Regulations for Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP)*

Gauhati University

Approved by the Academic Council, Gauhati University on 13 May, 2023.

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Changelog

2.1 (June 6, 2023)

Changed

- Minimum class requirements updated in Subsection 4.3.1.
- **2.0** (May 27, 2023)

Changed

• Maximum credit requirment changed in Subsection 4.1.

Fixed

• Semester allocation of SEC, AEC, and VAC courses as well as VAC credit divisions are revised. (Subsection 4.1.1).

1.1.1 (May 17, 2023)

Changed

- Minor corrections
- **1.1** (May 13, 2023)

Added

• A new subsection on course-wise credit requirement is added (Subsection 4.1.1).

Added

• A new subsection (Subsection 4.6) on ABC and its requirements.

Changed

• Two new clauses related to multiple entry with reference to the programme and course contents are added in Subsection 5.1.

Added

• A new section (Section 6) in inter-institutional mobility.

Added

• Nomenclatures for different types degrees in case of a Degree in a Discipline, are spelt out distinctly in Section 7.2.

1 Introduction

The Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) under Gauhati University is based on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The policy recognizes that higher education plays an extremely important role in promoting human as well as societal well-being. The policy also endeavours developing India as envisioned in its Constitution – a democratic, just, socially conscious, cultured, and humane nation upholding liberty, equality, fraternity, and justice for all. NEP 2020 notes that "given the 21st-century requirements, quality higher education must aim to develop good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals".

The FYUGP is designed to cater to the diverse academic needs of the student and seeks to offer options of multiple entries / exits and obtain a Certificate or a Diploma or Degree with or without Major or a Degree (Honours) or a Degree (Honours) with Research at various levels as stipulated under the policy.

1.1 Objectives

The aims and objectives of the FYUGP under NEP 2020 are to highlight certain fundamental principles that would guide both the education system at large, as well as individual educational institutions. These objectives, as stated below, have a direct bearing on the curricula for different levels of higher education:

- 1. First of all, the policy endeavours to recognize, identify, and foster the unique capabilities of each student to promote her / his holistic development
- 2. It also attempts to providing flexibility so that learners can select their learning trajectories and programmes, and thereby choose their own paths in life according to their talents and interests.
- 3. The policy promises to provide multidisciplinary and holistic education across the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, and sports for a multidisciplinary world.
- 4. It emphasizes on conceptual understanding rather than rote learning. The policy also attempts to build critical thinking and encourages logical decision-making and innovation on the part of the learners.
- 5. The policy upholds ethics, human & constitutional values and emphasizes on building life-skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership, and resilience.
- 6. The policy also emphasizes on extensive use of technology in teaching and learning, removing language barriers, increasing access for Divyang students, and educational planning and management.
- 7. The policy endeavours to ensure respect for diversity and respect for the local context in all curricula, pedagogy, and policy.

- 8. The policy emphasizes equity and inclusion as the cornerstone of all educational decisions to ensure that all students are able to thrive in the education system and the institutional environment are responsive to differences to ensure that high-quality education is available for all.
- 9. The policy also attempts to ensure that the education system is rooted in the the values of Indian civilization and promote pride in India, and its rich, diverse, ancient, and modern culture, languages, knowledge systems, and traditions.

1.2 Curricular goals

The curricular and credit framework of FYUGP under NEP 2020 seeks to ensure the following for the students:

- Flexibility to move from one discipline of study to another
- Opportunity for learners to choose the courses of their interest in all disciplines
- Facilitating multiple entry and exit options with UG certificate/UG diploma/or degree depending upon the number of credits secured
- Flexibility for learners to move from one institution to another to enable them to have multi and / or interdisciplinary learning
- Flexibility to switch to alternative modes of learning (offline, ODL, and Online learning, and hybrid modes of learning).

2 Short title, definitions and commencement

These Regulations shall be called the Gauhati University Regulations for the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme hereinafter referred to as the GU-FYUGP or just FYUGP and shall come into effect from the Academic Session, 2023-2024. These Regulations shall be applicable to the students enrolled in the FYUGP at Gauhati University and Colleges / Institutes affiliated to Gauhati University from the Academic session 2023-2024.

The FYUGP shall be based on a new curricular framework as envisaged under the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) by the University Grants Commission (UGC) on the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) mode.

2.1 Definitions

- (a) Choice Based Credit System (CBCS)
 - CBCS means is a flexible system of learning where 'Credit' defines the quantum of contents/ syllabus prescribed for a course and determines the number of hours of instruction required. This system permits students to
 - Learn at their own pace,

2 Short title, definitions and commencement

- Choose electives from a wide range of elective courses offered for the programme,
- Undergo additional courses and acquire more than the required number of credits ,
- Adopt an inter-disciplinary approach in learning,
- Make best use of the expertise of available faculty.

(b) College

The term 'College' means the colleges and institutes affiliated to or permitted by Gauhati University for conducting different academic programmes.

(c) Academic Council

Academic Council means the Academic Council of Gauhati University.

(d) Committee of Courses and Syllabus (CCS)

CCS means the Committee of Courses and Syllabus in various subjects of Gauhati University.

(e) Department

The term 'Department' is used to mean an academic Department of Gauhati University or a College / Institute affiliated to Gauhati University.

(f) Programme

The term 'programme' is used to mean the whole learning experience or combination of courses under FYUGP leading to a Certificate, Diploma or Degree. The traditional concept of 'course' is replaced by 'programme'.

(g) Course

A Programme is divided into a number of 'courses'. A course is a unit of instruction or segment of subject area under any programme. The traditional concept of 'paper' is replaced by 'course'.

(h) Academic Year

An academic year means a period of twelve months consisting of two semesters comprising of a total of 180 working days.

(i) Semester

The word 'semester' is used to mean a half-yearly term or term of studies comprising of 90 working days including examinations, vacations and semester breaks.

(j) Summer Term

A summer term is for eight weeks which includes summer vacation. Internship / apprenticeship / work-based vocational education and training can be carried out during the summer term, especially by students who wish to exit after two semesters or four semesters of study. Regular courses may also be offered during the summer on a fast-track mode to enable students to do additional courses or complete backlogs in coursework.

(k) Major

Major 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 minimum credits) through core courses in the concerned discipline.

(l) Minor

Minor is the discipline that helps a student to gain a broader understanding beyond the Major discipline.

(m) ABC

ABC or the 'Academic Bank of Credits' refers to the initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India where a student's academic credit is consistently deposited into the ABC.

3 Admission

Admission to the FYUGP shall be done as below.

3.1 Eligibility

- (a) A student who has passed 12th standard or equivalent examination in any stream from a recognized institution.
- (b) Admission to the FYUGP will be based on the preference of Major, if any. In case a student does not want to opt for any Major, s/he will be admitted on the basis of preferences of the subject combinations.
- (c) Admission to a Programme or Major will be subject to availability of the subject and capacity of a college / department.
- (d) No student shall be eligible for admission to a Programme in any discipline under the FYUGP unless s/he fulfills the pre-requisites of courses as fixed by the university.

3.2 Reservation

Statutory reservation policy of the Government of Assam shall be followed in case of selection of eligible candidates for admission.

4 Programme and curricular components

4.1 Overview and structure

The complete FYUGP consists of 8 semesters, to be completed in a minimum of 4 academic years. Each academic year has two semesters. Each semester has a maximum credit allocation of 22. The credit requirements for GU's FYUGP is as follows:

4 Programme and curricular components

- (a) Semester I: 22
- (b) Semester II: 22
- (c) Semester III: 22
- (d) Semester IV: 22
- (e) Semester V: 22
- (f) Semester VI: 22
- (g) Semester VII: 22
- (h) Semester VIII: 22
- (i) Total: 176

4.1.1 Course-wise credit requirements

Below, we provide the minimum credit requirement for various course along with a mention of their semesters (as prescribed by the UGC).

- (a) Core Course
 - a) First Major: 60 (Semesters 1-6)
 - b) Minor: 12 (Semesters 1-6)
 - c) Second Major (Double Major): 48 (Semesters 1-6)
- (b) Common Course
 - a) Multidisciplinary: 9 (Semesters 1-3)
 - b) Skill Enhancement Course (SEC): 9 (Semesters 1-3)
 - c) Valued Added Course (VAC): 6 (Semesters 1, 2, 4)
 - d) Ability Enhancement Course (AEC): 8 (Semesters 1-2, 5-6)
 - e) Internship: 4 (in any Semester from 3-6)
 - f) Research Methodology: 4 (in any Semester in 5 or 7)
- (c) For Honours and Honours with Research
 - a) Advanced Core, Dissertation: 40 (Semesters 7, 8)

4.1.2 Open Core credits

In a 3-year duration of the FYUGP, a student can avail up to 12 open core credits, 4 credits each in Semesters VI-VI. A student can either utilise these free credits to study another Minor or a course from 4th year of the course.

4.2 Classes

In GU-FYUGP, during the course of a semester, the word 'class' means contact hours of teaching. The classes are divided into two groups - (i) Theory and (ii) Practical. Both theory and practical classes can either be Contact Classes or Non-Contact Classes. Contact Classes are those classes which are carried out in a classroom or in a laboratory. All other classes will termed as Non-Contact Classes.

4.3 Credits

All classes that a student attends are ultimately converted to academic credits. The following should be noted

- (a) The allotment of a credit for certain course (i.e. paper) is for the duration of a Semester.
- (b) In GU-FYUGP, all credits are calculated on a weekly-basis and one week is a span of days starting from one Monday to the next Sunday. The conversion from credit to contact hour of teaching is as follows.

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1 Credit = 1 Hour of Theory Class OR

1 Credit = 2 Hours of Practical Class
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- (c) The 'Theory Class' can be any of (i) A Teaching Class in a Classroom, (ii) A Tutorial Class, or (ii) Assignments.
- (d) The 'Practical Class' can be either (i) A Practical Class Conducted in a Laboratory or (ii) A Project Work.

4.3.1 Conversion to class hours

It is expected that in the course of a Semester, a minimum of 15 (fifteen) weeks worth of classes should be conducted. So, a 4-credit theory course should have a minimum of 60 hours of teaching in a Semester, which roughly translates to 15 one-hour theory classes. The following examples explain this conversion in details for a whole Semester.

(a) A course with 4 Theory Credits

$$4 \times 15 = 60$$
 Hours of Teaching

(b) A course with 3 Theory and 1 Practical Credits

$$3 \times 15 + 1 \times 30 = 75$$
 Hours of Teaching

(c) A course with 2 Theory and 2 Practical Credits

$$2 \times 15 + 2 \times 30 = 90$$
 Hours of Teaching

(d) A course with 4 Practical Credits

$$4 \times 30 = 120 \,\text{Hours of Teaching}$$

4.4 Curricular components

The entire FYUGP curriculum is be divided into two parts – (a) Core Courses and (b) Common Courses, which are described below.

4.4.1 Core courses

The core courses constitute Majors and Minors. Usually, a student will choose one Major subject and two Minor subjects. Different options are described in the next section. All core courses have a credit allocation of 4. All together, irrespective of any Major or Minor options, a student will necessarily need to study 21 courses with total credit allocation of 84 over a 3-year programme.

Major Course The minimum credit requirements for a Major Course over a 3-year period is 60 which translates to 15 courses (papers).

Minor Course The minimum credit requirements for a Minor Course over a 3-year period is 12 which translates to 3 courses (papers).

Second Major Course Provided a student has a Major Course with 60 credits, s/he can convert one of her Minor Courses to a Second Major only with a credit allocation of 48. In that case, s/he gets a degree with Double Major and Minor.

So, in general the total credit requirements of 84 in core courses translates to a single Major and two Minors. But a student can choose otherwise as well. To know how, see the section on Degree Options.

4.4.2 Common courses

As the name suggests, these courses will have to be studies by all students of FYUGP. Together the common courses have a credit allocation of 36 divided over five subdivisions. They are

- (a) Value Added Courses (VAC): Total Credits 6
- (b) Ability Enhancement Courses (AEC): Total Credits 8
- (c) Multidisciplinary Courses: Total Credits 9
- (d) Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC): Total Credits 9
- (e) Internship: Credit 4

A brief description of these courses are given below.

• Multi-disciplinary Courses

These are 3-credit courses spanning over five different groups of subjects — (i) Natural and Physics Science, (ii) Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Applications, (iii) Library, Information, and Media Sciences, (iv) Commerce and Management,

4 Programme and curricular components

and (v) Humanities and Social Sciences. The level of these courses are of Class XII.

Each student need to take at any three courses, each with 3-credits from these five sub-groups during Semesters 1-3.

• Ability Enhancement Courses (AEC)

This is a 8-credit course covering Modern Indian Languages (MIL) and English Usage (Communication).

Each student need to complete two courses of 4-credits each – one from English Usage and other from the group of MIL, especially designed for this purpose. Both these courses are split into 2-credit parts each. The English Communication course is to be completed during the 1st and 2nd Semesters and the MIL course is to be completed during 5th and 6th Semesters.

• Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC)

These are various skill courses with total credit allocation of 9. All students need to completes three Skill Courses, each with 3 credits, in Semesters 1, 3, & 3.

• Value Added Courses (VAC)

The VAC courses will come from four sub groups — (i) Understanding India, (ii) Environmental Science, (iii) Digital and Technological Solutions, and (iv) Health & Wellness, Yoga Education, Sports, and Fitness. All together they will have a credit allocation of 6.

Each student will have to take any three courses, each of 2-credits, from any three groups during Semesters 1, 3, & 4. Here one course from the Environmental Science group is *compulsory* except if the student takes a core course on Environmental Science.

Internship

All student are to carry out an Internship with a credit allocation of 4. The internship can be carried out in any semester during Semesters 3-6. As internships are meant to be done during semester breaks, they will *not* interfere with other classes.

4.5 Course levels

(a) 0-99: Pre-requisite

(b) 100-199 : Foundation & Introductory

(c) 200-299: Intermediate-level

(d) 300-399: Higher-level

(e) 400-499 : Advanced course

(f) 500-599: First-year Masters-level

(g) 600-699 : Second-year Masters-level

(h) 700-799 : Doctoral-level Course levels 0-499 are for FYUGP

4.6 ABC (Academic Bank of Credits)

The GU-FYUGP is directly connected to the ABC (Academic Bank of Credit) as notified by the UGC. All credits a student earn at the end of an examination in GU-FYUGP, will be deposited in the ABC by the university.

As such it is mandatory that a student under GU-FYUGP register for the ABC as notified by the regulatory agencies.

5 Progression and exits

The progression and exits during the whole course structure is given below.

(a) After 1 Year

One can exit just after one-year. In this case, the student will have to complete one extra Vocational / Skill course (Exit Course) of 4 credits and can exit the programme. The student will get a **Certificate**. The minimum total credit requirements is 44 (and 4 credit extra for the exit Vocational course).

(b) After 2 Years

One can exit the programme after two-year course as well. In this case, the student will have to complete one extra Vocational / Skill course of 4 credits and can exit the programme. The student will get a **Diploma**. The minimum total credit requirements is 88 (and 4 credits extra for the exit Vocational course).

(c) After 3 Years

If a student completes 3 years, s/he can exit the programme. In this case the student will get a **Bachelor's Degree**. The minimum total credit requirements is 120.

(d) After 4 Years

After completion of 4 years, the student gets either a Bachelor's Degree (Honours) or a Bachelor's Degree (Honours) with Research. The minimum total credit requirements is 160.

It should be noted that any certificate / diploma / degree is awarded only if the student clears (i.e. passes) all the required courses (papers) till that point of time.

5.1 Multiple exits and entries

The FYUGP allows students to have multiple exits and entries. That is a student can exit the programme, say after one year (as shown above) and then again can enter the programme at a later time and can continue the programme from where s/he left. This process can be executed multiple times.

However, the entry into the programme is subject to availability of positions at that point of time and in that institute / college. Besides, the following should apply

- (a) A student will get a certificate / diploma / degree on exit from the GU-FYUGP (depending on in which year the student exits), only when the student passes in all the minimum compulsory courses at that point of time.
- (b) After an exit, either after Year 1 or 2, the student can seek an entry only into the same programme to which the student was admitted.
- (c) When a student exits the GU-FYUGP after 3 years with a Bachelor's Degree, s/he can not seek reentry into the programme at the fourth year, rather s/he will need to take admission into the Master's programme at the first year.
- (d) As the contents (syllabi) of all the courses are subject to modification from time time, when a student enters into the programme after an earlier exit, the contents of all courses will be what is as per the syllabi at the current point of time.

6 Inter-institution mobility

The GU-FYUGP allows a student for inter-institutional mobility, both for incoming and outgoing students. For this, GU will take into account the credits a student has in his / her ABC.

For an incoming student, the following should be observed:

- (a) The entry is subject to availability of seats in the concerned discipline.
- (b) The student need to fulfill all the academic prerequisites of the concerned discipline.
- (c) Gauhati University will award a degree to a student, only when the student will have completed 60% of the credits for core courses from GU.

7 Degree options

Broadly the FYUGP will have two degree options — (a) Degree in a Stream and (b) Degree in a Discipline. In all cases, the requirements of core and common courses remain same.

7.1 Degree in a stream

Different subjects of FYUGP is divided into three broad streams — (i) Arts, (ii) Science, (iii) Commerce & Management, and (iv) Interdisciplinary. There are the following options under this category.

7.1.1 Degree with Major and Minors

In this case, a student studies one Major subject which consists of 15 courses and two Minors which consists of 6 courses (3 for each Minor). The student can also utilise the free credits to study another Minor as well (3 more core courses in another subject).

7.1.2 Degree with without Major

In this case, a student studies all the three core courses equally over a period of 3-year programme.

7.1.3 Degree with double Major

In this case, a student needs to utilise all the free credits (12 in total) to study 3 more courses of one of the Minors and earn another 24 credits from MOOCs (subject to permission) on the same Minor to earn total credit of 48. In this case, the student gets a second Major in that subject (the Minor subject).

It should however be noted that a second Major (or double Major) can be obtained only if the student earns the first Major.

7.1.4 Nomenclature

The nomenclature of the degree in the above cases will be such as Bachelor of Arts / Science / Commerce / Management.

7.2 Degree in a discipline

In this case, a student studies all the 21 core courses from a discipline designed for that purpose. These kinds of degrees will not have any Major or Minor. An example would be Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology or Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration etc.

There will primarily three types of degrees in a discipline. They are

- (a) Bachelor's Degree in a Discipline viz. Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.
- (b) Bachelor's of Arts / Science in a Discipline *viz.* Bachelor's Degree in Science in Microbiology.
- (c) Bachelor's of Vocation or Bachelor's Degree (Vocation) in a Discipline viz. Bachelor's Degree (Vocation) in Small tea Garden Management

8 Choice of courses

8.1 Prerequisites

Prerequisites are conditions which need to be fulfilled prior to admission into the FYUGP. Each subject and its course (paper) has their own prerequisites, which need to be fulfilled by a student prior to enrollment. For example, having Class XII-level Math is a prerequisite required to opt for Physics at the FYUGP.

Here, having a prerequisite necessarily means that the student needs to have passed in the subject. The details of these prerequisites are available in the FYUGP Information Booklet.

8.2 Requirements

As opposed to prerequisites, the requirements are conditions which need to be fulfilled when a student chooses a certain subject or course. For example, when a student wants to study Botany as a subject, Chemistry as another subject must be studied.

The details of the requirements are available in the FYUGP Information Booklet.

8.3 Course options

Subject to fulfillment of prerequisites and requirements, a student can choose any subject as core subjects. The nomenclature of the degree awarded (whether Bachelor of Arts or Science) will be decided by the group to which at least two subjects belong.

9 Learning outcomes

The GU-FYUGP courses are based on LOCF (Learning Outcomes based Curriculum Framework) as defined in the UGC's Curricular Framework for the same.

10 Examination & grading

10.1 Examination

The examination modalities of GU-FYUGP will be as per GU's Examination Ordinance.

10.2 Grading

After successful completion of the programme, a student will be awarded grade. In GU-FYUGP, there *will not* be any percentage of marks, but all students will provided SGPA (Semester Grade Point Average) and CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) as per UGC's Curricular Framework.

11 Fourth year of the GU-FYUGP

The fourth year of the GU-FYUGP consists of one compulsory course on Research Methodology of credit 4, to be studies in Semester VII. The rest of the course consist of Advance Core Courses and a Dissertation. The details of the the fourth year will be available later.

All students, irrespective of their choice of subjects or degrees can advance to the fourth year either for a Bachelor's Degree (Honours) or a Bachelor's Degree (Honours) with Research.

11.1 Fourth year and college

All colleges under GU are allowed to conduct courses for the fourth year of GU-FYUGP, as per published guidelines and syllabi from GU, leading to the Bachelor's Degree (Honours).

However, to conduct courses for the fourth year leading to the Bachelor's Degree (Honours) with Research, a college must obtain a prior approval from GU, the detailed procedure and guidelines for which will be published later.

12 Appendix 1

12.1 GU-FYUGP Information Booklet

GU will also publish an Information Booklet on the FYUGP, which will provide detailed course structure, subject details, options along with relevant examples. The reader is referred to the GU-FYUGP Information Booklet for further details, which will be made available through the official websites of GU.

12.2 UGC's Curricular Framework

UGC's Curricular Framework refers to the publication titled "Curricular and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes" published by the UGC in the month of December, 2023.

