The Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) At Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recognized the need to introduce academic reform to the higher education system. Academic transformation inevitably involves curriculum development using the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS). Changes in assessment and testing methods, the switch from annual to semester systems, and the recognition and correlation of grades form the key components of the CBCS.

The Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) is an initiative of the UGC to improve the quality of the country's higher education system. A key feature of CBCS is that it makes education student-centered rather than system- or teacher-centered. To achieve these goals, CBCS strives to create a comprehensive curriculum. Therefore, in addition to the dedication to a specialized field through core work, electives are added, giving students the freedom to choose related/applied/broad areas of their field is given. Furthermore, in line with the government's vision, special attention is paid for improving and developing the skills of students through elective courses in these areas that all students must study. However, in line with the spirit of CBCS, students have complete freedom to choose these courses from the pool proposed by UGC/universities. These courses aim to bring about a paradigm shift to bridge the gap between an educational degree and employability.

Courses are defined in terms of learning objectives and are directed towards intended learning outcomes. CBCS offers students the opportunity to choose courses from a set of courses, including core, elective and competency-based courses.

1. CORE COURSE / DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC COURSE (DSC):

A course, which should compulsorily be studied by a candidate as a core requirement is termed as a core course. Core course is also referred as Discipline Specific Course (DSC). The course, designed under this category, aims to cover the basics that a student is expected to imbibe in that particular discipline.

2. ELECTIVE COURSE:

Generally a course which can be chosen from a pool of courses and which may be very specific or specialized or advanced or supportive to the discipline/subject of study or which provides an extended scope or which enables an exposure to some other discipline/subject/domain or nurtures the proficiency/skill is called an Elective Course.

(i) Discipline Specific Elective (DSE) Course:

Elective courses offered under the main discipline/subject of study are referred to as Discipline Specific Elective course. The University/Institute may also offer discipline related Elective courses of interdisciplinary nature (to be offered by main discipline/subject of study).

(ii) Dissertation/Project Work:

An elective course of 6 credits, designed to acquire special/advanced knowledge, such as supplement study/support study to a project work, and a candidate studies such a course on his own with an advisory support by a teacher/faculty member is called dissertation/project work. A Project/Dissertation work may be given in lieu of a discipline specific elective paper.

(iii) Generic Elective (GE) Course:

An elective course chosen generally from an unrelated discipline / subject, with an intention to seek exposure to other subjects/disciplines is called a Generic Elective Course.

Note: A core course offered in a discipline/subject may be treated as an elective by other discipline/subject and vice versa and such electives may also be referred to as Generic Elective.

3. ABILITY ENHANCEMENT COURSES:

The Ability Enhancement Courses may be of two kinds: Ability Enhancement Compulsory Courses (AECC) and Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC).

(i) Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course (AECC):

These are the courses based upon the content that leads to knowledge enhancement. AECC to be studied are i) Environmental Science and ii) English/Punjabi. These are mandatory for all disciplines.

(ii) Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC):

These courses may be chosen from a pool of courses designed to provide value-based and/or skill based knowledge and are aimed at providing hands-on-training, competencies, skills etc. to increase the employ ability of students.

Based on the UGC guidelines for CBCS, JGND-PSOU has adopted choice based credit system programme covering disciplinary, interdisciplinary and skill based subjects. It provides flexibility for the learners to choose the subjects of their interest and also has the opportunity to grow with present digital era. All programmes has credit scheme as per UGC guidelines consisting 6 categories namely Core Courses, Discipline Specific Electives, Generic Electives, Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course, Skill Enhancement Course and Compulsory Non Credit Qualifying Course.

Credit

Each credit is equivalent to 30 hours of learner study comprising all learning activities (i.e. reading, assimilating the study learning material, listening to audio, watching video, attending counselling sessions either online or at the requisite LSC and writing assignments responses).

Completion of an academic programme (Degree or Diploma) requires successful completion of the assignments, practicals, projects and term-end examination as per the requirement of each course in a programme.

GRADING:

Courses are evaluated using a grading system that is considered superior to traditional grading systems. This helps students to move between institutions within India and institutions in other countries. A uniform grading system also allows potential employers to evaluate a candidate's performance.

Credit Weighed Marking System: Performance of a student is evaluated in terms of credits earned in Credit Weighed Marking System. Earned credits are defined as the sum of course credits in which grade points above a certain cut off have been obtained for declaring the learner "Pass" in that course.

In this way two performance indices emerge:

a) Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA)

b) Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)

10-Point Grading System of JGND-PSOU as per UGC-CBCS Guidelines

Grading Criterion

Marks	≥90 & ≤100	≥80 & <90	≥70 & <80	≥60 & <70	≥50 & <60	≥45 & <50	≥40 & <45	<40
Grade	O	A+	A	B+	B	C	P	F
Grade Point	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	0

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