

Modifications to the provisions for teaching in Semester II 2020-21 (Approved in the 215th Meeting of the Senate, 28.04.2021)

With a view to provide the flexibilities required in the current situation created by the 2nd wave of the COVID pandemic, the following modifications to existing provisions, as well as new provisions, have been approved by the Senate. Kindly note that in case of any discrepancy, the Senate minutes will prevail.

For other than UG first year courses:

- Friday April 30, 2021 will be the last formal day of teaching for the current semester, and the period from May 01 to May 07, 2021 is designated as Buffer Days. The period of buffer days may be used for pre-major evaluations, and/or delivery of course content in asynchronous or synchronous mode (without attendance requirement), if required. To the extent possible, new course material may not be provided and pre-major evaluations may not be held after May 04, 2021. Major Test will commence from Sunday May 09, 2021 and would end on Monday May 17, 2021, with the moderation of courses scheduled on Monday May 24, 2021 (same as earlier). Project viva voce (B.Tech., M.Sc., Mini, Minor Projects) will be held on Tuesday May 18, 2021 and Wednesday May 19, 2021. Viva Voce of M Tech major projects may take place any time before June 25, 2021 (as per calendar), with the grades to be sent to Academic Section by June 25, 2021.
- The provision of course Audit/Withdrawal will be provided again from April 30, 2021 to May 03, 2021 for students to exercise or modify their choice with respect to courses registered in this semester. Withdrawal option may be exercised in this window, if desired. It is also possible to add back a course for which withdrawal was taken in the previous window (the policy/ make up for the period missed after withdrawal will be decided by the concerned course coordinator).
- The provisions related to courses done on audit basis have been reverted to the ones applicable in the previous semester (Semester I, 2020-21), i.e.,
 - One core and two elective courses can be done on audit basis, and these will be acceptable for the graduation requirements.
 - The pass criterion is uniformly set to 30% aggregate marks (for courses done either on credit (D grade), or audit (NP grade). The minimum pass grade for Major Project courses of PG programmes remains C grade.
 - Major project, even for PG programmes including dual degree, can be audited under the core/ compulsory course category. Pass requirement of Major Project courses of PG programmes done on audit basis is set to C grade equivalent performance
- Only for the students graduating in the summer of 2021 (i.e., those who are able to complete the credit and other academic requirements for the programme they are enrolled for), the requirement to complete the practical

(P) component of those elective courses where the course offering was split in lecture only (L) and P component, is waived. They can earn the required /balance credits in the elective category through any other course of the category.

- In view of the difficulty created by the Covid-19 pandemic, the minimum requirement of NGU is reduced to 11 units only for the UG students (B. Tech. and Dual Degree) graduating in Summer of 2021(i.e., at the end of Academic Year 2020-21). The requirement of earning at least 1 unit in each NGU category remains.
- The Senate has approved I-grade and extended I-grade options to address challenges faced by students regarding their health or that of a close family member. Details on this are provided below. The 'I' grade applications will be compiled by the Academic Section and shared with the course coordinator.
- Provision of I-grade is also included to cover pre-major evaluations that a student may have missed owing to illness (either of self or a close family member). Course coordinator may provide alternative option(s) to cover for the pre-major evaluations that are missed because of illness.

For UG first year courses:

The ongoing semester (Semester II, 2020-21) for First Year UG students (B. Tech. + Dual Degree) ONLY to be temporarily halted from Sunday 09.05.2021 to Sunday 16.05.2021. During this period no classes or evaluations will be held for First Year UG courses.

- However, faculty members teaching First Year UG courses may continue to upload asynchronous lectures or other learning material, if they so wish, during this period.
- In view of the above break, the final day of classes for First Year UG courses will be shifted forward by about a week, as will be the major examinations of First Year UG courses. Please see the modified calendar for Semester II, 2020-21 for First Year UG Students.
- All course content to be provided by the penultimate week of classes (i.e., by June 01, 2021), and part of last week of teaching is converted to buffer days (June 02, 2021 - June 04, 2021) to be used for doubt clearing and pre-major evaluations.
- No pre-major evaluations in the last three class days as per current semester schedule (June 05-June 08, 2021).
- Course audit window will be provided at a suitable time. Up to one course can be audited. **If a student audits a course, then the student cannot apply for the change of branch after first year.**

Provisions common to ALL courses:

- Attendance to be removed as a component of course evaluation policy.
- Pending evaluation may be suitably combined / modified ensuring it is not regressive to the students.
- Course coordinators may also decide to extend submission deadlines, if feasible, to even sometime after major examination. This will be course specific and should not be taken as a common policy.
- Any change in course policy will be communicated by the Course Coordinator to all students taking the course.
- Provisions related to I grade
 - Provisions are extended to include adverse conditions created by the pandemic, such as illness of a close family member (in addition to adverse medical condition of a student) as valid reason for award of I grade.
 - Provisions are also extended to include period of illness falling up to 4 weeks before major as valid reason. This will allow the student to attempt evaluations missed in the period, bringing them under the ambit of valid reasons for award of I-grade.
 - If a student appeared for major exam of a course, then I grade will not allow re-major for the course but where applicable (illness in the period before major) it will allow those pre-major evaluations in which the student could not participate. . I grade for re-major can only be made for a continuous period of major examination (i.e., days missed due to illness of student or family members should be continuous).
 - All applications for I grade have to be made on or before the last date of major through General Request portal of the Academics ERP system. A documentary evidence may be provided with application, otherwise a self-certification from the applicant stating the adverse medical condition of the self or close family is required.

Other Requirements:

- In case a Course Coordinator / Instructor is indisposed or unable to take the major examination in the designated schedule / slot, Head of the Academic Unit may appoint another faculty to conduct the major examination on behalf of the Course Coordinator.
- Alternatively, the major examination may be conducted when the Course Coordinator is in a position to schedule it. Such evaluations are expected in the period from May 20 to June 10, 2021 for non UG-FY courses (equivalent period will be announced later for UG-FY courses).

- In order to facilitate this, specific major examination slots will be scheduled from May 28 to June 05, 2021. These slots will be from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM on weekdays and could also be at other times on weekends. **All students of such courses are expected to be available in these time slots for the major examination.** Similar schedule will be announced later for UG FY courses.
- Also, note that major examination for some courses in A to J and M slots as well as courses in other slots may get scheduled outside the time slots mentioned above.

Provisions applicable to Ph.D. / M.S.(R) students:

- For all currently registered research scholars, for Written Comprehensive and Presentation of Research Plan, 6 months *ad hoc* extension is recommended from the calendar due dates. A research scholar will be able to avail this default provision only once.
- For PhD students registered in 2017 and prior, an *ad hoc* one-time six-month extension for thesis submission beyond the Senate-mandated 7 years is approved (the net relaxation under this provision is no more than 6 months). In case students continue in the “15th Semester”, they will need to register but the fees would be waived. Similar extension for MS/R students registered in 2019 and prior (the net relaxation under this provision is no more than 6 months).
- Provisions for PhD/MS(R) students for Online Progress Presentations, Online / Take-home Written Comprehensive Examination, Oral Comprehensive Examination (presentations of research plan), Pre-PhD Synopsis seminar, and PhD viva, as resolved by Senate on 16.04.2020, are to continue. PhD viva may be conducted by the DRC Chairperson or her/his nominee and may be conducted through any video conferencing platform that has been adopted by the Institute. Link to the recording may be shared with the Office of Dean Academics along with submission of PhD viva reports.
- PhD students may exercise the Audit option for their registered online courses; however such audited courses will not contribute to their pre-PhD coursework requirements. In case they audit a course, they must register for some other course as per the advice of their supervisors/program coordinators in subsequent semesters to complete their pre-PhD coursework requirements.