

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE  
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

*An autonomous institution under the  
Ministry of Education, Government of India*



GUIDE BOOK OF REGULATIONS FOR  
THE BS-MS DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

*2023 - 24*  
*2024 - 25*

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# भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान तिरुवनंतपुरम

भारत सरकार, शिक्षा मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत एक स्वायत्त संस्थान



## BS-MS डुएल डिग्री कार्यक्रम के विनियमों की संकलन

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This Guidebook<sup>1</sup> contains information on the rules and regulations of the BS-MS program, applicable to students admitted in 2023 or later. Students are expected to adhere to all the academic program's regulations and have an understanding of the requirements. The rules and regulations of the academic programs are subject to periodic revision and the Institute reserves the right to amend, revise or modify them without prior notice. For situations not addressed in this Guidebook, the decision of the Academic Senate will be final and binding.

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यह BS-MS कार्यक्रम के नियमों और विनियमों की गाइडबुक है और, सन् २०२३ (या बाद में) में प्रवेश पाने वाले छात्रों के लिए लागू है। छात्रों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे सभी शैक्षणिक कार्यक्रम के नियमों का पालन करें और आवश्यकताओं की समझ रखें। यह नियम और विनियमों में संसोधन हो सकते हैं। इस गाइडबुक में जिन स्थितियों का समाधान नहीं किया गया है, उनके लिए अकादमिक सीनेट का निर्णय अंतिम और बाध्यकारी होगा।

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# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



## **Introduction**

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram (IISER TVM) is an esteemed autonomous institution established in 2008 under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Dedicated to advancing scientific research and education, IISER TVM upholds international standards in these fields. The Institute offers a unique approach to learning by integrating research into undergraduate education, fostering a spirit of inquiry, and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration among students and faculty. With its commitment to excellence, IISER TVM aims to nurture the next generation of scientists and innovators.

The campus of IISER TVM is situated at Vithura, at the foothills of the Ponmudi Hills, about 40 km from Thiruvananthapuram. The campus is blessed with rich greenery, three streams, a river running through it and a spectacular mountain backdrop.

The fully residential institute provides hostel and dining facilities to all the students. Apart from the regular mess facilities available to the residents, the students have the option to explore various multi-cuisine eateries located inside the campus. The well-equipped computer laboratories and a resourceful central library with online access are available for all students. The Institute Health Center is staffed with doctors and nurses, providing round the clock primary medical services. On campus, sports facilities like football, volleyball, basketball, tennis courts and an indoor stadium help to keep up the physical and mental well-being of the students. Various student clubs, like the Science Club, Cultural Club, and Music Club, host programs throughout the year, making campus life vibrant and jovial.

## Academics

IISER TVM offers its five-year BS-MS dual degree program in the Basic Sciences, namely **Biological Sciences**, **Chemical Sciences**, **Mathematical Sciences** and **Physical Sciences**, and in the Integrated and Interdisciplinary Sciences (*i*<sup>2</sup> Sciences) as *i*<sup>2</sup> **Biological Sciences**, *i*<sup>2</sup> **Chemical Sciences**, *i*<sup>2</sup> **Mathematical Sciences**, *i*<sup>2</sup> **Physical Sciences**, *i*<sup>2</sup> **Data Sciences** and *i*<sup>2</sup> **Earth Environment and Sustainability Sciences**. The Institute also offers MSc, Integrated PhD (IPhD) and PhD programs in basic and applied sciences. These programs are offered at the six schools and two interdisciplinary research centres that form the academic core of the Institute.

IISER TVM follows a *Choice Based Credit System*, where the learner is central to her/his academic experience, offering flexibility in learning and a broader educational experience. It allows each student to tailor their learning experience according to their own interests, their strengths and future career goals. This guidebook is intended to allow each student to carve a successful academic path while satisfying the requirements of the BS-MS program.



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# BS-MS Program

## Introduction

The flagship 5 year BS-MS program has undergone revision to align with the tenets of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The curriculum implements a choice-based credit system and enables students to exit the program at multiple exit points with appropriate qualifications, subject to satisfying minimum credit and grade point requirements. The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates foundational and advanced courses in basic and applied sciences, complemented by offerings in skills and ability enhancement and opportunities for to cultivate soft skills. These features contribute to the all-round development of students at the Institute with ample opportunities for engineering one's own learning experience. The FOUNDATION COURSES provides training in the fundamentals of natural sciences, mathematics, and computation along with ability and skills enhancement courses, enabling students to choose one major area that they would like to pursue and specialise in. Students enrolled in BS-MS degree program have a choice to get the BS-MS degree in one of the four Basic Sciences or they can choose from one of the six newly conceptualised Integrated and Interdisciplinary Sciences ( $i^2$  Sc) streams.

Academic Office website: <https://academics.iisertvm.ac.in>

## Academic Calendar

The academic year at IISER TVM commences towards the end of July, and is divided into 2 semesters of approximately 17 weeks each, interspersed by the winter and summer recesses.

- Varsha Semester: August – November
- Winter Recess: December
- Vasant Semester: January – April
- Summer Recess: May – July

## Overall Course Structure

The table below shows the typical Course Structure and Credit Distribution across Semesters 1 - 8.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
1XX	2XX	2XX	2XX - 3XX	3XX	3XX - 4XX	4XX	4XX - 5XX
Foundation Courses	Foundation Courses	Pre-Major Courses	CORE	CORE	CORE	CORE	DSE
			CORE	CORE	CORE	CORE	DSE
			CORE	CORE	CORE	DSE	Project I (12)
			CORE	CORE	CORE	DSE	
			CORE	CORE	DSE	DSE/GE	
			GE	GE	GE	GE	
Skills Enhancement   Ability Enhancement			Skills/Ability/Humanities (6)				
21	23	23	~20	~20	~20	~20	~20

CORE: Compulsory Courses in the Major subject, including Thematic Courses for  $i^2$ Sc. streams

DSE: Discipline Specific Electives - Electives in the Major subject

GE: General Electives - Electives in non-Major subjects, including a Minor subject for the Basic Sciences BSMS streams

The last row shows the number of credits prescribed in each semester. For Semesters 4 - 10, the number of CORE/DSE/GE courses and total credits are representative and vary across the various BS-MS streams. Refer to the program/stream-specific course tables in the course catalogue and online for the correct information.

The courses in the **Semesters 1 - 2** comprise the FOUNDATION COURSES, common to all students in the BS-MS program. The curriculum covers fundamentals of natural sciences, mathematics and computation, along with courses that enrich language and scientific communication skills. Typically, a theory course consists of 2-3 hours of lectures per week, supplemented by a 1 hour tutorial held in small groups under the supervision of lecturers and dedicated teaching assistants. The laboratory-based courses are held in staggered batches to ensure adequate opportunities for all individuals to access instruments and associated facilities.

In **Semester 3** a student pursues PRE-MAJOR COURSES in three selected subjects from Biology, Chemistry, Data Science, Earth Environmental Sustainability Sciences, Physics, and Mathematics. Stu-

dents may choose one of the allowed combinations of three subjects in which they will credit 6 courses (2 courses in each subject) along with a course in humanities and computing/programming. The allowed pre-major combinations are, **BCE**, **BCM**, **DMP**, **BMP**, **CMP**, **BDM**, **CDM**, **PME**, **CME**, **BME**.

At the end of **Semester 3**, the students make their choice regarding either the Basic Sciences BSMS or for  $i^2$  Sciences BSMS in one of the ten streams below.

1. Basic Sciences BS-MS

- **Biological Sciences**
- **Chemical Sciences**
- **Mathematical Sciences**
- **Physical Sciences**

2.  $i^2$  Sciences BS-MS ([iisertvm.ac.in/i2sciences](http://iisertvm.ac.in/i2sciences))

- $i^2$  **Biological Sciences**
- $i^2$  **Chemical Sciences**
- $i^2$  **Mathematical Sciences**
- $i^2$  **Physical Sciences**
- $i^2$  **Data Sciences**
- $i^2$  **Earth Environment & Sustainability Sciences**

Allotment to any of these 10 streams will be on a competitive basis among all candidates who opt for each of the streams. Selection will be based on the performance of the candidates in Semesters 1 - 3, along with weightage given to performance in the courses relevant to the core subject of the Basic Sciences or  $i^2$  Sciences stream opted for.

Currently, the maximum number of students that may be admitted to the various  $i^2$  Sciences programs are restricted to 15 each for  $i^2$  **Biological Sciences**,  $i^2$  **Chemical Sciences**,  $i^2$  **Mathematical Sciences**,  $i^2$  **Physical Sciences**, and 20 for  $i^2$  **Data Sciences**, and  $i^2$  **Earth Environment & Sustainability Sciences**. Allotment to each of the Basic Sciences streams is typically limited to 55.

In **Semesters 4 - 10** students pursue core and advanced courses in the Major subject. They are also required to choose elective courses at the appropriate levels to enhance the breadth of their knowledge. Students opting for BSMS *Major* degree in any one of the four Basic Sciences streams may also choose to take courses that lead to a *Minor* degree in another subject. Both Major and Minor choices will be reflected in the BS-MS degree certificate awarded on successful completion of the program. There is no minor option available for BS-MS *i*<sup>2</sup> Sc program.

**Internships:**

To foster scientific values and gain exposure in frontier areas of research, students are encouraged to pursue internships (research projects) each year during the summer recess (May - July). They may undertake project work under a Research Supervisor at any recognized university, institute, research laboratory, or industry of their choice, either in India or abroad. Students are encouraged to apply for scholarships offered by various institutes, academies, state and national governments and international academic bodies for such internships. Information on possible national and international internships is circulated by the Placement and Career Counselling Cell (PCPC) and is also available on the Academic Office website.

**Courses:** The FOUNDATION COURSES and the CORE COURSES in each stream are designed to prepare students for competitive examinations and various National Eligibility Tests for doctoral studies in India and abroad.

**Course Catalogue:**The complete list of courses offered by various schools is available on the Academic Office website and is published annually as the COURSE CATALOGUE.

**Research Projects:** All students are required to undertake a research project in Semester 8, which may extend into Semesters 9 - 10 as the MS Project, if applicable.

**Medium of Instruction:** The medium of instruction, examination and project report for all courses is English. All students are of-

ferred courses in communication skills as a part of the FOUNDATION COURSES to enhance their abilities.

**Note:** The overall course structure and related guidelines of the BS-MS program are subject to revision.

## Semester Registration

- Every student must register at the beginning of a new semester on the registration day notified by the academic office.
- Registration involves payment of the prescribed fees for the semester and selection of courses that a student enrolls in.
- Late semester registration fee of Rs. 250/- per day to a maximum of Rs. 1750/- for a week will be levied from the first day of commencement of the class.
- Late registration beyond the first week of the semester may be allowed with the permission of the Dean of Academics Affairs or the Director of the Institute.
- Every student is assigned a Faculty Adviser who will advise the student in all academic matters. During the first three semesters a Mentor acts as the Faculty Advisor.
- Students should also register for all courses they wish to take in that semester on the day of the registration. (If necessary with due consultation of their faculty advisor).
- BS-MS students can register and credit MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) from NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) and SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds), SWAYAM Plus platforms, which are NOT offered by IISER TVM. A student may obtain a maximum of 6 credits from such courses to contribute towards Minor/Elective courses. Applicable fees for such courses have to be borne by the student independent of the tuition fees paid to IISER TVM.

## School Committee on Undergraduate Programs

All academic and student-related activities of the BS-MS program in each School are overseen by the School Committee on the Undergraduate Program (SCUP). The SCUP comprises four faculty members of the school along with student representatives. SCUP is responsible for all academic and associated student matters, e.g. curriculum modifications, course evaluations, undergraduate teaching and research. The schoolwise list of SCUP committee members' is available at: (<https://academics.iisertvm.ac.in/people/team>)

All academic related students' matters for Major students (in semesters 4 - 10) should be reported to the convener of the SCUP and may be forwarded to the Academic Office with due recommendations of the SCUP. BS-MS students in the first 3 semesters may approach their faculty mentor and/or the BSMS Coordinator.

## Guidelines for MOOC Courses

1. At the beginning of each semester, the SCUP of each School will recommend a list of MOOC courses that students may credit for that particular semester. This list will be based on inputs from students regarding desired courses and/or recommendations from faculty members, program coordinators, etc.
2. Schools will assign a Coordinator for all such courses registered by students.
3. Students are required to submit the relevant **form** available at the Academic Office website, CAMPUS MATE and in the Academic Office to register for a MOOC course
4. To confirm their registration, students must provide the receipt of the payment of fees for the examination registration by the "last date for filling exam registration form," as announced on the relevant website, and keep the Academic Office informed about the examination date.
5. Students are responsible for completing all components of these courses, including assignments and examinations, and obtaining the official grade card and certificate of completion from the respective agency.



6. The Academic Office will ensure that examinations for any regular course are not scheduled on the same day as a MOOC course, as informed by the student. The Academic Office will not entertain any further communication regarding this matter.
7. A copy of the completion certificate is to be forwarded by the course Coordinator to be entered into the official records of the student, including the grade transcript.
8. The grade for these courses will be recorded as Satisfactory (pass) or Unsatisfactory (fail) as declared by the completion certificate.
9. Courses completed with Satisfactory grades will count towards the total credit requirement for completing the academic program but will not be reflected in any of the grade point averages.

## Scholarships

INSPIRE (<http://www.online-inspire.gov.in/>) is the main scholarship available to eligible BS-MS students.

Students are actively encouraged to apply and earn scholarships to support their studies. The Academic Office will endorse such applications initiated by the students. However, final responsibility for the application and satisfying its requirements including renewal of the scholarship lies with the student. The guidelines provided by the funding agencies are applicable for the continuation of such scholarships. For more details please visit Scholarships page on the Academic Office website: (<https://academics.iisertvm.ac.in/academics/scholarships>)

At any given point in time, a student may be allowed to draw scholarships from only one source.



# Course Codes and Assessment

## BS-MS Course Codes

FOUNDATION, CORE and THEMATIC courses are numbered in the format,

XYZ LCC (LTPC)

ELECTIVE courses are numbered in the format,

XYZ LCCD (LTPC)

The numbering may be understood as

XYZ	:	Subject /Programme Code
L	:	Level of the course (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5)
CC (CCD)	:	Course number
L	:	Lecture hours per week
T	:	Tutorial hours per week
P	:	Practical hours per week
C	:	Credits

## Subject/Programme Codes

BIO	:	Biological Sciences	CHY	:	Chemical Sciences
MAT	:	Mathematical Sciences	PHY	:	Physical Sciences
IDC	:	Interdisciplinary Sciences	HUM	:	Humanities
EES	:	Earth Env. & Sus. Sciences	DSC	:	$i^2$ Data Sciences
I2B	:	$i^2$ Biological Sciences	I2C	:	$i^2$ Chemical Sciences
I2M	:	$i^2$ Mathematical Sciences	I2P	:	$i^2$ Physical Sciences

MOOCs certified as a major/minor subject elective will be allotted the subject/program codes as BIOX, CHYX, DSCX, EESX, MATX, PHYX or HUMX. All other MOOCs will have the code GENX.

## Assessment and Grading

Each course is assigned with a credit number and continuous assessment is used to award a letter grade to each student taking that course, based on the relative grading scheme. For advanced courses, the allotted credits also reflect the academic expectation that includes self-study outside class hours. Each course will have a faculty member as the Course Coordinator, who has the responsibility of conducting the course and awarding grades. One or more faculty members may share the teaching.

### Continuous Assessment

Continuous assessment will be adopted for all courses. Written examination for mid semester and end semester will be conducted as per the academic curriculum for all core and elective courses. The following tables list the various evaluation components and their weightage involved in the final assessment for the FOUNDATION COURSES, CORE COURSES, ELECTIVE COURSES and laboratory based PRACTICAL COURSES.

#### FOUNDATION COURSES & CORE COURSES:

	TYPE OF EXAM	WEIGHTAGE ( % )
1	Assignments/Quiz	10 – 20
2	Mid-Semester Examination	$\geq 30$
3	End-Semester Examination	$\geq 40$
	Total	100

#### ELECTIVE COURSES:

	TYPE OF EXAM	WEIGHTAGE ( % )
1	Mid-Semester Examination	$\geq 20$
2	End-Semester Examination	$\geq 40$
	Total	100

## PRACTICAL COURSES:

Practical (laboratory based) courses will be evaluated using continuous evaluation for the experiments or programming assignments with equal weightage across all. Marks will be given on completion of each experiment/assignment which will also be recorded in the laboratory note books or report of students.

	TYPE OF EXAM	WEIGHTAGE ( % )
1	Continuous Evaluation (Experiment Reports)	60 – 70
2	End-Semester Examination	30 – 40
	Total	100

### Grading

Relative grading will be adopted to award grades.

(a) The letter Grade and Grade Points are as follows:

A+	10
A	9
B+	8
B	7
C+	6
C	5
D	4
F	0

In addition, there shall be two other grading symbols which can be used to indicate a special status of a student in a course, as follows:

I - for "Incomplete"  
W - for "Withdrawn"

(b) Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA) is calculated as:

$$SGPA = \frac{\sum_i C_i G_i}{\sum_i C_i}$$

Where,  $C_i$  = Credit for  $i^{\text{th}}$  course;  $G_i$  = Grade point secured by the student in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  course. Summation is over *all the courses credited*

by the student in the particular *semester*.

(c) Annual Grade Point Average (AGPA) is calculated as:

$$\text{AGPA} = \frac{\sum_j C_j G_j}{\sum_i C_j}$$

Where,  $C_j$  = Credit for  $j^{\text{th}}$  course;  $G_j$  = Grade point secured by the student in the  $j^{\text{th}}$  course. Summation is over *all the courses credited* by the student in the particular *academic year*.

(d) Cumulative Grade Point Average is calculated as

$$\text{CGPA} = \frac{\sum_k C_k G_k}{\sum_k C_k}$$

Where,  $C_k$  = credit for the  $k^{\text{th}}$  course;  $G_k$  = Grade point secured by the student in the  $k^{\text{th}}$  course. Summation is over all the courses *credited* by the student in *all the completed semesters, no course counting twice*. CGPA in the final transcript will be calculated based on all course credits completed with a Pass Grade.

## Grade Card and Transcript

A grade transcript, with details of all the courses registered and grades obtained, will be available to the student once the results for that semester are declared by the Academic Office. The transcript also records SGPA and the CGPA along with the total number of completed credits. The SGPA is calculated based on all courses registered for in the semester, while the CGPA takes into account only those courses that are completed. A semester transcript is issued free of charge from the academic office. A graduation transcript is issued along with the degree certificate. Additional copies will be available against payment. A consolidated transcript is available against payment at any time.

## Sample Grade Card

## OFFICIAL GRADE CARD

Name Of Student: xxxxxxxx Roll Number: IMSxxxxxx Date Of Issue: dd-mm-yyyy  
 Graduating Class: xxxxc Programme Page 1 of 1

xxxxxxx has registered for 2 semester(s) of classes at IISER Thiruvananthapuram

Varsha 2023		Credits	Grade
BIO111	PRINCIPLES OF LIFE I: BIOMOLECULES, GENETICS AND EVOLUTION	3	B
BIO112	BIOLOGY LAB I	1	B+
CHY111	BASIC ORGANIC AND INORGANIC CHEMISTRY I	3	B+
CHY112	CHEMISTRY LAB I	1	A+
HUM111	COMMUNICATION SKILLS	1	B
IDC111	MATHEMATICAL TOOLS I	4	B
IDC112	INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMMING IN C/C++	1	A+
MAT111	LOGIC AND DISCRETE MATHEMATICS	3	B+
PHY111	MECHANICS	3	B+
PHY112	PHYSICS LAB I	1	A+
		SGPA:	7.50
Vasanth 2024		Credits	Grade
BIO121	PRINCIPLES OF LIFE II: CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	3	B
BIO122	BIOLOGY LAB II	1	B+
CHY121	BASIC PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY I	4	B
CHY122	CHEMISTRY LAB II	1	C+
HUM121	COMMUNICATION SKILLS (ADVANCED LEVEL)	1	B+
IDC121	MATHEMATICAL TOOLS II	3	C+
IDC122	NUMERIC COMPUTING	1	B+
MAT121	MATRICES AND CALCULUS	4	C+
PHY121	ELECTROMAGNETISM	4	B
PHY122	EXPERIMENTS IN OPTICS, ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM	1	C+
		SGPA:	6.74

Total Credits Completed: 44 CGPA: 7.30

Assistant Registrar  
(Academics)

Grade Card No: xxxxxxxxxxxx



## **Class Committee**

The constitution of the class committee will be as follows:

- The BS-MS coordinator will serve as the Chairperson for Semesters 1 - 3. The Head of the School (or nominee) will serve as the Chairperson for Semesters 4 - 10.
- Members of the School Committee on Undergraduate Programs (SCUP).
- Lecturers/Instructors of all courses of the respective semester.
- Two students from the respective class/batch, preferably a male and a female student with high CGPA; and
- Faculty advisors of the respective class/batch (for semesters 4-10)

## **Responsibilities of the Class Committee**

- To review periodically the progress of the classes and discuss problems faced by students and make suitable recommendations to improve academic performance.
- The method of assessment of the course will be determined by the instructor(s) in consultation with the class committee if required. This should be announced to the students at the beginning of the semester via the Course Information Handout.
- The class committee, excluding the student members, will be responsible for the finalisation of the semester results.
- The class committees shall meet after each examination. The class committee meeting at the end of the semester would finalise the grades. The recommendation of the class committee will be communicated to the Dean of Academic Affairs.
- Based on the recommendation of the class committee, the academic performance of a student may be communicated to their parents, if necessary.

## **Course Feedback**

All students are compulsorily required to provide course feedback for each course she/he has registered.



## Essentials for Completing Courses

1. Minimum 80% attendance in a course.
2. To register for any course a student must have completed ALL pre-requisite courses (if any) with a D grade or better.
3. Students who are unable to write mid-semester examination(s) under exceptional circumstances (e.g. serious medical reasons etc.) may be re-evaluated upon approval of the DoAA.
4. A student with an F grade in a course may be given a repeat end-semester examination. An F grade may be improved at best to a D grade as a result of the repeat final exam. Provision for a repeat final examination is not available for practical or laboratory based courses.

Under-performing students of Semesters 1 - 3 may be given remedial classes before the repeat end-semester examination.

5. Repeat of a course is not permitted if the student has obtained a grade D or better in the same course.
6. The incomplete grade I is a *transitional* grade which will be given to the students who miss the end-semester examinations under exceptional circumstances (e.g. serious medical reasons) as determined by the course instructor and the BS-MS coordinator and approved by the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Make-up examination will be given to these students provided they meet 80% attendance and other academic requirements as per the rules and regulations of the institute.

The actual grade obtained after the make-up examination will be taken and will reflect in the transcript, replacing the I grade. In case a student obtains an F grade in the make-up final examination, he/she will be eligible to write a repeat end-semester examination.

Absence in the make-up examination will automatically lead to zero marks in that examination and the final grade in that course will be determined based on the other examinations taken in that course.

If the absence of a student in an examination is not approved by the Dean of Academic Affairs (e.g. a deliberate attempt to skip the

examination), he/she will be awarded zero marks in that particular examination. The final grade in that course will be determined based on the other examinations of that course taken by the student.

7. Withdrawal of a registered course in a semester is usually permitted/enforced under very special cases, e.g. due to prolonged illness. W grade is given in these circumstances and the student is asked to repeat the concerned course with same course number taking all examinations when offered next. The new grade obtained by the student will be taken into consideration and appear in the transcript. However, the previous W grade will also appear in the transcript.
8. W grade will not have any effect in the calculation of SGPA, AGPA and CGPA. If a student has W grade in a registered course in a particular semester, SGPA will be calculated based on the grades obtained in other registered courses of that semester. A similar rule applies to the calculation of AGPA and CGPA.
9. If a student obtains an F grade in a FOUNDATION/CORE course even after been given the option of the repeat end-semester examination, he/she is required to repeat the course with the same course number when offered next taking all examinations. Until the course is passed by the student, it will be treated as a *backlog* in the student's records. Both the grades, the new grade and the previous F grade, will appear in the grade transcripts.
10. An F grade obtained in a course will contribute to the CGPA until
  - (i) a course with the same course number is completed with a D grade or better (applicable for foundation and core courses) or
  - (ii) substituted with an alternative/same course of the respective school and completed with a D grade or better (applicable *only* for minor/elective/additional courses)
11. However, the student will not be allowed to choose the subject(s) in which he/she has a backlog course(s) as his/her major.
12. If a student has more than three F and/or W grades in a particular semester in *Semesters 1 - 3*, ALL the courses of that semester will have to be repeated. Only the new grades obtained in ALL the courses will be taken into consideration, and the previous grades will

be converted to W grades.

### **Re-evaluation of End Semester Examination**

Students will be given an opportunity to view the evaluated end-semester answer scripts before the finalization of grades. Students may request a re-evaluation of the end-semester examination answer sheet. Such requests should be made by the student within 7 days of the announcement of end-semester results to the Academic Office and by paying a prescribed re-evaluation fee.

### **Minimum and Maximum Credits in a Semester**

Students are advised to discuss with their faculty adviser or mentor or the SCUP members regarding registration of suitable courses at the beginning of each semester. This will help the students obtain clarity in realizing their academic profile in line with their career goals and avoid undesirable academic consequences, e.g. fulfilling major/minor credit requirements and graduation requirements, etc.

A student may credit up to a maximum of 2 extra courses above the number of courses prescribed in a particular semester upon recommendation of the SCUP and approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs). For students with CGPA below 7.0, the recommendation of the Faculty Advisor is also required. Any departure to the above must be recommended by the SCUP forwarded by the SCUP Chairperson.

Students are expected to credit Minimum 15 ( $\pm 1$ ) credits in a Semester.

### **Medical Leave Regulations**

Students are required to inform the Academic Office and course instructors regarding long-term absences due to medical reasons (e.g. hospitalization, mental illness, etc.)

- Medical certificates may be considered for exemption from attendance up to a maximum of 40% of attendance.

- Absence in mid-semester or end-semester examinations can be exempted on medical grounds only after submission of a valid medical certificate.
- In such cases, a medical certificate endorsed/issued by the Medical Officer of the Institute must be submitted to the Academic Office within one week of the missed examination.
- All medical leave are subject to the approval of the Associate DoAA or DoAA.
- Missed mid-semester examination: upon approval of medical leave, the instructor may give a repeat examination or pro-rate the score based on internal evaluations.
- Missed end-semester examination: upon approval of medical leave, the instructor may give a repeat examination.
- Students will be issued medical certificates by the Medical Officer only if they meet the criteria mentioned on the institute health center website. In case a student had to avail medical treatment outside the Health Center the same should be intimated to the Medical Officer as soon as possible, with a request for approval and for issuing a medical certificate. Details can be found on the health center website: (<https://www.iisertvm.ac.in/pages/health-center>)

## Research Projects

- All students are required to pursue a research project in Semester 8 which may continue as the MS project in Semesters 9 - 10, if applicable.
- While the primary project guide will be a faculty member from the respective School, students may also choose scientists from other Schools at IISER TVM or external academic or research institutions, or industry as a Co-guide.
- For projects with external Co-guides, an MoU must be signed between the faculty/scientists from external institutions for joint supervision. Any Intellectual Property sharing arrangement will require a supplementary MoU signed by authorized representatives of the Institute. The Institute will not assume any additional financial responsibilities.
- At the end of each semester students are required to submit a report of his/her work by a prescribed date to the Project Coordinator (appointed by the Schools) and present the findings to an internal Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) as a seminar at each stage of evaluation.
- The project report must be prepared according to the prescribed format available on the Academic Office website and will be submitted to the School as per declared schedule. The project presentation and evaluation must be completed by the deadline stipulated by the Academic Office.
- The project will be evaluated based on 30% of weightage given to the assessment of the project guide (and co-guide if applicable) and 70% awarded by the PEC.
- On successful completion of the oral examination, each student will be required to submit one corrected soft copy of the project report to the School/Supervisor(s).
- Extension of time usually not exceeding 3 months from the announced last date for submission of the project report may be granted by the School with the recommendation of SCUP and approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs/Dean of Academic Affairs for students with insufficient progress in the project work. In such cases the concerned student will be awarded the 'I' grade. Further,

if the reports are not submitted within the allowed time period, the 'I' grade will automatically be converted to 'F' grade.

- Students obtaining 'F' grade for the project will be required to re-register for the same in the following or subsequent semester.
- Evaluation of any minor project will be carried out following the above norms under a Project Coordinator. The evaluation will have the following weightage: Project Guide:- 30% and PEC - 70%. The rules for submitting the minor project report and deadline will remain same as a major project.

# Degree Requirements

The Institute offers a choice based credit system for the successful completion of the BS-MS degree program, as envisaged by the NEP 2020. The academic structure provides for EXIT options at multiple points with qualifications. Viable paths to obtain each qualification (within a maximum duration) are available to all students, such that they may complete the requirements at their own pace. Students may exit the program either by choice or may be removed from the rolls due to poor academic performance, at various levels.

Each course is allotted a number of credits and continuous assessment is used to award a letter grade to a student taking that course based on the relative grading scheme. A cumulative grade point average (CGPA) is calculated based on the letter grades received by the student.

Credit Requirements to Continuation in the BS-MS program or Exit from the BS-MS program with Qualifications at various levels for the first 4 years are shown below. Eligibility for BS-MS degree requires completion of requisite credits and minimum CGPA at the end of 5 years.

		CUMULATIVE CREDITS				
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	
REQUIREMENTS TO CONTINUE IN THE BS-MS PROGRAM	MIN COMPLETED CREDITS (CC)	36	79	120	159*	RC
	MINIMUM CGPA	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.0	
REQUIREMENTS TO EXIT FROM PROGRAM WITH QUALIFICATION (AT EACH LEVEL)	MIN COMPLETED CREDITS (CC)	36	79	126	168	RE
	MINIMUM CC CGPA	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	
ELIGIBLE QUALIFICATION		CIS	DIS	BSc	BS	

\* Minimum Project Grade: C

## Qualifications:

CiS: Certificate in Science, DiS: Diploma in Science,  
BSc: Bachelor of Science, BS: Bachelor of Science (Subject)

- CC: Completed Credits. Total credits for courses completed with Grade D or better.
- RC: Minimum Requirement for Continuation. CC and CGPA requirement for continuation in the BS-MS program

- RE: Minimum Requirement for Exit with Qualification. CC and CGPA requirement for exit from the BS-MS program

Note: Credit requirements for RE and RC are subject to further modifications.

1. Students NOT satisfying the minimum requirements for continuation (RC) in the program at any level, but satisfying the minimum requirements for exit (RE) with a qualification shall COMPULSORILY exit with the eligible qualification.
2. Exit Point Year 1: Students NOT satisfying the minimum requirements for exit (RE) with CIS, are liable to be Removed from the Rolls.
3. Exit Points Years 2 – 4: Students NOT satisfying the minimum requirements to obtain a qualification at any level shall remain eligible for the qualification at a previous EXIT point, the minimum requirements of which have been completed.
4. For obtaining the CIS, DIS and BSc qualifications, all academic requirements must be completed in a maximum of 2 extra semesters beyond the minimum prescribed duration.
5. For obtaining the BS and BS-MS degrees, all academic requirements must be completed in a maximum of 4 extra semesters beyond the minimum prescribed duration for the respective degree.
6. Students satisfying the minimum Credit + CGPA requirement for the award of a Qualification (CIS, DIS, BSc, BS) shall remain eligible for the same and may opt to EXIT with the same.
7. All students who compulsorily exit from the program (satisfy RE but not RC) will have the option of appealing to the Academic Senate for reinstatement.
8. Students must complete a 12 credit project to be eligible for the BS degree and accrue minimum 36 project credits to be eligible for the BS-MS degree.
9. Students must complete the 12 credit project scheduled in Semester 8 with minimum grade C to continue in the BS-MS program.



## Requirements for Exit with Qualifications

### CERTIFICATE IN SCIENCE

1. Minimum 36 completed credits with CGPA  $\geq$  4.0
2. Completed 2 semesters of residence
3. Have no pending disciplinary action/case.
4. No Dues/Financial clearance.

### DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE

1. Minimum 79 completed credits with CGPA  $\geq$  4.0
2. Completed 4 semesters of residence
3. Have no pending disciplinary action/case
4. No Dues/Financial clearance.

### BSC DEGREE

1. Minimum 126 completed credits with CGPA  $\geq$  4.0
2. All foundation and core credits are completed
3. Completed 6 semesters of residence
4. Have no pending disciplinary action/case.
5. No Dues/Financial clearance.

### BS DEGREE

1. Minimum 168 completed credits with CGPA  $\geq$  4.0
2. All foundation and core credits are completed
3. Completed 12 project credits
4. Completed 8 semesters of residence
5. Have no pending disciplinary action/case.
6. No Dues/Financial clearance.

### BS-MS DEGREE

1. Minimum 200 completed credits with CGPA  $\geq$  5.0
2. All foundation and core credits are completed
3. Completed 36 project credits
4. Completed 10 semesters of residence
5. Have no pending disciplinary action/case.
6. No Dues/Financial clearance.

## Minor Degree Requirements

- Students who complete the 4-year BS or the 5-year BS-MS degrees in Basic Sciences are eligible for a Minor Degree if they accrue 15 elective credits in a single non-major discipline from semester 4 onwards.
- Eligible courses are designated as minor electives.
- The Schools may offer an option of doing a minor project worth 6 credits that contribute towards the minor degree credit requirements.
- There may be multiple pathways towards completing the 15 credits and students are strongly advised to consult their faculty advisors or the respective school's SCUP convenor to plan for a minor degree.
- Students will be required to complete the prerequisite courses, wherever applicable, before registering for courses.
- It is not compulsory for students to accrue the 15 elective credits in a single non-Major discipline to be eligible for the BS or BS-MS degrees.

Requirements for the Minor degree are subject to revision.

## Removal from the Rolls

Students are liable to be Removed from the Rolls under any of the following circumstances:

- Failure to maintain the minimum SGPA of 4.0 in any two consecutive semesters
- Failure to clear any FOUNDATION/CORE course after repeating the same course
- All academic requirements for obtaining the CIS, DIS and BSc qualifications, must be completed in a maximum of 2 extra semesters beyond the minimum prescribed durations.
- All academic requirements for obtaining the BS and BS-MS degrees must be completed in a maximum of 4 extra semesters beyond the minimum prescribed durations.
- Failure to register for two consecutive semesters without due intimation and approval of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

- A student may also be removed from the rolls as a result of disciplinary action for serious misconduct and/or violation(s) of the code of conduct of the institute.

All students who are removed from the rolls will have the option of appealing to the Academic Senate for reinstatement.

*In exceptional cases, the Director, IISER TVM may override any of the above provisions.*



# Conduct and Discipline

## Code of Conduct

Students are expected to evolve as responsible citizens committed to upholding the dignity and reputation of the Institute. Students should be courteous and respectful towards all members of the IISER community and behave in a civilized and dignified manner.

- **Hostel Regulations:** IISER-TVM being a residential institute, all students are required to reside in the Institute hostel throughout their course of study. Separate hostels are provided for boys and girls. Shared accommodation with basic furnishing including electrical fittings and internet facility is provided. Residents must abide by the hostel regulations detailed in the Hostel Regulations booklet, a copy of which is available on the Institute's webpage.
- **Disciplinary Regulations:** Any misconduct will result in disciplinary action against the student. Misconduct includes any unacceptable behavior/act or failure to act on something that is unlawful and/or inappropriate. Misconduct is categorized into the following four types:
  1. Academic misconduct
  2. Non-academic misconduct
  3. Media and Social Media-related misconduct
  4. Criminal Offence

Based on the nature of the purported offence/misconduct the appropriate disciplinary committee will determine further course of action. Detailed information on the Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures of the Institute are available on the [Academic Office website](#) and in the booklet titled [Code of Conduct](#), which is binding on all students of the Institute.

- **Internal Committee:** Institute upholds equal opportunity and gender equality as per the Constitution of India. The objective of the Internal Committee is to investigate complaints and recommend action against any kind of sexual harassment. Further

information regarding the same is available on the Institute webpage.

## Honour Pledge

1. Each student must sign and submit to the Institute the following Honour Pledge, counter-signed by the parent/guardian.

### IISER TVM STUDENT HONOUR PLEDGE

- a. I promise, on my honour, that I will conduct myself in the Institute and outside, with decorum and decency befitting the high moral and ethical standards expected of the members of the National Institute, IISER TVM and follow its Code of Conduct, Rules and Regulations.
- b. I will not engage in ragging. I understand that ragging is unlawful and liable to prosecution by law enforcement authorities of the State besides any disciplinary action the Institute may take which may include dismissal from the Institute.
- c. I will not engage in overt/covert sexual harassment.
- d. I will not engage in caste/religion/ethnicity/gender/physical disability based discriminatory behaviour or remarks.
- e. I will not resort to any academic dishonesty during examinations, assignments etc.
- f. I will not engage in plagiarism in my writings and will acknowledge the work of other authors according to international practices.
- g. I will follow the Library and Hostel regulations of the Institute.
- h. I understand that violation of this pledge makes me liable to disciplinary action by the Institute.

Sd/-  
Student

Sd/-  
Parent/Guardian

2. During admission, students and their parent/guardian are required to sign the prescribed anti-ragging **form(s)** as stipulated by the MoE, Govt. of India.

# Library Regulations

1. Library Hours:
  - a. Monday to Friday: 9 AM - 10 PM (Break 7.30 PM - 8 PM)
  - b. Weekends/Holidays: 9 AM to 5.30 PM (Break 1 PM - 1.30 PM)
  - c. Library remains open on all holidays except on January 26, August 15 & October 2.
2. Membership: All registered students are eligible for membership of the institute library.
3. BS-MS students can borrow a maximum of 4 books at a time for 15 days, provided they do not have any overdue book. (Some books may have a shorter loan period depending on demand). Users can borrow/return the books using the self-service kiosk installed in the library.
4. Users must leave their bags and other belongings outside the Library. Only notebooks and papers are allowed inside the library. Borrowed books are allowed to be taken to the library for return/renewal only.
5. Students must carry their identity cards, and it must be produced whenever asked for. Institute identity card, which serves as the library card, is mandatory for borrowing books from the library either through the self-service-kiosk or otherwise.
6. Strict silence is to be maintained in the library.
7. Mobile phone conversation, Consumption of food and drinks are strictly prohibited inside the library. Use of mobile phone is permitted for using QR Code based 'M-Library Services' only.
8. Users are encouraged to use the computers kept inside the library for accessing the library catalogue, e-journals, e-books, and academic databases. Laptop can only be used in the designated place in the library.
9. Return of the borrowed book is mandatory before the due date. A fine of Rs. 1/- per day per book for the first week of delayed return and Rs. 10/- per day per book thereafter will be levied. Books can be renewed once, before the due date, if there is no pending reservation against it. A book may be recalled any time before the due date if it is urgently required by another user.

A late fee of Rs. 10/- per day per book will be imposed for the noncompliance with the requirement.

10. Reference textbook and borrowable books can be borrowed for overnight reference, half an hour before the closing time of the library and to be returned before 9.30 AM on the next working day. Only one book can be borrowed for overnight reference. A late fee of Rs. 50/- per day per book for the delayed return of such item will be charged. All library payment will be accepted online only, at periodic intervals.
11. Mutilation of books in any form (e.g., underlining, writing on pages, tearing off pages, damaging the binding, etc.) will lead to a hefty fine and replacement of the book. Before borrowing a book, users should ensure the condition of the book and bring to the notice of the library staff, if any mutilation is found.
12. Users who lose/mutilate library books are liable to replace it with its latest edition along with a penalty of 20% of the total cost of the book. If the book is part of a set or series, they may be called upon to replace the whole set or series. In case the lost book is untraceable in the market or out of print, Institute reserves the right to decide appropriate penalty.
13. Users must return all the books they borrowed before they go on vacation.
14. Users should create a user ID and password in the library portal (<https://librarycatalog.iisertvm.ac.in/>), to reserve, renew, and to check details of books borrowed by them. This password is required for borrowing books through the Self Service Kiosk. Up to three books can be reserved (hold) at a time. Once the reserved book is available in the library, users will be notified by an auto-generated email.
15. Users should obey copyright regulations while accessing online re-sources (e-books, e-journals, databases, etc.). Details of the e-resources subscribed by the institute are available at [https://www.iisertvm.ac.in/pages/iiser\\_tvm\\_library](https://www.iisertvm.ac.in/pages/iiser_tvm_library) which can be accessed from the IISER TVM network.
16. For accessing the online resources from off campus users may contact the library, for obtaining remote login facility. Remote login facility will be provided subject to availability of slots.



# Administration

1. Prof. J. N. Moorthy, FASc, FNA  
Director and Chairperson Senate  
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9. Dr. Rajeev Kini

Chief Hostel Warden

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## Administrative Staff

1. Mr. Satya Srinivas Naraharisetti

Assistant Registrar

(Academics, Student Affairs and Hostel Management)

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2. Dr. Sainul Abideen P.

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## Academic Office Staff

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4. Mr. Anil Prakash  
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## Hostel Office Staff

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## Health Care Facilities Staff

1. Dr. Thiraviam P.  
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2. Dr. Hemalatha Francis  
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4. Dr. Neelima Gopinath

Consultant Psychologist  
e-mail:neelima@iisertvm.ac.in

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## **Other Important Numbers**

1. Security Control Desk (CSB) Tel: 0471-2778028
2. Security Main Gate ( Second Gate) Tel: 0471-2778027
3. Health Center Tel: 0471-2778144