

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Academic decisions of the AcSIR Senate at its 27th meeting dated September 10, 2020

The Senate at its 27th meeting held on September 10, 2020 considered the recommendation of the Board of Studies at Item No. 21 and approved implementation of the following:

1. Revised coursework requirement for PhD program for all faculty effective from August 2020 Session:

Course 1	Research Methodology - RM Research Publication and Ethics - RPE	6 Credits	Mandatory; Evaluation mode: Graded
	(a) Research Methodology - RM	4 credits	
	(b) Research Publication and Ethics - RPE	2 credits	
Course 2	Inter-disciplinary / Cross-disciplinary Course	2 credits	Electives; Evaluation mode: Graded
	Either two courses of 1 credit each OR one course of 2 credits, to be opted from the list of offered courses		
Course 3	Advanced Course	6 credits	Electives; Evaluation mode: Graded
	Either two courses of 3 credit each OR three courses of 2 credits each, to be opted from the list of offered courses within Institute; restrictions of exclusion may apply when opted across Institutes		
Course 4	Societal Program: Problem Understanding and Analysis	4 credits	Mandatory; Evaluation mode: Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory (S/X)
	Group activity of upto five Team members from within the Institute or across Institutes, no restriction of Faculty of Study, discipline of an AcSIR student.		

Minimum Credit Requirements for all PhD programs (Science and Engineering, Regular and Sponsored) are revised to: 18 credits

2. Timeline for completion of the coursework:

- (i) **Courses 1, 2 & 3:** To be completed preferably within Semesters 1 & 2, i.e., by the end of the 1st year of the student's enrolment;
- (ii) **Course 4:** To be completed preferably by end of 3rd Year of the student's PhD program but in any case, it must be completed before appearing for Open Colloquium.

3. Applicability of the Revised Courses: The Revised Course structure would be mandatory for students taking admission for Ph.D. (Sciences) and Ph.D. (Engineering) – from August 2020 session onwards at all AcSIR Academic Centres and Associate Centres, across all Faculties of Study.

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- (i) if relevant faculty to teach a particular course in a Lab/ Academic Centre is not available, students can take courses offered at other Labs/ Academic Centres also, through physical attendance or online mode. Courses 1 & 2 can also be taken across Laboratories by appropriate registrations in the course with teaching faculty and recorded concurrence of Coordinator of both the Laboratories.
- (ii) Students enrolled in Integrated Dual Degree Program in Engineering (IDDP) can take additional credits from these revised courses for their Master's program.

4. **Applicability of Courses for students admitted to AcSIR PhD Program in different Sessions prior to August 2020 session:** Applicability of Coursework requirements for students enrolled in AcSIR PhD Program in "PhD (Sciences)" and "PhD (Engineering)", in different Sessions prior to August 2020 session, are detailed as under:

Session of Admission of Student	Courses and Credit Requirements Applicable
PhD Sciences	
August 2020	Minimum Credit Requirements: 18 credits From Course 1,2,3 and 4 in the revised format
January 2020	Minimum Credit Requirements: 22 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework: 12 credits • Research Publication and Ethics (Course 1B under the revised and restructured syllabus): 2 credits • Other mandatory credits: 8 credits (400 level courses)
August 2019 and Earlier	Minimum Credit Requirements: 20 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework: 12 credits • Other mandatory credits: 8 credits (400 level courses)
PhD Engineering	
August 2020	Minimum Credit Requirements: 18 credits From Course 1,2,3 and 4 in the revised format
January 2020	Minimum Credit Requirements: 18 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework: 8 credits • Research Publication and Ethics (Course 1B under the revised and restructured syllabus): 2 credits • Other mandatory credits: 8 credits (400 level courses)
August 2018 to August 2019	Minimum Credit Requirements: 16 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework: 8 credits • Other mandatory credits: 8 credits (400 level courses)
January 2018 and Earlier	Minimum Credit Requirements: 20 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework: 12 credits • Other mandatory credits: 8 credits (400 level courses)

The Senate further granted flexibility to those students who have enrolled prior to August 2020 session and are yet to complete their course credit requirements, in the following manner:

- (i) Such students would need to take new courses (including Research Methodology) to earn their remaining credits to complete the applicable requirements of the program, by opting the courses from the courses in revised list;
- (ii) Societal Program would also be completed as per guidelines (i.e. as a group activity) in new coursework.

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5. Minimum academic requirements for Conduct of Comprehensive Examination for all batches of students enrolled in AcSIR PhD (Science) and PhD (Engineering) program:

- (i) Students enrolled in August 2020 session: to complete Courses 1 (1A & 1B), 2 and 3;
- (ii) Students enrolled in January 2020 session: 2 credits for "**Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)**" i.e., Course 1B in addition to the required credits from coursework except 400 level courses;
- (iii) All batches prior to January 2020 session: All required credits from coursework except 400 level courses;
- (iv) **Submission of Course completion report:** For all students from January 2020 onwards, submission of Course completion Report/ Grade Card by Coordinator of AcSIR at the Institute (excluding 400 level or Course 4) are mandatory along with Report of the Comprehensive Examination to the concerned Deans for Registration Confirmation.
- (v) **Timeline for Conduct of Comprehensive Examination:** To avoid non-compliance with respect to existing timeline for conduct of Comprehensive Examination, it has been approved that students can appear for the Comprehensive Examination any time between the 2nd semester and end of the 4th Semester. In case of a delay, prior approval of the concerned Dean is mandatory with due justification.

6. Exemption of AcSIR course work for candidates joining Ph.D. after passing M.Phil.: The Senate, at its 26th meeting held on January 22, 2020 considered and approved the proposal placed at Item No. 19 related to implementation of **Clause 7.6** of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016 that "Candidates already holding M. Phil. degree and admitted to the Ph.D. programme, or those who have already completed the course work in M.Phil. and have been permitted to proceed to the Ph.D. in integrated course, may be exempted by the Department from the Ph.D. course work".

This above order is issued with the approval of the Director, AcSIR.



(Arpita Sengupta)
Senior Manager and
Non-Member Secretary to the Senate

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