

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) scheme at MAKAUT, WB
(Applicable from the session 2020-21)

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All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has introduced Model Curriculum for Bachelor of Technology programme with 160 credits in the entire programme of 4 years, and additional 20 credits will be required to be achieved through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) from different platform for the degree of Bachelor of Technology with Honours. These additional 20 credits will have to be acquired with online courses (MOOCs) as per AICTE. Students of B Tech program will have to complete additional 20 credits through MOOCs within 4 years of time. 16 credit points is applicable for 3 year UG programs. This creates an excellent opportunity for students to acquire the necessary additional skill set for employability through massive open online courses where the rare expertise of world famous experts from academics and industry are available. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, West Bengal (MAKAUT,WB) has thus decided to introduce AICTE model curriculum for its B.Tech Programmes and allow students to choose courses from any established online platform as per following revised guidelines from academic year 2020-21.

GUIDELINES FOR MOOCs

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) have been inducted in University curriculum and academic activities in the following ways:

1. MOOCs for Honours Degree at Undergraduate Level
2. MOOCs for mandatory Coursework of Research Scholars for Ph.D. degree
3. MOOCs are also used for credit transfer as equivalent to theory courses of Curriculum under recommendation of BoS.
4. MOOCs for Mandatory Additional Requirements (MAR)

1 (A) MOOCs for B.Tech Honours Degree

For B.Tech Honours Degree, a B.Tech student will have to earn 20 credits from MOOCs from any established MOOCs platform addition to 160 credits for B.Tech degree.

The total of 20 credits that is required to attain eligibility for B.Tech Honours degree is distributed over four years in the following way:

1st year: 4-8 credits

2nd year: 4-8 credits

3rd year: 4-8 credits

4th year: 4 credits

A student of first year has to cover courses from at least three skills:

1. Computer Programing with Python /R
2. Soft skills
3. values and Ethics

Students of all streams are to be equipped with Programming skill in the language that is in high demand worldwide in the first year itself so that they can apply this skill in the subsequent semesters in their different areas including their core area of study.

Soft skill is very essential for grooming of the student and student must be exposed to it in the very beginning of the 4 year long program.

Ethics is something that one should practice. Students are to be made aware of the ethics right in the beginning of the 4 year long program so that they can practice at least some of the ethical norms as applicable to Institutional environment and society, and be prepared to practice ethics in their working life.

All of the MOOCs courses are to be taken any MOOCs platform as per following scheme of credit points. There would not be any concept of fixed basket anymore. However, during choosing courses in the online platform students would essentially avoid the courses taught/offered through the curriculum in the offline / class room mode.

For NPTEL/Swayam platform: Credit points as specified in the platform

For other MOOCs platforms like Coursera, edX, Udemy, Simplearn etc

Courses of 4 weeks to 7 weeks: 1 credit point

Courses of 8 weeks to 11 weeks: 2 credit point

Courses of 12 weeks to 15 weeks: 3 credit point

Courses of 16 weeks or more: 4 credit point

Where duration of MOOCs courses are available in hours

For every 8 hours of course: 1 credit point

However, for the courses with duration less than 8 hours, multiple courses could be taken together (preferably in the same area) to consider 1 credit point. But where duration is available in week, count of hours will not be applicable.

The above structure is indicative only. And BoS/DC concerned may propose credit points of the courses offered through MOOCs platform based on the content and level (beginner/ intermediate/ advanced) of the courses.

1 (B) MOOCs for B. Pharm Program

For B. Pharm Honours degree, **8 credits** will have to be obtained by students in addition to the credits specified for B.Pharm degree curriculum during entire period of 4 years. These credits have to be obtained through the MOOCs platforms.

1 (C) MOOCs for UG Architecture Degree

For B. Arch Honours degree, **8 credits** will have to be obtained by the students in addition to B. Arch Curriculum during entire period of 5 years from MOOCs platform.

1 (D) MOOCs for Non-AICTE UG Programs (Non CBCS curriculums)

For Non-AICTE programs, a student will have to earn 16 credits from MOOCs in addition to 120 credits for UG degree.

The total of 16 credits that is required to attain eligibility for Honours degree is distributed over four years in the following way:

1st year: 4-8 credits 2ndyear: 4-8 credits 3rdyear: 4 credits

As mentioned earlier, Student has to cover courses in the first year:

MOOCs on R or Python Programming Language, MOOCs on Soft skill and MOOCs on Values & Ethics for the reason already mentioned.

The scheme of credit calculation would be same as mentioned above for different MOOCs platforms.

2. MOOCs for Research Scholars for Ph.D. degree

Research scholars have to take MOOCs as mandatory as a part of coursework for Ph.D. degree as per advice of the Research Supervisor. The credits for the course will be as per the assignment of credit for the course in the University website according to the length (in weeks) of the course, even if there is different credit assignment in the MOOCs platforms.

3. MOOCs for Credit Transfer

University had already introduced provision of credit transfer through MOOCs courses. Therefore, different courses of curriculum could be taken from MOOCs platform and credits could be transferred, if offered through online and credits are earned. However, to offer courses of curriculum through MOOCs platform like NETEL/SWAYAM/ Coursera/edX/Simplilearn etc, offering institute must get the course mapping (Mapping between the University course and that offered from the online platform) approved from the University for appropriate Credit Transfer Scheme.

If a student of the university is unable to attend a theory course due to attending internship or any other justified reason, the student may be allowed with special permission of the University to pursue equivalent MOOCs for against the theory course. However, content mapping to be completed preferably by BoS or appropriate authority is essential before opting the courses in MOOCs platform. More than one MOOCs courses may be necessary to be mapped to cover the syllabus of the theory course and the student has to complete all the MOOCs to cover the course. Credits earned in total in all the courses will be considered for equivalence and credit transfer.

Evaluation of the MOOCs course

Evaluation of the MOOCs courses would be done by the organization by whom it is being offered. In extraordinary circumstances, the modality of evaluation through certified personnel, online or offline, will be decided by the appropriate authority.

Uploading of MOOCs Data

Every Affiliated Institution has to upload the details of MOOCs data in respect of each student time to time in University's examinations portal and/or hard/soft copy as per instruction of the Controller of Examinations of the University. This is applicable for University's In-House Programs also.

4, MOOCs for Mandatory Additional Requirements (MAR)

MOOCs in MAR is provided for encouraging every student to enter in Digital Content form of Education from well-known Universities or organizations.

Students can choose any MOOCs course as per their interest area. There is no credit system for MOOCs in MAR as points could be earned as specified in the scheme and the MOOCs courses which are taken for earning credits for Honours degree will not be considered in MAR purpose.

The validity of uploaded certificates in the University portal is subject to acceptance of appropriate committee/expert review.

Colleges interested to deliver any course(s) online through MOOCs platform, should get vetted from the University regarding mapping of course for credit transfer/assessment process.

This notification supersedes all earlier instructions regarding MOOCs courses.