UGC Guidelines on Academic Calendar for the First Year of Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Students of the Universities for the Session 2020-21 in View of COVID-19 Pandemic

Respected Madam/Sir,

The University Grants Commission (UGC) had issued Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in View of COVID-19 Pandemic and Subsequent Lockdown on 29th April, 2020. In the said Guidelines it was conveyed that in respect of intermediate/ final semester/ year students the academic session 2021-2022 be started w.e.f. 01.08.2020. The academic session for the First Year of Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Students of the Universities for the Session 2020-21 was proposed to be started w.e.f. 01.09.2020.

The Expert Committee on request of UGC revisited the Guidelines for Examination and Academic Calendar. Based on the Report of the Committee the UGC issued Revised Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar on 06.07.2020. In the said Guidelines it was conveyed that the terminal semester/ final examinations be completed by the end of September 2020.

The UGC again requested the Expert Committee to revisit the guidelines dated 29.04.2020 and 06.07.2020 and suggest an Academic Calendar for the first year of UG and PG programmes for the session 2020-2021.


You are requested to adopt the above guidelines and take necessary steps to implement the same accordingly.

Every university/ college has to ensure that it is prepared in all respects to carry out the academic activities following necessary advisories/guidelines/directions issued by the Central/ State Government, Ministry of Education (MoE) or UGC from time to time to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Rajnish Jain)

Encl.: As above.

To:
1. The Vice Chancellors of all Universities
2. The Principals of all Colleges

Copy for kind information to:
1. The Principal Secretary/Secretary to the Governors of all state/Lt. Governors of all Union Territories.
2. The Principal Secretary/Secretary, Department of Higher Education, all State Government/Union Territories
UGC Guidelines on Academic Calendar for the First Year of Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Students of the Universities for the Session 2020-21 in View of COVID-19 Pandemic

University Grants Commission
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi

September, 2020
UGC Guidelines on Academic Calendar for the First Year of Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Students of the Universities for the Session 2020-21 in View of COVID-19 Pandemic

Introduction

The University Grants Commission taking a note of the COVID-19 pandemic constituted an Expert Committee in April, 2020 to safeguard the interests of the academic fraternity in general and students in particular to ensure health, safety and security of the students, faculty and staff and also to continue academic activities, conducting the examinations and declaration of results, facilitating the students to participate in further admissions, placement processes, research and training etc. and charting out a plan for the next academic session.

The Expert Committee deliberated on various issues and also consulted other stakeholders and noted that the lockdown has been imposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Governments to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and also the results of the Class XII Board examinations are likely to be declared in the month of July 2020.

The Expert Committee submitted its report in April, 2020, based on which the UGC issued the Guidelines on 29.04.2020.

The University Grants Commission in June 2020 noted that the number of COVID-19 cases was rising exponentially and as per the reports the number would increase further. In view of the then prevalent situation and projected growth of cases due to COVID-19 pandemic, it was not feasible to conduct the examination even in the month of July 2020. Accordingly, the University Grants Commission requested the Expert Committee to review the Guidelines dated 29.04.2020, in view of emerging COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The Expert Committee again deliberated on the specific issues and also after due consultation with other stakeholders submitted its report in July, 2020, based on which the UGC issued the Guidelines on 06.07.2020.

The University Grants Commission in August 2020 requested the Expert Committee to revisit the guidelines dated 29.04.2020 and 06.07.2020 and suggest a revised Admissions and Academic Calendar, and other connected matters, for the first year of UG and PG programmes for the session 2020-2021.

The Commission at its emergent meeting held on 21.09.2020 considered the Report of the Expert Committee and based on the Report approved the “UGC Guidelines on Academic Calendar for the First Year of Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Students of the Universities for the Session 2020-21 in View of COVID-19 Pandemic".
Guidelines

In continuation of the UGC Guidelines dated 29.04.2020 (including in partial modification thereof) and 06.07.2020, the following guidelines have been framed on academic calendar for the first year under graduate and post graduate students in the Universities and colleges:

1. The institutions where admissions are solely through entrance tests and have completed the necessary requirements or are likely to complete these requirements in near future, may start their academic session of 1st year at the earliest. If necessity arises, provisional admissions may also be made. The relevant documents of qualifying examination be accepted up to 31.12.2020.

2. Merit/ entrance based admissions to the first year programmes for the session 2020-21 be completed by the end of October 2020. The last date for admissions to fill up the remaining vacant seats shall be 30.11.2020

3. The academic calendar for the first year students’ proposed in the Guidelines dated 29.04.2020 stands amended. Hence, the academic Session 2020-21 may commence from 01.11.2020 for first year students. Accordingly, the following calendar is suggested for the academic session 2020-2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission Process (To be completed)</th>
<th>31.10.2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commencement of Classes of above students</td>
<td>01.11.2020*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh batch (First Semester/Year)</td>
<td>01.11.2020*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory Break</td>
<td>01.03.2021 to 07.03.2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct of Examinations</td>
<td>08.03.2021 to 26.03.2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester Break</td>
<td>27.03.2021 to 04.04.2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement of Classes for Even Semester</td>
<td>05.04.2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory Break</td>
<td>01.08.2021 to 08.08.2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct of Examinations</td>
<td>09.08.2021 to 21.08.2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester Break</td>
<td>22.08.2021 to 29.08.2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement of Next Academic Session for this batch</td>
<td>30.08.2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* If there is a delay in declaration of result of the qualifying examinations, the universities may plan and start the academic session by 18.11.2020. The teaching learning process may continue in offline/online/blended mode.

4. All the universities may follow a 6-day week pattern for the academic session 2020-21 and 2021-2022 to compensate the loss for this batch of students.
5. In order to avoid financial hardship being faced by the parents due to lockdown and related factors, full refund of fees be made on account of all cancellation of admissions/ migration of students, up to 30.11.2020, for this very session as a special case. To be crystal clear, the entire fees including all charges be refunded in totality (Zero Cancellation charges) on account of cancellation/ migration up to 30.11.2020. Thereafter, on cancellation/ withdrawal of admissions up to 31.12.2020, the entire fee collected from a student be refunded in full after deduction of not more than Rs.1000/- as processing fee.

6. The universities are requested to compensate the delay in the start of academic session in the subsequent years by curtailing the breaks/ vacations so that this batch of students would get their final results for award of degree timely.

7. The Guidelines as issued on 29.04.2020 and 06.07.2020 highlighting the modes of teaching, conduct of examinations, importance of physical & social distancing etc. shall remain unchanged and shall remain mandatory in that respect.

8. In view of the present scenario and future uncertainties:
   
   i. The universities may adopt and implement these Guidelines in a transparent manner by making alterations/ additions/ modifications/ amendments to deal with particular situation(s) in the best interest of students, educational institution and the entire education system, except in respect of those guidelines that are mandatory.

   ii. If the university faces difficulty in making admissions as per the existing policy, it may adopt alternative modes of admission process, if otherwise legally tenable.

   iii. In case of educational institutions located at places where the Government (Centre/ State) have imposed restrictions on gathering of public, the institutions may plan accordingly. In any case, the above recommendations shall not cause any restrictions on the guidelines/directions issued by the appropriate Government/ competent authority.

*Notwithstanding the above Guidelines, every university/ college has to ensure that it is prepared in all respects to carry out the academic activities following necessary advisories/guidelines/directions issued by the Central/State Government, MHRD or UGC from time to time to prevent the spread of COVID-19.*
CIRCULAR

Subject:- Circular to All Technical Institutes, Deemed Universities And Universities Conducting Technical Courses Approved By AICTE (Except PGDM/PGCM)-reg.

As we are all aware, our country is going through a National Emergency that has arisen due to the outbreak of Covid-19. Ensuring safety precautions during the threat posed by COVID-19, it would be fundamental responsibility of all citizens of India, during this hour of crisis. And with a view to ensure quality education to all the aspiring students of India, various measures are being taken up by the Government and associated organization.

As per the revised guidelines on examination and academic calendar issued by, UGC on 6.7.2020, AICTE has issued revised Academic Calendar for AY 2020-21 for all the Technical Institutions on 13.8.2020

- According to the revised Academic calendar issued on 13.08.2020, the last date for cancellation of seats of technical courses with full refund is 10th November, 2020.
- It is further stipulated that in the event of a student withdrawing before 10th November 2020, the entire fee collected from the student, after a deduction of the processing Fee of not more than ₹1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) shall be refunded by the Institution. It would not be permissible for Institutions to retain the School/Institution Leaving Certificates in original.
- In case, if a student leaves the course after 10th November 2020 and if the vacated seat is consequently filled by another student by the last date of admission i.e.15th November 2020, the Institution must refund the Fee collected after a deduction of the processing Fee of not more than ₹1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) and proportionate deduction of tuition fee and hostel rent, where applicable.
- In case the vacated seat after 10th November 2020 is not filled by the Institute till 15th November 2020, the Institution should refund the Security Deposit and return the original documents.
- The Institution should not demand Fee for the subsequent semesters / years from the students cancelling their admission at any point of time. Fee refund along with the return of Certificates should be completed within 7 days of cancellation.

Institutions not following guidelines issued by the Council regarding refund of fee for cancellation of admission or delaying refunds shall be liable to punitive action as stipulated in the AICTE regulations/APH 2020-21.

Kindly take note that AICTE has been empowered under Section 10(10) of AICTE Act to “take all necessary steps to prevent commercialization of technical education “Non-refund of fee after cancellation of admission, amounts to commercialization of education”.

NOTE: The revised Academic Calendar is effective for AY 2020-21 only.

To

The Principal/Directors
All Technical Institutions