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Category- I University Status awarded by UGC

No. 2026MAR/AAMS-III/C-179/32642

Date : 25th March, 2026

**Sub. :- Guidelines for Fourth Year Honours and Honours with Research
Program in line with MahaSARC guidelines with effect from Academic
Year 2027-28 (Ref. Fifth Meeting of MahaSARC December 23 and 24, 2025)**

CIRCULAR :-

All the Principals of the Affiliated Colleges & Autonomous Colleges, all Academic Heads of Departments, the Directors of the Recognized Institutions/Centers, Director, Centre for Distance & Online Education, Director, Dharmaveer Anand Dighe Thane Sub-Campus, Co-ordinator, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Kalyan Sub-Campus, Director, Chitrakar Padmabhushan Dr. Dhananjay Keer Ratnagiri Sub-Campus, Director, Sindhudurg Sub-Campus, Principal, Vishwabhusan Bharatratna Dr. B. A. Ambedkar College, Ambadave, Ratnagiri and Principal, V.V. Dalvie College, Talere, Sindhudurg are hereby informed that the Academic Council at its meeting held on 25th March, 2026 vide Item No. 10.14 has passed the following guidelines :

The detail guidelines given under Curricular Framework & Degree Nomenclature, as governed by G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated April 20, 2023 (Credit Framework under Three/Four-Years UG Programme with Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit options for All Non-AICTE non-professional UG degree programs), G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated May 16, 2023 (Credit Framework for PG Curriculum for All Non-AICTE non-professional PG degree programs) and G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated July 04, 2023 (Credit Framework for UG Engineering Education with Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit options) forms the basis of design of Fourth Year Honours and Fourth Year Honours with Research Program.

The 4-year Non-AICTE non-professional UG programme is structured into eight semesters, offering two primary pathways after the third year:

- i. 4-Year UG Degree with Honours (6 Verticals:** 1. Major or Core, 2. Minor, 3. Open Electives, 4. Vocational and Skill Enhancement Courses, 5. AEC, VEC & IKS, 6. Co-curricular Courses, OJT, FP, CEP)
: Awarded to those students who complete 160–176 credits successfully over four years with a specific focus on their Major subject and additional 4 Credits of Internship during Fourth Year.
- ii. 4-Year UG Degree Honours with Research (6 Verticals:** 1. Major or Core, 2. Minor, 3. Open Electives, 4. Vocational and Skill Enhancement Courses, 5. AEC, VEC & IKS, 6. Co-curricular Courses, OJT, FP, CEP, RP)



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The relevant sub-sections of Section 2 (Credit Framework under Three/Four-Years UG Programme with Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit options) dealing with four year UG Honours and Honours with Research Program of G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated April 20, 2023 are as follows:

- (b) With effect from Academic Year 2023-24, three years/four years Degree Program will be introduced. Thus, the Fourth year Honours/ Honours with Research program (Level 6.0) will begin with effect from Academic Year 2026-27.
- (c) Under four-year UG Degree (Honours with Research), the students will work on a research project or dissertation of 12 credits in the fourth year in the respective Major Subject. The decision regarding the distribution of 12 credits in Semester VII and VIII of fourth year will be taken by Academic Authorities of University/ Autonomous Colleges.
- (d) The fourth year of the four-year UG programme will not be granted to any such college as 'natural growth'. The affiliated colleges conducting 3-year UG degree programme will seek permission to commence fourth year UG programme as extension by following the prevailing statutory procedures. However, Colleges already having permission and recognition for the PG degree programme along with UG degree programme in the same Major shall be automatically allowed to continue PG degree programme and conduct the fourth year of UG Honors Degree programme without undergoing any additional procedures. Similarly, the colleges with approved PG programme and Ph.D. Research Centre shall be automatically allowed to continue PG Degree programme and start the fourth year of UG Honors with Research Degree programme without undergoing any additional procedures. For students of Colleges running only three year UG Degree Programme, the University shall evolve suitable mechanisms for admission to fourth-year honours program in other Colleges.

Section 8. Design of PG / Master's programmes (subsection f) of same GR quotes as follows:

The curricular design of first year of two-year PG Programme will be aligned to that of fourth-year of four year Honors UG Degree Programmes (The fourth year of four years Honors UG degree shall be identical in structure to the first year of two year PG programmes offered after three year UG programmes.). Research Methodology (aligned with seventh semester of fourth year of Honors and Honors with Research Degree of four year UG Programmes) and Internship of 4 credits (aligned with the eighth semester of the fourth year of Honors Degree of four year UG Programmes) shall be introduced in the first semester and in the second semester, respectively of first year of Two Year PG



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Additional Guidelines for the Implementation of 4th Year Honours and Honours with Research Program

1. Eligibility for Students for admission to Fourth Year Honours Program

Credit Completion through first three years: Students must have successfully earned the required credits (typically around 120–132 credits) by the end of the third year.

2. Eligibility for Students and Definition of Intake/ Batch Size for admission to Fourth Year Honours with Research Program:

Credit Completion with specific CGPA: Students must typically obtain a specific CGPA of 7.5 while successfully earning the required credits (typically around 120–132 credits) by the end of the third year.

For 4th Year Honours with Research Program, the sanctioned Class Strength will depend upon the number of Recognised Ph. D. guides available in the concerned Subject. The Formula will be as follows:

Definition of Intake/ Batch Size:

Sanctioned Intake = Number of Recognised PhD Guides × 5

3. Academic Bank of Credits (ABC):

All students must be registered in the ABC portal to facilitate credit transfers and the multiple entry/exit system.

4. University Departments/ Schools/ Institutes :

University Departments/ Schools/ Institutes shall start 4th year of UG Honours and Honours with Research program automatically where student from affiliated/autonomous college can seek admission through the process defined for lateral entry.

5. Examination Pattern:

Examinations will be conducted semester-wise, consisting of Continuous Evaluation (CCE) and Semester End Examination (SEE) : 50:50.

6. Lateral Entry:

Students may seek lateral entry into the 4th year at a different College or University Department where 4th Year Honours and Honours with Research Program is already granted. Lateral entry into the programme of study leading to the Four-year Bachelor's Degree with Honors /Honours with Research will be based on the validation of prior learning outcomes achieved and subject to availability based on intake capacity of that College/ University Department. The committee constituted to define guidelines for Lateral Entry (Prerequisites, vacancy against intake as defined above, Credit Transfer through ABC etc). The Guidelines will be issued by the University.



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7. The UGC Regulations, 2021 permit up to 40% of the total courses being offered in a particular programme in a semester through the Online Learning Courses offered through the SWAYAM platform and/ or as approved by MahaSARC and Academic Council.

Engineering :-

UG Engg Curricular Framework as defined by G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated July 04, 2023 offers following pathways

i) Regular B Tech / B E Program, Single Multidisciplinary Minor (MDM)

7 Verticals: 1. Major or Programme Core, 2. Engg. And Sci. Sub, 3. MDM, 4. Open Electives, 5. Vocational and Skill Enhancement Courses, 6. AEC, VEC & IKS, 7. Co-curricular Courses, OJT, FP, CEP, RP

ii) B Tech Single Major, Double Minor (Multidisciplinary Minor and Emerging Specialization Minor)

8 Verticals: 1. Major or Programme Core, 2. Engg. And Sci Sub, 3. MDM, 4. Emerging Specialization Minor (additional 18-20 Credits), 5. Open Electives, 6. Vocational and Skill Enhancement Courses, 7. AEC, VEC & IKS, 8. Co-curricular Courses, OJT, FP, CEP, RP

iii) Honours B Tech Degree, Single Multidisciplinary Minor

7 Verticals: 1. Major or Programme Core (additional 18-20 Credits), 2. Engg. And Sci Sub, 3. MDM, 4. Open Electives, 5. Vocational and Skill Enhancement Courses, 6. AEC, VEC & IKS, 7. Co-curricular Courses, OJT, FP, CEP, RP

It is further directed to disseminate widely these guidelines amongst the students, faculty & other stakeholders.

(The circular is available on the University's website www.mu.ac.in).

MUMBAI – 400 032
25th March, 2026


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To,

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AC/10.14/25/03/2025

Copy forwarded with Compliments for information to:-

- 1) The Deans, Faculties of Science & Technology, Commerce and Management, Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies
- 2) The Chairman, Board of Studies,
- 3) The Director, Board of Examinations and Evaluations,
- 4) The Director, Department of Students Development,
- 5) The Director, Department of Information & Communication Technology,
- 6) The Director, Centre for Distance & Online Education (CDOE Admin), Vidyanagari.
- 7) The Deputy Registrar, Admissions, Enrolment, Eligibility & Migration Department (AEM).