

Guidelines for pursuing two academic programs simultaneously (Dual Degree Program) in State Higher Education Institutions of Jharkhand

(Draft Document for Citizen Feedback)

As per Provisions of NEP-2020
implemented from the Academic Year 2022-23 onwards

For the State Universities of Jharkhand

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1. BACKGROUND

The National Education Policy - NEP 2020 states that pedagogy must evolve to make education more experiential, holistic, integrated, inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible, and, of course, enjoyable. The policy envisions imaginative and flexible curricular structures to enable creative combinations of disciplines for study, that would offer multiple entry and exit points, thus, removing currently prevalent rigid boundaries and creating new possibilities for life-long learning and centrally involve critical and interdisciplinary thinking.

With the rapid increase in demand for higher education and limited availability of seats in regular stream, several Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have started a number of programmes in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode to meet the aspirations of students. It has also led to the emergence of online education programmes which a student can pursue within the comforts of her / his home. The issue of allowing the students to pursue two academic programmes simultaneously has been examined by the Government keeping in view the proposals envisaged in the National Education Policy - NEP 2020 which emphasizes the need to facilitate multiple pathways to learning involving both formal and non-formal education modes.

In view of the above, the “Guidelines for pursuing two academic programs simultaneously (Dual Degree Program) in State Higher Education Institutions of Jharkhand” is being incorporated by the State Universities of Jharkhand with modifications, considerations of the need and resources of the state.

2. OBJECTIVES

To allow the students to pursue two academic programmes simultaneously keeping in view the following objectives envisaged in NEP 2020:

- recognizing, identifying, and fostering the unique capabilities of each student, by sensitizing teachers as well as parents to promote each student’s holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres.
- no hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams, etc. in order to eliminate harmful hierarchies among, and silos between different areas of learning.
- multidisciplinary and a holistic education across the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, and sports for a multidisciplinary world in order to ensure the unity and integrity of all knowledge.
- enabling an individual to study one or more specialized areas of interest at a deep level, and develop character, ethical and constitutional values, intellectual curiosity, scientific temper, creativity, spirit of service.

- offering the students, a range of disciplines including sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, languages, as well as professional, technical, and vocational subjects to make them thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals.

3. ONLINE DEGREE & DUAL DEGREE

With the rapid increase in demand for higher education and limited availability of seats in regular stream, several Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have started a number of programmes in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode to meet the aspirations of students. It has also led to the emergence of online education programmes which a student can pursue within the comforts of her / his home. The issue of allowing the students to pursue two academic programmes simultaneously has been examined by the UGC keeping in view the proposals envisaged in the National Education Policy - NEP 2020 which emphasizes the need to facilitate multiple pathways to learning involving both formal and non-formal education modes.

- A student can pursue two full time academic programmes in physical mode provided that in such cases, class timings for one programme do not overlap with the class timings of the other programme. However, it should be ensured that programmes taken by the student do not share common courses/papers except the compulsory courses of FYUGP.
- A student can pursue two academic programmes, simultaneously one in full time physical mode and another in Open and Distance Learning (ODL)/Online mode; or up to two ODL/Online programmes.
- Degree or diploma programmes under ODL/Online mode shall be pursued with only such HEIs which are recognized by UGC/Statutory Council/Govt. of India for running such programmes.
- Degree or diploma programmes under these guidelines shall be governed by the Regulations notified by the UGC and the respective statutory/professional councils, wherever applicable.
- These guidelines shall come into effect from the date of its notification. No retrospective benefit can be claimed by the students who have already done two academic programmes simultaneously prior to the notification of these guidelines.
- The above guidelines shall be applicable only to the students pursuing academic programmes other than Ph.D. programme.**

Based on the above guidelines, the Universities can devise mechanisms, through their statutory bodies, for allowing their students to pursue two academic programmes simultaneously as mentioned above.

To provide students with an opportunity to pursue dual degree programs in FYUGP, the Universities shall comply with the provisions of the guidelines/regulations issued by Universities Grant Commission (UGC) in this regard.

4. Guidelines for Development of Online Courses

All HEI's eligible for hosting online courses shall strictly adhere to the Guidelines for developing Online Courses for SWAYAM, 2017 released by Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education as modified from time to time while developing courses for SWAYAM or any other MOOC's.

5. Guidelines for Accepting Credit Transfer from MOOC's like SWAYAM

- a. The HEI's through their Competent Authority (Board of Courses and Studies (BOCS), Academic Council (AC), Syndicate) should make amendments in their Ordinances, Rules, Regulations to incorporate provisions for transfer of credits for MOOCs courses as per UGC Regulations.
- b. The HEI's shall select the courses to be permitted for credit transfer through SWAYAM. (e.g. courses in high demand for which faculty is not available, elective courses or for supplementing teaching-learning process) while ensuring that physical facilities like laboratories, computer facilities, library etc. required for the course are made available free to the students in adequate measure.
- c. The HEI's must designate a Course Coordinator/facilitator to guide the students throughout the course and to facilitate/conduct the Lab/Practical sessions/examinations.
- d. All HEI's should widely disseminate information about selected courses and motivate the students through faculty members, notice boards, student forums, workshops and university website etc.
- e. All HEI's shall facilitate registration of students for the MOOC's Course.
- f. The Host Institution (Course Offering HEI) shall evaluate the students registered for MOOCs courses based on discussion forums, quizzes, assignments, sessional and final examinations. The HEI shall assist Host Institution in conducting the final examination.
- g. The HEI shall incorporate the marks/grades communicated by the Host Institution in the final mark sheet of the student which counts for award of certificate/degree/diploma. However, the University shall evaluate the students for the practical/lab component and incorporate these marks/grades in the overall mark sheet of the student.
- h. On receipt of MOOCs completion certificate from Host Institute, the HEI's shall give equivalent credit weight (up to 40%) for the credits earned through SWAYAM.

6. Establishment of Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA)

- a. The Centre for Internal Quality Assurance shall be established in all Higher Educational Institutions offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode. It shall be headed by a full-time Director, being a senior academician not below the rank of an Associate Professor, preferably from the field of Open and Distance Learning and/or online education, who shall be supported by adequate number of academic and other staff.
- b. The objectives and functions of the committee are as enumerated in University Grants Commission (Open & Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 as modified from time to time.
- c. The CIQA Committee shall be constituted at the University Level with the following composition: -

Vice Chancellor of the University	Chairperson
Controller of Examination of the University	Member
Three (03) Senior Teachers of the University selected by the Chairperson	Member
HoD's of Three (03) Departments offering programmes in ODL and/or Online Mode selected by the Chairperson	Member
Two (02) external experts of ODL and/or Online Education selected by the Chairperson	Member
Finance Officer of the University	Member
Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance of the University	Member Secretary

The establishment of CIQA is an essential pre-requisite for all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to allow dual degree programs through ODL or Online mode. The HEIs should strictly adhere to the regulations/guidelines issued by UGC for conducting and accepting credits through Online or ODL Mode.