

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

No. 4961 /HE, Date: 02/02/2021
HE-PTC-MISC-0004-2015

From

Saswat Mishra, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Vice-Chancellors (All State Public Universities coming under Higher Education Department)

The Principals (All Government and Non-Government Degree Colleges coming under Higher Education Department)

Sub: Commencement of Physical Classroom teaching in Universities and Colleges for 2020-21 pre-Final Year UG/First Year PG students w.e.f. **10.02.2021**

Ref: This Department Letter No. 73/HE Dated 04.01.2021

Madam/Sir,

In continuation to this department letter under reference, the State Public Universities and Government as well as Non-Government Degree Colleges (coming under H.E. Department) are hereby directed to commence physical classroom teaching for students of 2020-21 pre-Final Year UG (2nd year in case of 3-year UG course and 3rd year in case of 4-year UG course) and First Year PG courses from 10-02-2021 (Wednesday). The following academic calendar is hereby prescribed for these courses.

(For 2020-21 Pre-final Year UG Batch)

UG Academic Calendar

Semester Examination System					Annual Examination System	
Academic Schedule	Academic Session 2020-21		Academic Session 2021-22		Academic Session 2020-21	Academic Session 2021-22
3-Years UG Course	3rd Semester	4th Semester	5th Semester	6th Semester	2nd Year	Final Year
4-Years UG Course	5th Semester	6th Semester	7th Semester	8th Semester		
Conduct of Physical Classes	10.02.2021 to 17.04.2021	03.05.2021 to 31.08.2021	20.09.2021 to 20.01.2022	07.02.2022 to 07.05.2022	10.02.2021 to 14.08.2021	20.09.2021 to 07.05.2022
Examination	19.04.2021 to 30.04.2021	01.09.2021 to 15.09.2021	21.01.2022 to 04.02.2022	15.06.2022 to 30.06.2022	16.08.2021 to 15.09.2021	15.06.2022 to 30.06.2022
Result Publication	31.05.2021	16.10.2021	28.02.2022	15.07.2022	16.10.2021	15.07.2022

(For 2020-21 Year PG Admission Batch)

PG Academic Calendar

Academic Schedule	Academic Session 2020-21		Academic Session 2021-22	
	1st Semester	2nd Semester	3rd Semester	4th Semester
Conduct of Physical Classes	10.02.2021 to 05.06.2021	21.06.2021 to 30.09.2021	18.10.2021 to 31.01.2022	16.02.2022 to 07.05.2022
Examination	07.06.2021 to 19.06.2021	01.10.2021 to 11.10.2021	01.02.2022 to 15.02.2022	15.06.2022 to 30.06.2022
Result Publication	20.07.2021	10.11.2021	15.03.2022	15.07.2022

Guidelines

1. Physical classes shall be held in regular manner to cover all chapters of the syllabus irrespective of coverage of some chapters by on-line mode.
2. Whenever possible, the physical classroom teaching shall be recorded and shared with absentee students.
3. Following Covid-19 Prevention Protocols shall be followed.
 - a. Teachers/Staff/Students residing in active containment zone shall not come to Universities/ Colleges.
 - b. Face Mask/ Face Cover shall be mandatory.
 - c. Frequent Hand Wash/ Hand sanitization shall be ensured.
 - d. Social Distancing, to the extent possible, shall be adopted in classrooms, libraries, laboratories, etc. If need be, crowded classes can be divided into batches and teaching hours in a day can be extended.
 - e. Spitting shall be strictly prohibited.
 - f. Respiratory etiquettes shall be strictly followed. (i.e Covering one's mouth and nose by handkerchief while coughing/sneezing)
 - g. Self-monitoring of health and reporting of illness should be encouraged.
4. Hostels shall be opened from 08-02-2021 for 2020-21 pre-Final Year UG/First Year PG students. All possible Covid-19 prevention protocols shall be followed in hostels.
5. To compensate for the lost days, the Universities and colleges shall remain open for physical classroom teaching, examination and all other allied activities on all days except Sundays, Saraswati Puja, Holi, Utkal Divas, Ratha Jatra, Muharram, Ganesh Puja, Nuakhai, Gandhi Jayanti, Durga Puja (4 days, i.e. Maha Saptami to Vijaya Dashami), Deepabali and Christmas . The Common Holiday List-2021, communicated to all Degree Colleges by this Department, vide Letter No. 42825/HE Dated 23.12.2020, is hereby superseded.

6. State Private Universities (under H.E. Department) may also consider to follow these guidelines to the extent applicable to them.

Yours faithfully,



Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No. 4962/HE dated 02/02/2021

Copy forwarded to Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Hon'ble Chancellor of State Public Universities, Raj Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha for kind information of Hon'ble Chancellor.



Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No. 4963/HE dated 02/02/2021

Copy forwarded to P.S. to Hon'ble Minister, Higher Education Department for kind information of Hon'ble Minister.



Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No. 4964/HE dated 02/02/2021

Copy forwarded to Director General of Police, Odisha/ Revenue Divisional Commissioner (Cuttack/ Sambalpur/ Berhampur) for kind information and necessary action.



Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No. 4965/HE dated 02/02/2021

Copy forwarded to Municipal Commissioner, Bhubaneswar/ Municipal Commissioner, Cuttack/ Municipal Commissioner, Berhampur/ Municipal Commissioner, Sambalpur and Municipal Commissioner, Rourkela for kind information and necessary action.



Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No. 4966/HE dated 02/02/2021

Copy forwarded to Collector-cum-District Magistrate / Superintendent of Police (All Districts) for kind information and necessary action.



Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No. 4967/HE dated 02/02/2021

Copy to Vice-Chairperson, Odisha State Higher Education Council/ SPD, OHEPEE, Text-Book Bureau, Bhubaneswar for kind information.



Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No. 4968/HE dated 02/02/2021

Copy to Regional Directors of Education (Bhubaneswar/Balasore/Berhampur/ Sambalpur/ Jeypore) for information.



Principal Secretary to Government

Memo No. 4969/HE dated 02/02/2021

Copy to all Sections of Higher Education Department for information.



Principal Secretary to Government



**UGC Guidelines on Examinations and
Academic Calendar in view of
the COVID-19 Pandemic**



**University Grants Commission
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi**

July, 2021

UGC Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar in view of the COVID-19 Pandemic – July, 2021

I. Introduction

Keeping in view the prevailing situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India regarding the cancellation of School Board examinations for class/grade-XII; the earlier order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court upholding the UGC's guidelines of July 6, 2020 regarding terminal semester/ final year examinations; the earlier UGC guidelines on examination and academic calendar dated April 29, 2020, July 6, 2020 and September 24, 2020; and, the larger interest of students, the following guidelines are being issued by the UGC in respect of examinations and the academic calendar for universities, colleges and institutions deemed to be universities (who are collectively called "**Higher Education Institutions**" in these guidelines) in continuation of the earlier guidelines.

II. Examinations

The provisions as contained in the guidelines issued earlier as mentioned above shall apply for the current academic session 2020-21. Further, the Terminal Semester/ Final Year Examinations (2020-2021) be compulsorily conducted in offline (pen & paper)/ online/ blended (online + offline) mode by no later than August 31, 2021 following the prescribed protocols/ guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For intermediate semester/year students, assessment shall be based on internal evaluation and previous semester as suggested in 2020 guidelines.

III. Academic Calendar

The provisions contained in the UGC Guidelines dated 24.09.2020 shall be applicable for the academic session 2021-2022. For students of the intermediate semester/year, the Higher Education Institutions may start their academic session (in online/offline/blended mode) as early as possible, following the guidelines/directions related to the COVID-19 pandemic issued by the appropriate government/competent authority.

In addition, the following guidelines shall also apply regarding the academic calendar for the first-year under-graduate and post-graduate students in Higher Education Institutions:

1. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's order dated June 22, 2021 in Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No. 522 of 2021 (Mamta Sharma versus Central Board of Secondary Education & Others) has noted as follows:

“....Attorney General for India by pointing out that U.G.C. will be issuing necessary instructions to ensure that the admission process by the colleges and institutions should commence only after the declaration of results by the C.B.S.E. and I.C.S.E., including the State Boards.”

Accordingly, Higher Education Institutions shall ensure that the admission process for undergraduate courses/programmes for the academic session 2021-2022 commences only after the declaration of results by the CBSE, ICSE and State Boards. It is expected that all the School Boards will declare their results for the class/grade-XII examinations by July 31, 2021.

2. Admissions to the first year courses/programmes for the session 2021-2022 shall be completed by no later than September 30, 2021. The last date for admissions to fill up the remaining vacant seats shall be October 31, 2021. The relevant documents of the qualifying examination can be accepted up to December 31, 2021.
3. The academic session 2021-2022 shall commence latest by October 1, 2021 for first semester/year students.
4. Accordingly, Higher Education Institutions shall follow the calendar given below for the academic session 2021-2022:

Admission Process for Undergraduate Level Programmes (in view of point no. 1 of Academic Calendar)	To Commence only after the declaration of results by the C.B.S.E. and I.C.S.E., including the State Boards. It is expected that School Boards will declare the results of the class/grade-XII examinations by 31.07.2021.
Completion of Admission Process for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes in online/offline/blended mode	30.09.2021
Commencement of Classes for intermediate semester/year students in online/offline/blended mode	As early as possible
Commencement of Classes of Undergraduate and Postgraduate students' Fresh batch (First Semester/Year)	*Latest by 01.10.2021
Preparatory Break	**To be planned by the Higher Education Institutions
Conduct of Examinations	
Semester Break	
Commencement of Classes for Even Semester	
Preparatory Break	
Conduct of Examinations	
Semester Break begins	
Semester Break ends	31.07.2022
Commencement of Next Academic Session for this batch	01.08.2022

*If there is a delay in declaration of result of the qualifying examinations, Higher Education Institutions may plan and start the academic session by October 18, 2021. The teaching-learning process may continue in offline/ online/ blended mode.

**Higher Education Institutions may plan for classes, breaks, conduct of examinations, semester break etc. during the period October 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022 following necessary protocols/guidelines/directions/advisories issued by the Central/State Governments and competent authorities from time to time, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. In view of the financial hardships being faced by parents due to lockdowns and related factors, a full refund of fees should be made on account of all cancellations of admissions/ migrations of students up to October 31, 2021 for the academic session 2021-2022 as a special case. It is made clear that the entire fee, including all charges, should be refunded (i.e. there should be zero cancellation charges) on account of cancellations/ migrations up to October 31, 2021. Thereafter, on cancellation/ withdrawal of admissions up to December 31, 2021, the entire fee collected from a student should be refunded in full after deducting not more than Rs.1000/- as processing fee.
6. The guidelines issued by the UGC on April 29, 2020 and July 6, 2020 highlighting the modes of teaching, conduct of examinations, importance of physical & social distancing etc. should be read along with the present guidelines and shall remain mandatory, but the present guidelines shall prevail in the event of any conflict.
7. The present guidelines are subject to the advisories/directives issued by the apex statutory bodies/councils concerned, e.g., AICTE, NCTE, BCI, NMC, DCI, INC, PCI, AYUSH etc. regarding examinations and academic calendars.

Notwithstanding the present guidelines regarding the conduct of examinations and commencement of the next academic session, every Higher Education Institution shall ensure that it is prepared in all respects to carry out the academic activities following necessary protocols/guidelines/directions/advisories issued by the Central/State Governments or competent authorities from time to time, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.