) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(5) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(2) Minor	RBL-2 ** (Audit) 0-0-4-0	1 (3)	ARP (2)	1 (3)	ARP (2)	1 (3)	ARP (2)	40	{80} Diploma in Faculty				
<p>Students exiting the programme after securing 40 credits will be awarded UG certificate in the relevant Discipline/Subject provided they secure 4 credits in work based vocational courses offered during summer term or Internship/Apprenticeship in addition to 6 Credits from skill based courses earned during first and second semester</p>																	
<p>Students exiting the programme after securing 80 credits will be awarded UG Diploma in the relevant Discipline /Subject provided they secure additional 4 credit in skill based vocational courses offered during first year or second year summer term.</p>																	
<p>*Summer Industry Internship (Industry Connect)</p>																	
3	V	Th-2(5) or Th-2(3) + Pract-2(2)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(3) or Th-1(2) + Pract-1(1) Multi - /Inter -	RBL-3 (1) 0-0-2-1	1 (3)	Industry Connect* (2)	1	Industry Connect* (2)	1	Industry Connect* (2)	40	{120} 1. Bachelor in Faculty with single major 2. Bachelor in Faculty with minor in broad discipline 3. Bachelor in Faculty with double major				
		Th-2(5) or Th-2(3) + Pract-2(2)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-2(4) or Th-2(3) + Pract-1(1)	RBL-4 (1) 0-0-2-1	1 (3)	Community Connect(2) Multi - /Inter -	1	Community Connect(2) Multi - /Inter -	1	Community Connect(2) Multi - /Inter -	40	{160} 1. Bachelor (Honours) in Faculty with single major 2. Bachelor (Honours) in Faculty with double major				
4	VII	Th-2(4) or Th-2(3) + Pract-1(2)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	1 (4)	1 (4)	1 (3) (Project)	1 (3) (Project)	1 (4)	1 (4)	1 (3) (Project)	40	{160} 1. Bachelor (Honours) in Faculty with single major 2. Bachelor (Honours) in Faculty with double major				
		Th-3(4) or Th-3(3) + Pract-2(1-5)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	Th-1(4) or Th-1(3) + Pract-1(1)	1 (4)	1 (4)	1 (9) (Project)	1 (9) (Project)	1 (4)	1 (4)	1 (9) (Project)	40	{160} 1. Bachelor (Honours) in Faculty with single major 2. Bachelor (Honours) in Faculty with double major				
<p>* Course shall be conducted in the summer break of 04th Semester. However, evaluation will be made as per Rubrics in the 5th Semester. ** Courses are the audit courses. However, evaluation shall be made as per rubrics.</p>																	
<p>Source: Designed & adopted by Sharda University for FYUGP based on UGC's NEP based FYUGP Guidelines</p>																	

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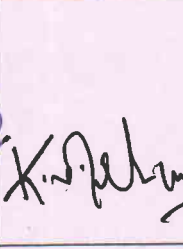
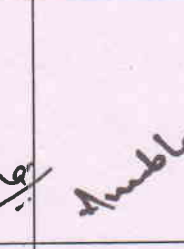

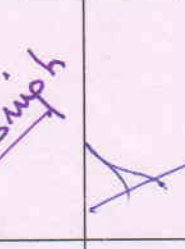
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16/09/23

Approved by
Vice Chancellor