

Dated: 16 JUL 2026

NOTIFICATION

The Standing Committee of the Academic Council, in its meeting held on **05.05.2026** vide Item No. **14**, approved the recommendations of the Deans' Committee (**guidelines for Multiple Exit of the subcommittee constituted vide Notification No. 16-63/2001-HPU (Genl.) dated 27.10.2024**) contained in **Spot Item No. 3** of its meeting held on **06.04.2026** regarding the **Guidelines for Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit in Academic Programmes** offered by Himachal Pradesh University under the **Undergraduate (UG) Degree Programme** in accordance with the **National Education Policy (NEP)**. These guidelines shall be implemented with effect from the **academic session 2026-27**, as detailed in the Annexure.

Encls. As above.

Endst. No. Even

Yours faithfully,

Registrar
H.P. University, Shimla-5.

Dated:

Copy for information and further necessary action to:-

1. The Dean of Studies, H.P. University, Shimla-5.
2. The Director, Higher Education, Shimla-1.
3. The Controller of Examination/ACOE, H.P.U. Shimla-5.
4. All the Dean of the Faculties, H.P. University, Shimla-5.
5. The Chairmen/Chairpersons/Directors of the Teaching Departments, H.P. University, Shimla-5./ The Director, HPUCBS, Ava-lodge, Shimla-5.
6. All the Principal of Govt./Non-Govt. colleges affiliated with H.P. University/ HPU, Regional Centre Dharmshala, Distt. Kangra/ Principal, Department of Evening Studies, The Mall. Shimla-1.
7. The DR/ AR, Exam (UG) /Secrecy/ Conduct/ Evaluation/ Re- Evaluation/ RME, HPU, Shimla-5.
8. All Section Officer (Exam-UG), HPU, Shimla-5.
9. Incharge, CCEW, HPU, Shimla-5.
10. The Web-Admin, H.P. University, Shimla-5 with the request to upload the notification on the University website.
11. **All above are requested to kindly download the notification from the University website i.e. www.hpumiv.ac.in**
12. Guard file.

Registrar

**Guidelines for
Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programmes
offered by Himachal Pradesh University
in Undergraduate (UG) Degree Programme
under NEP**

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1. Introduction

Flexible learning is important to choose one's academic pathway leading to the award of certificate, diploma, and degree. There are occasions when learners have to give up their education mid-way for various reasons. The records of the clearance of credits for such incomplete academic programmes remain unaccounted. Some contingency approaches are followed in a few Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by allowing the learner to settle for a lower level of certification. Such rigid boundaries need to be removed to ensure zero-year-loss to students in the event of exiting in-between. It will reduce the drop-out rate, thus improving Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), which is one of the major objectives of the National Education Policy, (NEP), 2020. Flexible learning also facilitates lifelong learning. These objectives can be achieved on the principle of a multiple entry and exit system along with the opportunity of learning from anywhere, anytime.

Highlighting the importance of flexible learning, NEP, 2020 states that imaginative and flexible curricular structures will enable creative combinations of disciplines for study and offer multiple entry and exit points and thus, remove the currently prevalent rigid boundaries. These would create new possibilities for students to choose and learn the subject(s) of their choice, while changing the HEI according to their preference, convenience, or necessity. In order to pave the way for seamless student mobility, NEP, 2020 envisages adjustments through and in the structure and length of the programmes and an Academic Bank of Credits (ABC). This shall ensure lucid student mobility between or within degree-granting HEIs through a formal system of credit recognition, credit accumulation, credit transfer and credit redemption thereby promoting distributed and flexible teaching-learning. The ABC is an academic service mechanism as a digital/virtual/online entity established and managed by the Ministry of Education (MoE)/UGC to facilitate students by making them academic account holders. To take this forward, NEP, 2020 promotes rigorous research-based specialization and opportunities for multidisciplinary work, including academia, government and interdisciplinary thinking at the graduate, Masters' and Doctoral level education. It also points out that, "Higher education qualifications leading to a degree/diploma/certificate shall be described by the National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) in terms of such learning outcomes."

The undergraduate degree should be of either a three- or four-year duration, with multiple entry and exit options within this period, with appropriate certifications. For example, a certificate after completing one year in a discipline or field including vocational and professional areas; a diploma after two years of study; or a Bachelor's degree after a three-year programme. The four- year

multidisciplinary Bachelor's programme, however, is the preferred option since it allows the opportunity to experience the full range of holistic and multidisciplinary education in addition to a focus on major and minor subjects as per the student's preference. The four-year programme may also lead to a degree with Research, if the student completes a rigorous research project in the major area(s) of study as specified by the HEI.

2. Objectives

The guidelines of the proposed multiple entry and exit option will serve the following objectives:

- Remove rigid boundaries and facilitate new possibilities for learners.
- Curtail the dropout rate and improve GER
- Offer creative combinations of disciplines of study that would enable multiple entry and exit points.
- Offer flexibility in curriculum and novel course options to students in addition to discipline specific specializations.
- Offer different designs of the Masters' programme.
- Enable credit accumulation and transfer along with provision of evaluation and validation of non-formal and informal learning for the award of a degree and encourage lifelong learning; and
- Facilitate encashing credits earned when the learner resumes his/her programmes of study.

3. Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)

The Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), a national-level facility will promote the flexibility of the curriculum framework and interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary academic mobility of students across the HEIs in the country with appropriate "credit transfer" mechanism. It shall be a mechanism to facilitate the students to choose their own learning path to attain a Degree/ Diploma/Certificate, working on the principle of multiple entry and exit as well as anytime, anywhere, and any level of learning. ABC shall enable the integration of multiple disciplines of higher learning leading to the desired learning outcomes including increased creativity, innovation, higher order thinking skills and critical analysis. ABC shall provide significant autonomy to the students by providing an extensive choice of courses for a programme of study, flexibility in curriculum, novel and engaging course options across a number of higher education disciplines/ institutions.

The multiple entry and exit options for students is facilitated at the undergraduate level. It would facilitate credit accumulation through the facility created by the ABC scheme in the “Academic Bank Account” opened for students across the country to transfer and consolidate the credits earned by them by undergoing courses in any of the eligible HEIs. The ABC allows for credit redemption through the process of commuting the accrued credits in the Academic Bank Account maintained in the ABC for the purpose of fulfilling the credits requirements for the award of certificate/diploma/degree by the authorized HEIs. Upon collecting a certificate, diploma or degree, all the credits earned till then, in respect of that certificate, diploma or degree, shall stand debited and deleted from the account concerned. HEIs offering programmes with the multiple entry and exit system need to register in the ABC to enable acceptance of multidisciplinary courses, credit transfer, and credit acceptance.

4. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM: www.swayam.gov.in) is India’s national Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform, designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of India’s Education Policy: access, equity, and quality. The University Grants Commission (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Regulations, 2021 have been notified in the Gazette of India, which now facilitates an institution to allow up to 40 per cent of the total courses being offered in a particular programme in a semester through the online learning courses offered through the SWAYAM platform. Universities with approval of the competent authority may adopt SWAYAM Courses for the benefit of the students. A student will have the option to earn credit by completing quality-assured MOOC programmes offered on the SWAYAM portal or any other online educational platform approved by the UGC/regulatory body from time to time.

5. Admission Paths for Undergraduate Programme (First Degree)

- Students who have successfully completed Grade 12 School Leaving Certificate shall be eligible for admission to a first degree programme.
- The admission shall be made on merit on the basis of criteria notified by the university, keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the UGC and other statutory bodies concerned and taking into account the reservation policy issued by the government concerned from time to time.

- Student enrolment shall be in accordance with the academic and physical facilities available keeping in mind the norms regarding the student-teacher ratio, the teaching-non-teaching staff ratio, laboratory, library, teaching-learning tools.
- The intake capacity shall be determined at least three months in advance by the university/institution through its academic bodies in accordance with the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the UGC and other statutory bodies concerned so that the same could be suitably incorporated in the admission brochure for the information of all concerned and uploaded on the institutional website.
- Depending upon the academic and physical facilities available, the HEIs may 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, or (b) already successfully completed a first degree programme and is desirous of and academically capable of pursuing another first degree programme in an allied subject.

6. Operational Details

To enable multiple entry and exit points in the academic programmes, qualifications such as certificate, diploma, degree are organized in a series of levels in an ascending order from level 4.5 to level 6 as per the Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes adopted by the Himachal Pradesh University. The four-year undergraduate programme may comprise courses under many categories.

Qualification Type and Credit Requirements for certificate, diploma, degree as adopted template of H.P. University are given in **Table. 1**.

The entry and exit options for students, who enter the undergraduate programme, are as follows:

1st Year

Entry 1: The entry requirement for Level 4.5 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, including specified levels of attainment at the secondary level of education specified in the programme admission regulations. Admission to the Bachelor degree programme of study is based on the evaluation of documentary evidence (including the academic record) of the applicant's ability to undertake and complete a Bachelor's degree programme.

Exit 1: A certificate will be awarded when a student exits at the end of 1st year (two semesters) (Level 4.5). The first year (two semesters) of the undergraduate programme builds on secondary education and requires 44 credits during the first year (two semesters) of the undergraduate programme, including 4 credits of I/A/P/C, for qualifying for an Undergraduate Certificate.

2nd Year

Entry 2. The programme of study at Level 5, comprising the second year of the Bachelor's degree, is an Undergraduate Diploma, and is open to those who have obtained Undergraduate Certificate after completing the first year (two semesters) of the undergraduate programme; and met the entrance requirements, including specified levels of attainment, in the programme admission regulations. Admission to a programme of study is based on the evaluation of documentary evidence (including the academic record) of the applicant's ability to undertake and complete a Bachelor's degree programme.

Exit 2: On successful completion of two years (four semesters), if a student exits, an Undergraduate Diploma shall be awarded (Level 5). An Undergraduate Diploma requires a total of 86 credits from Levels 4.5 and 5 (two years combined), which comprise 44 credits at level 4.5 (20 in first semester and 24, including 4 credits of I/A/P/C, in the 2nd semester) and 42 credits at level 5 (22 in the 3rd semester and 20 in the 4th semester).

3rd Year

Entry 3. The programme of study at Level 5.5, comprising the third year of the Bachelor's Degree, is an Undergraduate Degree, and is open to those who have successfully completed two years (four semesters) of the undergraduate programme; and have met the entrance requirements, including specified levels of attainment, in the programme admission regulations. Admission to a programme of study is based on the evaluation of documentary evidence (including the academic record) of the applicant's ability to undertake and complete a Bachelor's degree programme.

Exit 3: On successful completion of three years (six semesters), the relevant Bachelor's degree shall be awarded (Level 5.5). A Bachelor's degree requires a total of 128 credits from levels 4.5, 5.0 and 5.5 (Three years combined), which comprise 44 credits at level 4.5 (20 in first semester and 24, including 4 credits of I/A/P/C, in the 2nd semester); 42 credits at level 5 (22 in the 3rd semester and 20 in the 4th semester) and 42 credits at level 5.5 (22 in the 5th semester and 20 in the 6th semester).

4th Year

Entry 4. An individual seeking admission to a Bachelor's (Honours/Honours with Research) Degree (Level 6) in the fourth year (7th and 8th Semesters), in a specified field of learning should

have successfully completed all requirements of the relevant three-year bachelor degree (six semesters) (Level 5.5). Moreover, a student opting for Bachelor's (Honours with Research) Degree in the fourth year should have a minimum CGPA of 7.5 in the three-year Bachelor's Degree.

Exit 4: On the successful completion of the fourth year (eight semesters), a student shall be awarded a Bachelor's (Honours/Honours with Research) Degree. A Bachelor's (Honours/Honours with Research) Degree requires a total of 168 credits from levels 4.5 to 6 (Four Years combined), which comprise 44 credits at Level 4.5 (20 in first semester and 24, including 4 credits of I/A/P/C, in the 2nd semester); 42 credits at level 5 (22 in the 3rd semester and 20 in the 4th semester); 42 credits at level 5.5 (22 in the 5th semester and 20 in the 6th semester) and 40 credits at level 6 (20 in the 7th semester and 20 in the 8th semester). Moreover, a student opting for Bachelor's (Honours with Research) Degree requires to complete a dissertation of 12 credits, included in the total of 168 credits required for the successful completion of the Degree.

Table-1

Qualification Type and Credit Requirements		
Levels	Qualification title	Credit requirements
Level 4.5	Undergraduate Certificate (in the field of learning/discipline) for those who exit after the first year (two semesters) of the undergraduate programme. Programme duration: first year (two semesters) of the undergraduate programme.	44
Level 5	Undergraduate Diploma (in the field of learning/discipline) for those who exit after two years (four semesters) of the undergraduate programme. Programme duration: First two years (four semesters) of the undergraduate programme.	86
Level 5.5	Bachelor' Degree Programme duration: Three years (six semesters).	128
Level 6	Bachelor' Degree (Honours/Honours with Research) Programme duration: Four years (eight semesters).	168

7. Synchronization of General Education with Skill and Vocational Education

There is no change in the course structure of BVOC. It shall continue as per existing policy of H.P. University.