

Policy for Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programs

1. Preamble

To bring major reforms in the Higher Education System, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has provided a system of multiple entry and exit in academic programs. In this system the students shall be free to choose their programs and academic pathways in Higher Education that will support the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC). Multiple Entry and Exit System (MEES) are the fundamental recommendations of University Grants Commission (UGC), to encourage flexible learning in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) which is important for life- long learning of the students and to choose their academic path leading to the award of certificate, diploma and degree. Under this system there will not be drop out of students. These guidelines of Entry and Exit system will tend to reduce the dropout rates with considerable improvement of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) to ensure no-loss to students in the case of exiting in between.

2. Concept of Multiple Entry/ Exit System

MEES shall allow the students to be their own decision makers and shall motivate them to resume learning from the point they left in between and help them to achieve their career goals in life. According to NEP regulations, undergraduate degree should be either of three or four year duration with multiple Entry as well as Exit points. One will be able to earn a certificate, diploma or degree upon completing the requirements thereof.

Certificate, Diploma or Degree are organized in levels ranging from Level 5 to Level 10 where:

Level 5 is the Undergraduate Certificate level and is for those students, who exit studies after the First year of graduation;

Level 6 is the Undergraduate Diploma level and is for those students, who exit studies after Two years of graduation;

Level 7 is the Bachelor's Degree of Three years;

Level 8 is the Bachelor's Degree (Honours/Research) of Four years;

Level 9 is the Master's Degree one/two years depending on three/four years' Bachelor's Degree, respectively.

Level 10 is the Doctoral Degree.

3. Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)

Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) shall support MEES to promote flexibility in curriculum ensuring mobility of learners across the universities of their choice.

The students shall also get an option to gain the credits by learning quality Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) from UGC approved digital platforms such as Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM). This national-level credit account will facilitate the digital storage of earned credits from different HEIs and the certificate/diploma/degree shall be awarded in line with the accumulated credits in a specific duration at the Undergraduate and Master's levels.

After registration in the national ABC framework, Multiple Entry Exit System for smooth execution of multidisciplinary and flexible learning with impeccable credit count, credit transfer and credit acceptance from students' account shall be implemented.

4. Purpose of the Policy

- To reduce dropout rate and boost GER.
- Withdraw the fixed boundaries of diploma/degree completion period.
- Allow different discipline combinations such as to enable multiple entry exit points.
- Taking students' choice of courses in consideration for a flexible curriculum approach.
- A support system towards credit recognition, credit accumulation, credit transfers, and credit redemption to encourage flexible and lifelong learning.
- Although these policies shall boost vocational opportunities and enhance practical knowledge leading to national and global progress, the actual execution of such endeavors may bring real-life issues with them.

5. Process of MEES implementation

- Multiple entry points shall be available for students every year.
- The course structure of any programme shall include different courses semester wise, out of which the students may choose Entry or Exit.
- The students who have successfully completed Grade 12 School Leaving Certificate shall be eligible for admission to a first degree programme.
- The university shall earmark seats for lateral entrants to the Second year/Third year/Fourth year of a first-degree programme, if the student has either (a) successfully completed the First year/Second year/Third year of the same programme in any institution, (b) Already successfully completed a first degree programme and is desirous of pursuing another first degree programme in an allied subject.
- The Entry and Exit options for students, who enter the undergraduate programme, shall be as follows:

1st Year

Entry 1: The entry requirement for Level 5 is Secondary School Leaving Certificate obtained after the successful completion of Grade 12. A programme of study leading to entry into the First year of the Bachelor's degree is open to those who have met the entrance requirements as per GKU norms.

Exit 1: A certificate will be awarded when a student Exits at the end of year 1 (Level 5). The First year of the undergraduate programme requires 40 to 52 credits during the First year of the undergraduate programme for qualifying for an undergraduate certificate.

2nd Year

Entry 2: The Entry requirement for Level 6 is a certificate obtained after completing the First year (two semesters) of the undergraduate programme. A programme of study leading to the Second year of the Bachelor's degree is open to those who have met the entrance requirements, as per GKU norms.

Exit 2: At the end of the Second year, if a student Exits, a diploma shall be awarded (Level 6). A diploma requires 80 to 104 credits from levels 5 to 6, with 40 to 52 credits at Level 6.

3rd Year

Entry 3: The Entry requirement for Level 7 is a diploma obtained after completing two years (four semesters) of the undergraduate programme. A programme of study leading to the Bachelor's degree is open to those who have met the entrance requirements as per GKU norms.

Exit 3: On successful completion of three years, the relevant degree shall be awarded (Level 7). A Bachelor's degree requires 120- 156 credits from levels 5 to 7, with 40- 52 credits at level 5, 80 to 104 credits at level 6, and 120 -156 credits at Level 7.

4th Year

Entry 4: An individual seeking admission to a Bachelor's degree (Honours/ Research) (Level 8) in a specified field of learning would normally have completed all requirements of the relevant three-year bachelor degree (Level 7).

After completing the requirements of a Three year Bachelor's degree, candidates who meet a minimum CGPA of 7.5 shall be allowed to continue studies in the fourth year of the undergraduate programme to pursue and complete the Bachelor's degree with Research.

Exit 4: On the successful completion of the Fourth year, a student shall be awarded a degree (Honours/ Research). A Bachelor's degree (Honours/ Research) requires a total of minimum 160 credits from levels 5 to 8.