

The following recommendations were made by the Postgraduate Curriculum Review Committee in connection with M. Tech. programmes and courses at postgraduate level. Faculty Boards are requested to discuss these recommendations and send their comments to the undersigned by 1st March, 2013.

1. Discussion on structure of PG courses in the new curriculum.

The course structure of PG courses, as of now, is very similar to that of UG courses. It was proposed that the PG students should do fewer courses of greater intensity and a larger quantum of self-study in a semester. The suggestion to include separate credits for self-study was discussed. Also, the structure of PG courses should provide for adaptation of students in view of the varying abilities of the incoming students as the self study components could be used in some cases, to study material for making up for any knowledge gaps. The overall credit structure of the PG programs should be decided with this background. In this light, the committee recommended that the course structure should ensure that PG students develop the ability to learn a substantial amount of course material on their own, and the faculty work load for this should not substantially increase. With this in mind, the following were recommended by the committee:

- i) Self-study component should be explicitly defined in the course structure using L-T-P-S numbering in place of L-T-P of UG courses.
- ii) The self-study component could be used in various ways to make the PG students work on their own. Some examples:
 - a. A part of the study material for the course could be identified and announced, which would be part of examination / evaluation but would not be covered in lectures.
 - b. Study from prescribed study material which is undergraduate / pre-requisite to understanding of the current course.
 - c. Watching NPTEL and other such educational videos for material not being covered in lectures.
- iii) It was recommended that the self-study component should be evaluated by a common evaluation such as a written examination, with a weightage commensurate with the number of credits assigned to the self study (S) component of the course.
- iv) A minimum of 6 credits out of the 60 credits of an M.Tech. Programme should be allotted to self-study component. The Departments could decide which courses (Core, elective, etc) should have this component.

2. Discussion on the structure of the M.Tech. Programmes:

A detailed discussion was also held about the structure of M.Tech. Programme in the revised curriculum. The following recommendations were made:

- i. The M. Tech. programme in the new curriculum frame-work will continue to have 60 credits for completion.
- ii. There should be fewer courses per semester in the PG programme, each course demanding substantially more effort compared to the present structure, as detailed above.
- iii. Two types of Masters' programmes were recommended: One course-work oriented programme and the other Research / Project oriented programme. Only students with a certain minimum level of academic accomplishment in the first two semesters (CGPA of 7.5 or above) would be allowed to register for the one-year long (18 credits) project in the III semester, while the others would need to do additional course work, and would be allowed to register for only a shorter project (6 credits) in their III or IV semester.

- iv. The following semester-wise distribution of courses was recommended:

Project / Research Oriented programme:

- I and II semesters:** typically 3-4 lecture courses, with total credits of 16-18 credits in each semester.
- III semester:** 6 credits of project Part I + some minimal course work to make 12 credits.
- IV semester:** 12 credits project Part II.

Coursework oriented programme:

- I and II semesters:** typically 3-4 lecture courses, with total credits of 16-18 credits in each semester.
- III and IV semesters:** course work for 12 credits OR 6 credits of project + some minimal course work to make 12 credits.

- v. The projects should be deemed completed only when all the work is logically complete, and not when the time period is over. They must be periodically evaluated. In the evaluation done in May, an assessment of the progress must be made, and only such projects showing good progress should be allowed to carry on to completion. The others should be given a fail grade, leading to extension of M.Tech degree by another semester. In the extended semester, the student can opt for re-registering the project or registering for courses to complete the credits.
- vi. Students whose projects need an additional period for completion should be provided encouragement for the good work by allowing extension of stay and assistantship if feasible. Those with fail grade should not be extended these privileges.
- vii. Pass grade in the project should be B grade, and grade should only be awarded on logical completion of the project work.


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All Heads of Departments/Centres