Curricular Framework

Guiding Principles:

Guided by the objectives and mandated salient features of the University as specified by the Central Universities Act 2009 and within the overall framework provided by the Act, the curricular framework of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh would be guided by the following broad principles:

- Learner-Centred Approach
- Holistic Approach to Higher Education
- Focus on In-depth Learning Linked to Research & Scholarship
- Learning Based on Feedback, Evaluation and Review

Learner-Centred Approach: The University intends to move from the conventional 'teacher-centred approach' of programme design and delivery to the 'learner-centred approach' to accommodate learners' needs and expectations and give them more choices in content, mode and pace of learning. The University and its constituents would assume the role of facilitating and supporting learners in shaping their own pathways and helping them build on their individual learning style and experience. Thus, in its programme design and delivery the University will place the learner at the centre of the entire educational process.

Holistic Approach to Higher Education: All programmes of study in the university will have a holistic approach to higher education. Thus, the teaching-learning process, classroom

Curricular Framework & Programme of Studies

activities, self-learning, work placement, assessment, and evaluation will give due emphasis to the nurturing & development of:

- *Knowledge & Comprehension* - general, domain specific, discipline specific, organisation-specific, application-orientated.
- *Abilities & Skills*-verbal, numeric, synthetic, analytic, soft-skills, entrepreneurial skills, leadership, team-work spirit.
- *Values & Aptitude* - human values, work ethics, work culture, positive thinking, empathy, emotional intelligence.

Focus on In-depth Learning: Various Programmes of study in the university will focus on in-depth learning. Learning will be driven by the intrinsic curiosity and mastery of the subject. Students will be encouraged to take control of their learning. Thus a balanced approach between the taught content and independent learning would be made as an integral part of the curricular framework.

Linked to Research & Scholarship: The curricular framework of the university will ensure continuous interface between research and curriculum by incorporating the pedagogy the following:

- Exposure to current and emerging knowledge, theory and practice
- Developing and nurturing research aptitude and skills through project work, literature survey, data collection, analysis, interpretation and inference
- Development of critical thinking and pursuit of knowledge as an evolving process

- Development of ability to apply knowledge and skill for appraisal, evaluation and problem solving.

Based on Feedback, Evaluation & Review: University will see students as active participants in the teaching-learning process rather than mere recipients of taught information. The curricular framework will have a built-in mechanism to obtain their active feedback about the relevance and suitability of courses offered by the faculty. Students will also be given wide variety of courses to choose from within the broad curricular framework to make their own basket of courses for completing their programme of study. In the process, by not choosing a particular course offered will warrant the concerned faculty to revise and update the content, methodology, timings, etc. Besides, students and peers across the board will be encouraged and involved in generating ideas and giving continuous feedback as to what courses need to be introduced and what modifications are desired in the existing courses.

Based on Total Learning Outcomes (TLO): All curricular and co-curricular activities in the University will be based on achieving pre-specified Learning Outcomes, rather than focusing exclusively on a single examination leading to rote learning. Being holistic in approach, the learning outcome would be specified in terms of:

- Knowledge
- Comprehension
- Application
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Evaluation

Evaluation based on Total Student Effort (TSE): Education Components of a course would be defined as self-contained and formally structured learning experience comprising course units, course modules, seminars, work placement, etc. Workload specifications for credit accumulation will, thus, go beyond classroom lectures and will include the time required to be spent on the following activities:

- Contact Hours/Classroom Activity
- Individual/Group Work
- Obligatory/Optional Work Placement
- Preparation for Assessment
- Literature Survey/ Library work
- Data Collection/Field work
- Writing of Papers/Projects
- Dissertation/Seminar
- Practical Works/Labs

Choice Based Credit System: The above objectives and broad principles can be effectively achieved by implementing a fully evolved choice-based credit system. Credit accumulation and credit transfer system being the essence of the learner-centred approach to higher education, it is proposed to introduce a comprehensive choice-based credit system whereby a student will be entitled to study courses offered from a cross section of departments in different schools.

While choice-based credit system has been in practice for over seven decades and has been perfected through practice over a period of time, the most recent framework, that has sought to benefit from previous experience has been designed by the European Higher Education Commission in 2009. The Central University of Himachal Pradesh proposes to introduce a fully evolved Choice-based Credit System with the following features:

➢ Rather than being admitted to a specific programme of study, students will be admitted to UG / PG / Research Degree programmes in Arts, Science, Commerce or Business without the requirements of particularly specifying the specific branch of study;

➢ Schools and Departments of Studies will not design Programme of Studies as such. This decision will ultimately vest in

the students as they will be required to accumulate certain specified number of credits to complete a particular level of programme of study

➢ Based on the pre-defined structure and standards set by the Departments, individual faculty members will design courses, specify course requirements including pre-requisites and co-requisites, assign credits keeping in view the workload requirements and learning outcomes

➢ Students will decide their own pathways by exercising their choices of basket of courses each semester from amongst wide variety spanning across all schools and departments. To facilitate the process, students will be assisted by academic counsellors/advisers who will guide them in exercising their choices

➢ Since the students will have wide ranging options to choose from, the process will make the programme offerings dynamic, flexible, multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary

➢ Departments will set standards and benchmarks and pre-specify learning outcomes, educational components and workloads to be adhered to by individual faculty members in designing and delivery of courses.

Assignment of Credits:

Credit assigned to a particular course will be decided with due regard to Specified Learning Outcomes, Educational Components and Workload requirements. Normally, 1 Credit will amount to 30 Hours of workload and typically a 1 credit course will entail 10 contact hours (organised classroom activities) + 20 hours of other workload as specified in the course catalogue/course outline and may include independent individual work, group work, obligatory work placement, optional work placement, literature survey, library work, data collection, field work, writing of papers, projects, dissertation, seminars, practical, and preparation for examination. Individual departments of studies may depart from the typical arrangement depending on the specific needs and requirements of a course subject to the condition that 1 credit course will entail total student effort/workload of 30 hours.

Course Catalogue: In order to facilitate the choice of courses, the University will prepare and continuously update the Course Catalogue. The Course Catalogue will provide a comprehensive listing and outline of all courses offered by faculty members across all schools of the University. Each course will also indicate its level, pre-requisite and co-requisites, expectations in terms of time commitments on the part of students registering for that course and requirements for successful completion of the course. The course catalogue would be a handy tool in the hands of students to pick and choose courses that they wish to register for in a particular semester keeping in view the course requirements and their individual career goals, liking and abilities.

Detailed Course Outline: At the commencement of each semester, the concerned faculty member will provide detailed course outline to each student registering for the course. Detailed Course Outline would be an elaboration of all courses listed in the course catalogue and would provide specific details about a particular course - level, pre-requisite, co-requisite, completion requirements, assessment criteria, unit-wise course contents, lecture plan, etc. A broad outline of the Detailed Course Catalogue and Detailed Course Outline is given in Annexure A.

Programmes of Studies in the University

Given the existing regulatory framework for higher, technical and professional education in the country, it may not be possible for the university to implement all of the above

innovations across all schools. This in view, it is proposed to have the following arrangements:

Standard UG / PG / Research Degree (RD) Programmes:

Keeping in view the specialised nature and requirements of the professional councils, it is proposed that the following schools will offer standard programmes so as to ensure wider acceptability and the requirements of the practising professionals. These include programmes of studies for the following Schools:

- School of Medical Sciences
- School of Health & Allied Sciences
- School of Engineering & Technology
- School of Planning, Architecture & Design
- School of Education
- School of Law & Jurisprudence

Curriculum framework, courses, pedagogy, evaluation and examination requirements in case of the above Schools will, however, be benchmarked with the best institutions in the country. Also, to the extent possible, a fair degree of innovation in terms of interactivity with other schools will be attempted in the following manner:

- Any of these schools requiring input of other disciplines shall not be permitted to create separate departments for the purpose. Instead, they will require their students to register for these courses in other schools of the university. For example, School of Engineering & Technology, rather than having Departments of Humanities and Applied Sciences, would require its students to accumulate required number of credits from the Schools of Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Mathematics, Computer & Informatics
- These schools will open their courses (particularly at the core & foundation level) for registration by students from other schools. For example, School of Medicine may offer certain specified courses to, say, students from School of

Engineering or Life Sciences
- Framework for collaborative degree programmes could also be worked out. For example, Schools of Engineering & Technology and Management can come together by specifying the identified courses from both the schools, which may lead to a degree, say, in Construction Management.

Innovative, Multi-Disciplinary, Modular Programmes:

Keeping in view the need for cross-fertilisation of ideas, inter-disciplinary approach, intensive training and holistic development, the following Schools will offer Innovative, Modular and Integrated Programmes:

- School of Physical & Material Sciences
- School of Life Sciences
- School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
- School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Informatics
- School of Humanities & Languages
- School of Social Sciences
- School of Management Sciences
- School of Tourism, Travel & Hospitality Management
- School of Mass Communication & New Media
- School of Fine Arts & Art Education
- School of Physical Education, Sports and Athletics

The following kind of innovations are proposed in the programmes of study offered by these schools:

- **Multi-disciplinarity:**
  Students will make their own basket of courses from amongst the large number of courses offered by a cross-section of schools & departments.
  Each individual student will thus be treated as unique in terms of his/her preferences and abilities.
  As a result, each student, upon completion

of his/her programme of study will have a unique blend of specialisation, knowledge and skill.

- **Modularity:**
  While most students would be expected to complete their UG/PG/RD, the University would provide a structured framework for students wanting to opt out of their programmes of study before completing all requirements to become eligible to get their degrees.
  - Such students, depending on the extent they have pursued their studies, will be eligible to conferment of certificate/ diploma/ advanced diploma.
  - Such students who opt out with a certificate/diploma/advanced diploma may also be permitted to resume their studies within a specified period of time and complete their degree.

- **Flexibility:**
  While most students will want to complete their chosen programme of study in the minimum possible period of time, some may want to pursue their studies at slower pace due to personal, professional and academic reasons.

- In recognition of individual preferences, the University will allow students to register for fewer courses than the maximum prescribed for a semester subject to the condition that:
  - No student will be permitted to register for less than 50% of the prescribed courses in any semester.
  - Those students who choose to register for less than 75 percent of the courses shall be labelled as Part-Time Students.

- In recognition of the fact that each individual student differs in terms of exposure, intellect and diligence, the University may also permit students
  - to challenge (i.e. complete all assessment requirements without the requirement of course work) a maximum of 10% of the maximum courses prescribed for a semester, which would mean that they would be able to earn credit for the course without the requirement of contact hours but will have to meet the requirements of all other educational components and assessment parameters.

UG/PG/RD Programmes:
Based on the above, the Programmes of Studies in the University would be designed as under:

- **UG Programmes:**
  Eligibility:
  - 10+2 qualification with a minimum of 50% Marks
  - 5% relaxation in qualifying examination for SC/ST Candidates

Admission:
- Single Common Criteria used for admission in all UG Programmes
- Admission to be granted in UG Programme by broad subject disciplines:
  - UG Arts
  - UG Science
  - UG Business/Commerce.

- Admission strictly on the basis of merit adjudged through composite performance score determined as under:
  - Scores obtained in the Higher Education Admission Test (HEAT):   (60% weightage)
  - Percentage of Marks obtained in 10+2 Examination   (20% Weightage)
  - Percentage of marks obtained in class 10 Examination   (10% Weightage)
  - Personal Interview   (10% Weightage)

Award of Degree:

- Course content is designed to be Modular with Exit and Re-entry at designated points.
- Depending on the credits earned, a student will get the following certification:

Certificate: Successful completion of at least 2 semesters accumulation of 40 UG credits

Diploma: Successful completion of at least 4 semester accumulation of 80 UG credits; Alumni with Certificate from the University may get lateral entry within the next two years.

At UG Level, Credit accumulation would be as under:

Course Type	Weight (%)	Credits	Contact Hours	TSE Workload Hours
University Wide Courses	25	30	300	900
School Wide Courses	25	30	300	900
Department Wide Courses	50	60	600	1800
Total Requirements	100	120	1200	3600
Semester Wise Break Up. Each Semester a student will have to accumulate 20 credits with commitment with total commitment of 600 Workload hours of other workload.				

UG Degree: If a student successfully completes all the 6 semesters with 120 UG credits; Alumni with Diploma from the University may get lateral entry within the next two years.

- **PG Programmes:**

Eligibility:

- Bachelor's Degree with a minimum of 50% Marks
- 5% relaxation in qualifying examination for SC/ST Candidates

Admission:

- Single Common Criteria used for admission in all UG Programmes
- Admission to be granted in a specific PG Programme
- Admission strictly on the basis of merit adjudged through composite performance score determined as under:
  - Scores obtained in the Further Education Admission Test (FEAT):   (60% Weightage)
  - Percentage of Marks obtained in UG Degree: (10% Weightage)
  - Percentage of Marks obtained in 10+2 Examination   (10% Weightage)
  - Percentage of Marks obtained in class 10 Examination   (10% Weightage)
  - Personal Interview   (10% Weightage)

Award of Degree:

- Course content is designed to be Modular with Exit and Re-entry at designated points.
- Depending on the credits earned, a student will get the following certification:

Advanced Diploma: If a student opts out after successful completion of 2 semesters with 40 PG credits;

Master's Degree: If a student successfully completes 4 semesters with 80 PG credits Alumni with Advanced Diploma from the University may get lateral entry within the next two years

At PG Level, Credit accumulation would be as under:

Course Type	Weight (%)	Credits	Contact Hours	TSE Workload Hours
University Wide Courses	10	8	80	240
School Wide Courses	20	16	160	480
Department Wide Courses	70	56	560	1680
Total Requirements	100	80	800	2400

Semester Wise Break Up: Each Semester a student will have to accumulate 20 credits with total commitment of 600 Workload hours comprising 200 Contact Hours plus 400 hours of other workload.

- **RD (Research Degree) Programmes:**

Eligibility:
  - Master's Degree with a minimum of 55% Marks
  - 5% relaxation in the Marks for SC/ST Candidates

Admission :
  - Single Common criteria for admission in MPhil & PhD Programmes
  - Admission Strictly on Merit adjudged through composite performance scores to be assessed as under:
    - Scores obtained in The Research Entrance Aptitude Test (TREAT):   (50% weightage)
    - Percentage of Marks obtained in the Master's Degree: (10% weightage)
    - Percentage of Marks obtained in the Bachelor's Degree: (10% Weightage)
    - Percentage of Marks obtained in the 10+2 Examination   (10% Weightage)
    - Percentage of Marks obtained in the class 10 Examination   (10% Weightage)
    - Personal Interview   (10% Weightage)

Award of Degree:
  - RD programmes will be designed on modular pattern.
  - MPhil or PhD would be awarded on the basis of credits accumulated.

MPhil Programme: Conditions for Award of Degree:
  - Successful completion of a minimum of 3 semesters and accumulation of 60 RD credits comprising:
    - Course work: 20 credits
    - Dissertation: 20 credits
    - Publications: 10 credits
    - Teaching Assistantship: 10 credits

Programme Duration:
  - Minimum required duration will be 3 semesters from the date of admission.
  - Maximum duration permitted to complete all the requirements would be 5 semesters from the date of admission
  - Further extension of one semester may be granted in special cases.

PhD Programme: Conditions for Award of Degree:
  - Successful completion of a minimum of 6 semesters and accumulation of 120 RD credits comprising:

- o   Course work: 20 credits
- o   Dissertation: 60 credits
- o   Publications: 20 credits
- o   Teaching Assistantship: 20 credits

Programme Duration:

- ■   Minimum required duration will be 6 semesters from the date of admission.
- ■   Maximum duration permitted to complete all the requirements would be 9 semesters from the date of admission
- ■   Further extension of one semester may be granted under special cases
- ■   Applicants with MPhil degree from this University or any other university may get lateral entry into the PhD programme, in which cases credits for course work, publication work and teaching assistantship will be adjusted accordingly. They will, however, be required to complete the full 48 PG credits for dissertation work along with the balance of the credits for the course work, publication work and teaching assistantship

At RD Level, Credit accumulation would be as under:

Education Components	Credit Requirements	
	MPhil	**PhD**
Courses Works*	20	20
Dissertation	20	60
Publications	10	20
Teaching Assistantship	10	20
Total	60	120
*Course work would normally be completed in the first Semester		

Computation of Credits for Publication Work: Computation of credits for published work for MPhil and PhD degree would be made as under:

- ●   2 credits for each popular article published / paper presented in national seminars/ conferences/ workshops
- ●   4 credits for each paper presented in international seminars/ conferences/ workshops
- ●   5 credits for each paper in approved refereed national journal
- ●   10 credits for each paper in approved refereed international journal
- ●   Departments to maintain an updated list of approved journals for publication

Computation of Credits for Teaching Assistantship: Computation of credits for teaching assistantship for the MPhil and PhD degree would be made as under:

- ●   5 credits for independent teaching of a one-semester course;
- ●   1 credit for every 3 hours of involvement in assessment, evaluation, examination, course development, development of reading lists, etc. [supervisor concerned to audit the workload claimed under this category and certify]

Examination, Assessment & Evaluation System:

- ●   University will follow the Semester System based on comprehensive continuous internal assessment.
- ●   The assessment criteria would be linked to specified learning outcomes.

- Typically, the components of assessment would include:
    - Class Participation
    - Assignments/ Quizzes/ Presentations
    - Projects/Field Work
    - Practical/Lab work
    - Independent/ Group Work
    - Mid-Term Examination
    - End-Semester Examination
- Relative importance and weights of each component would be specified in the detailed course outline provided by the faculty concerned.
- The assessment and evaluation process would be transparent as the teacher concerned would be required to return the marked/ evaluated work of students and will have to show them answer scripts of End-Semester Examination. The University will not have compartmental/ supplementary examination or revaluation/ rechecking system.
- There shall be no external paper setting/ external examination/ external evaluation. The examination system would be based on the principle that those who teach are the best evaluators of performance/ learning achievements of their students.
- The End-Semester Examination question papers would, however, be comprehensive to cover in a balanced manner all the components/ modules/ units of the prescribed course content. Post-examination, the question papers will be available in public domain for peer review.
- Apprehension of prejudices, biases, victimisation, etc. will be automatically addressed as the students are under no compulsion to continue to register for the same course. Possibilities of favouritism and too liberal marking by teachers would be taken care by the relative grading system.
- Extreme cases of unfair practices in assessment and evaluation could be referred to Grievance Redressal Committee and suitably addressed.

Grading System:
- The University would follow a five-point grading system based on relative performance of the students.
    - Top 10% of the Class = A Grade   =   5 Points
    - Next 30% of the Class = B Grade   =   4 Points
    - Next 30% of the Class = C Grade   =   3 Points
    - Next 20% of the Class = D Grade   =   2 Points
    - Last 10% of the Class = E Grade   =   1 Point
    - F Grade would be awarded to those who fail to:
        - to meet 75% of attendance requirements
        - to appear in End-Semester Examination
        - to meet requirements on all components of a course
    - Those with F Grade would be compulsorily required to re-register for the same or any other course that they are eligible to register for.
    - Those with D and E Grades may, if they so wish, re-register for the same course in the semester if it is offered again, to improve their grades.

Award of Degrees:

- UG Degree of specialisation/Programme of Study would be determined as under:
  - o UG (Hons.) Degree would be awarded in the subject/discipline from which the student has accumulated the minimum prescribed credits required e, g, a student admitted to UG would get Bachelor's Degree in Economics if she/he has accumulated 50% of credits by choosing courses offered by the Department of Economics. So on and so forth.
  - o If a student meets the requirements of minimum specified semesters and accumulates the required credits such that a minimum of 50% of the total credits required is not from any specific subject/discipline, she/he will get a general UG.
  - o It should also be possible for two or more departments (from within a particular school or from other schools) to come together to specify conditions for the award of inter-disciplinary degree by accumulating the minimum required credits jointly from these departments.
- PG Degree will be awarded in the subject/discipline of the department in which the student has taken admission, subject to the fulfilment of the requirements of minimum specified number of semesters and accumulation of required credits.
  - o As was the case with UG degree, it should be possible for two or more departments (from within a particular school or from other schools) to come together to specify conditions for the award of inter-disciplinary degree by accumulating at least 50% credits jointly from these departments.
- MPhil/PhD Degree will be awarded in the subject/discipline of the department in which the student has taken admission, subject to the fulfilment of the requirement of minimum specified number of semesters and accumulation of required credits. Name of the School and also the title of the dissertation will be mentioned in the degree.

Workshop on vision document in process