



Academic Requirements for the Ph D Program in Engineering in ICT disciplines Science and Mathematics

(Effective from Autumn 2024-25)

Doctor of Philosophy: PhD: duration - typically a 4 to 6 years program. The program will be governed by these rules, subject to amendments, from time to time, as per the needs and requirements. These rules deal only with the post-admission academic activities of the program. Eligibility for admission, admission procedures etc., for the program are outside the purview of this document.

The Dean (Academic Programs)/Registrar may, from time to time, issue such instructions or directions as may be necessary to give effect to and carry out the provisions of these rules. The Director, as Chairman of the Academic Council, may relax/exempt some provision(s) of the rules in exceptional situations and all such cases shall be reported to the Academic Council in the immediate next meeting.

Important terms/expressions used in the document have been defined in the GLOSSARY at the end of this document.

1. REGISTRATION

1.1 Categories of Registration:

- a) A student may register in a given semester in three possible categories: Regular (Full-time) registration, Sponsored (Part-time) registration, and External (Part-time) registration. Only resident registration will count towards the residence requirement for a Degree. A foreign student on a student visa will not be allowed to register as an external student.
- b) To qualify for regular (resident) category registration, the student must be residential, a minimum of 3 years from the time of first semester registration for a duly approved course programme and pay the prescribed tuition and other fees, including any outstanding dues. The student must carry his/her coursework and research work at the Institute.
- c) In case a student wants to shift from regular category to part-time category after 3 years due to any reason, his/her supervisor, after seeking the approval from his/her RPC, should recommend the same to Dean (AP). The supervisor then sends a formal letter to the Dean AP office recommending the transition from full-time to part-time category. The approval from RPC can be obtained over email. Such a request can be made only if the minimum course credits (as per Table 1 below) have been earned by the student.
- d) To qualify for sponsored (part-time) and external (part-time) category registration, a student must register for a duly approved research programme, and pay the prescribed tuition and other fees, including any outstanding dues.
- e) A student is required to register in the semester in which the final PhD thesis is submitted for evaluation and pay the prescribed tuition and other fees, including any outstanding dues.

1.2 New entrants to the program, who are awaiting the results of the qualifying examination may be allowed 'provisional' registration. Latest by the date given in the Academic Calendar (usually about 8 weeks from the date of registration) such candidates will be required to submit, for verification, the Certificates of having passed the qualifying examination. Original certificates will be returned to the students and a self- attested copy will be kept for records.

1.3 Late Registration:

- a) If for any compelling reason like illness, a student is unable to register on the day of registration, he/she will be allowed to register during the late registration period as specified in the Academic Calendar (which is about one week from the date of registration). Any student registering late will be required to pay the specified late registration fee.
- b) In exceptional cases, the Dean (Academic Programs) on the recommendation of the Post-Graduate Committee (PGC) may consider registration beyond the date of late registration. In such a case, the student will be allowed to register for thesis credits only.

1.4 Academic Advising:

a) Course work:

(i) The academics at DA-IICT is divided into seven areas: Communication and Signal Processing (CSP), Computer Science (CS), Electronics and VLSI (EnV), Physics (Phy), Mathematics (Math), Humanities, Arts & Social Science (HSS) and Design.

(ii) The **full time** students pursuing research in any of the above areas need to register for a minimum of three courses (5xx or 7xx only) during the first semester. Out of the three, students have to register for two area core courses, whose list is made available by the PhD coordinator. The two core courses offered by an area need to be done by all the students registered in the PhD program of that area. In addition to the two core courses, the student needs to register for the compulsory Research Methodology course. Regular PhD candidates are allowed to take a maximum of one MOOC to fulfil their minimum course credit requirements throughout the entire PhD program (this MOOC should be the Research Methodology course).

(iii) The core courses will be informed by the PhD coordinator during the orientation program. Students are recommended to get in touch with the area coordinators for specific questions on the area core courses. For registering one more course other than the 3 courses in the first semester, or for registering for courses from semester II onward, students are recommended to discuss with the Area-Coordinator/PhD Coordinator/PG-Convenor/Any other faculty member while making a choice. After the supervisor appointment is done, students are recommended to discuss the possible choices of the courses they would like to register with the supervisor.

(iv) The **part-time** students pursuing research in any of the above areas need to register for a minimum of three PG-level courses during the first semester, out of which one is the compulsory Research Methodology course. The other two courses need to be decided in consultations with the supervisor. A course can be done through any one of the three modes below.

Mode 1: By registering for the course and its exam on any UGC recognized platform such as NPTEL, etc., and obtaining the passing certificate which contains performance in all the evaluation components. A 2/3-credits (2-0-0-2/3-0-0-3) course must be of a minimum duration of 8/12 weeks. Since the NPTEL awards certificates with marks, the mapping between marks and possible grades in our system is given in section 2.4.

Mode 2: By registering for the course (5xx/7xx, or 4xx if offered for PG students) on-campus if the course is offered for UG/PG students in the current semester, and attending the lecture and lab sessions in person. This is possible for students having jobs of the work-from-home nature, or it is feasible for them to do so alongwith the job.

Mode 3: By registering for the course (5xx/7xx, or 4xx if offered for PG students) on-campus if the course is offered for UG/PG students in the current semester, but doing it in online mode (provided the instructor agrees to conduct it in online mode). The instructor shall conduct separate interaction/lecture sessions and the student will appear for all the evaluation components in person along with the other UG/PG students registered in the course as per the course policy.

(v) The **full-time** students can also take a course in Mode 1 as above on the recommendation of the supervisor and with prior approval of the PhD coordinator. However, only one such course per semester can be taken. The credits will be counted towards the overall credits once the passing certificate which contains all the details as mentioned in Mode 1 is submitted to the PhD coordinator.

(vi) Under all the three categories of registration (full-time, part-time and sponsored), the minimum course credits can be earned until registering for the synopsis.

b) Supervisor(s) Assignment (Full-Time category)

(i) During Semester I, students are expected to discuss and identify a prospective thesis supervisor(s). Subsequently, after semester I, a supervisor in the relevant research area will be appointed by the Dean(AP)'s office for the student after receiving a formal request from the student and the prospective thesis supervisor(s).

(ii) The thesis supervisor must be finalized before the student appears for the Part II of the comprehensive examination. Once the thesis supervisor is finalized, the RPC will be formed by the office of Dean-AP in consultation with the supervisor.

(iii) To complete the Comprehensive Part-II by the end of Semester II, the supervisor selection/appointment must be done within the first two months from the start of the semester, i.e. if students' semester II is the Winter semester of the academic year, then the supervisor selection and appointment must be done by the end of February, while if semester II is the Autumn semester of the academic year, then the supervisor selection and appointment must be done by the middle of September. More details about comprehensive exams are provided in section 5.

c) Supervisor(s) Assignment (Part-Time category)

At the start of semester I, the faculty member whose letter of recommendation (LoR) the student submits at the time of admission, is appointed as the supervisor.

d) A student may be permitted to repeat or substitute courses in which he/she has obtained 'DD', 'DE' or 'F' grades. Permission to repeat/substitute a course will be governed by the guidelines laid down in section 2.4.

1.5 Semester Load Requirements:

a) A student registered for a full semester load solely by course work would typically take 3/4 courses. Depending on the merits of the case, the PGC may permit a student to register for a maximum of 5 courses on the recommendation of the PhD coordinator and thesis-supervisor (if appointed). A minimum of 3 courses needs to be registered in any semester. A semester load is typically defined as equivalent to 12 credits. If the minimum research credit requirement is fulfilled, then the students are advised to register for only 3 research courses in a semester.

b) A student in the external registration program, when registering for research only, can register for a maximum of 12 credits or a minimum of 3 credits during the regular semester.

1.6 Adding/Dropping of Courses and Withdrawal from a Semester

- a) Adding and dropping of courses is permitted, during the Add/Drop period, only if the student's request is endorsed by the instructor of the course and the Convener PGC. The last dates of applying for adding and dropping of courses are specified in the Academic Calendar.
- b) A student who wishes to withdraw prior to registration for a semester must obtain a formal approval from the Dean (Academic Programs) before the prescribed last date for late registration for the concerned semester. Withdrawal after registration for a semester is permitted only on medical grounds or for other exceptional reasons and formal approval for such withdrawal must be obtained from the Dean (Academic Programs) before the date of commencement of the end-semester examination for the concerned semester. Withdrawal from a semester, either prior to registration or after registration, is permitted for only one semester at a time. If a student does not register for a regular semester or does not withdraw with permission from the Dean (Academic Programs) as indicated above, his/her name is liable to be struck off from the rolls of the Institute.
- c) A student who registers for a semester after having withdrawn in previous semester(s) can register for the available courses as prescribed in the curriculum for that particular semester subject to pre-requisites, if any.
- d) The transcript of a student who has 'withdrawn' status would show the appropriate status for the concerned semester(s). The transcript of a student who is suspended for an academic or disciplinary reason would also show 'withdrawn' status.
- e) The maximum period for completion of the program as given in the appropriate subsection of Section 2 includes any semester in which the student has 'withdrawn' status.
- f) In case a student has registered for a course on a UGC recognised platform such as NPTEL in a particular semester and is unable to obtain a completion certificate, the status of such a course will be shown "Withdrawn (W)" on the marksheet in that semester.

2. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Ph D Program:

Category	Minimum Total Credits	Minimum Course Credits	Minimum Research Credits	Normal Duration (Years)	Maximum Duration (Years)
Regular (Full-time) – MTech/ME/MS/MPhil	72	12	48	4-5	6
Regular (Full-time) – MSc	80	20	48	5-6	6
Regular (Full-time) – MA	80	21 to 24	48	5-6	6
Regular (Full-time) – BTech/BE/MCA	80	24	48	5-6	6
Sponsored/External (Part-time) – MTech/ME/MS/MPhil	72	12	48	4-5	7
Sponsored/External (Part-time) – MSc	80	20	48	5-6	7
Sponsored/External (Part-time) – MA	80	21 to 24	48	5-6	7
Sponsored/External (Part-time) – BTech/BE/MCA	80	24	48	5-6	7

Table 1: Course work requirement for the PhD program

2.1.1 A student depending on the category needs to take a certain number of minimum course credits, as mentioned in Table-1. The course work can be done following guidelines given in section 1.4 (a) above. The full-time students from semester II onward, and part-time students from semester I onward will be advised by the supervisor to take necessary courses based on the broad domain of the area of interest.

2.1.2 Research credits (Example: PC801-Research-1 (3 credits)) are advisable for the student once he/she successfully clears the comprehensive examination. The number of research courses a student can register in a semester is the same as the number of courses (i.e., min. 3 courses and max. 4 courses). Depending on the merits of the case, the PGC may permit a student to register for a maximum of 5 courses on the recommendation of the PhD coordinator and thesis-supervisor (if appointed). The students are required to register the Synopsis as one Research Unit (3 credits).

2.1.3 Courses of level 1 (i.e., 1xx), 2 (i.e., 2xx), 3 (i.e., 3xx) and 6 (i.e., 6xx) won't count for the minimum course credit requirement. For fulfilling minimum course credit requirement, courses of level 4 (i.e., 4xx), 5 (i.e., 5xx) and 7 (i.e., 7xx) can be taken. However, if any area floats a course of level 2/3/6 as a core course then it will be open to PhD students for course credit, and extra academic components could be added to such courses, to elevate them at par with the PhD level course work. Such a permissible course will have a different course identity for the PhD student's registration.

2.1.4 A student earns 3-credits for every self-study course taken. Maximum number of allowed self-study courses throughout the PhD is two with no more than one in a single semester. Self-study courses can be taken from semester II onward (i.e., no self-study course in semester I), with no more than one self-study course under the same instructor. For taking a self-study course, student should apply to the Dean(AP) with

- (i) the detailed course contents and evaluation methodology, credit structure.
- (ii) expected outcome of the course.
- (iii) consent from the course-instructor with whom the self-study course is taken.
- (iv) Self-study proposal form can be collected from the office of Dean-AP.

The student's performance on his/her self-study course would be evaluated by the course instructor with whom the student is doing the self-study course. A letter grade would be awarded by the instructor of the student based on the student's performance in the self-study course. The grade has to be communicated to the PhD-coordinator.

2.1.5 Professional research experience for more than 5 years in R&D organizations, industry/research Labs, Universities in a relevant area may be considered for counting 6 research credits in respective domain expertise based on the recommendations of the faculty supervisor and approval of the Dean (AP).

2.1.6 Research courses before clearing the comprehensive examination: If the supervisor for a student has been appointed, then the student can take research credits before clearing the comprehensive exam if it is allowed by the supervisor. However, not more than 2 of such research courses are allowed, with not more than one in a single semester. To take research credits before passing the comprehensive examination.

- students should get approval from the PGC/PhD Coordinator.
- supervisor should give consent for the same to the PhD coordinator.
- supervisor after consultation with RPC should award the grades at the end of the semester and communicate the same to the PhD coordinator.

2.1.7 Transfer of credits, as applicable, at postgraduate level courses in reputed organizations may be considered based on the production of valid certificate or weightage of the course(s) and on the recommendations of the faculty supervisor and approval of the Dean (AP).

NOTE: Transfer of credits for courses done outside: Students may be permitted to do courses in places of repute outside DA-IICT. Based on their performance and the content/nature of the course, the PGC may consider them equivalent to some course credits and waive credit requirements for required course work credits at DA-IICT. Any such waivers/transfer is

permitted only if the courses being considered have not been counted for any other degree/diploma requirement.

2.2 Audit Courses:

The students are permitted to audit courses. They will be given a 'P' grade, which will be entered in their grade card if they satisfy the requirements placed by the course instructor. If they do not meet the requirements, then they will not get any grade and no entry will be made in the grade-card/transcript for that course.

2.3 Courses of level 1 (i.e., 1xx), 2 (i.e., 2xx), 3 (i.e., 3xx) and 6 (i.e., 6xx)

The PhD Students may be permitted to register for courses of level 1 (i.e., 1xx), 2 (i.e., 2xx), 3 (i.e., 3xx) and 6 (i.e., 6xx) on the recommendation of the area coordinator, if supervisor is not appointed, or on the recommendation of the supervisor, with the prior approval of the Dean (Academic Programs). For such courses, the credits earned won't count towards the minimum course credits. However, they may be counted in the total minimum credits.

2.4 Grades, Semester and Cumulative Performance Index:

A student is awarded a letter grade in each course he/she is registered for, indicating his/her overall performance in that course. These letter grades are assigned points on a 10-point scale as described in the table below:

Letter Grade	Grade Points	Explanation
AA	10	
AB	9	
BB	8	
BC	7	
CC	6	
CD	5	
DD	4	
DE	3	
F	0	Fail
I	-	Incomplete
P*	-	Pass

*For Pass/Fail and Audit Courses only.

Marks to Grade mapping for courses done on UGC recognised online platforms

Total Marks (out of 100)	Letter Grade
≥ 80	AA
≥ 70	AB
≥ 60	BB
≥ 50	BC
≥ 40	CC
≥ 35	CD
≥ 30	DD
≥ 25	DE
< 25	F
Certificate not submitted	I: Incomplete

- If a student does not complete all the requirements for a course for a genuine reason, the instructor may award grade 'I' (Incomplete). An 'I' grade must be converted by the instructor to a regular letter grade by the last date for such conversion specified in the Academic Calendar, failing which it is automatically converted to an 'F' grade.
- The grade 'S' or 'X' will be awarded for Ph D research credits as follows:
At the end of the semester, the thesis supervisor(s) will assess the student's progress towards the research work during the semester and will award the grade 'S' for each set of 3 credits if the work is satisfactory and 'X' for every unsatisfactory set of 3 credits.
- A student getting an 'F' grade in a core course must repeat it. An elective course must be either repeated or substituted as suggested by PGC. In a particular semester if a student receives an 'X' grade in one or more of the research courses then he/she should take the course again in the next semester.
- If a student gets an 'I' grade in a course registered on any UGC recognised platforms, then the student can register for the course again on the platform (if offered again) in any of subsequent semesters (until synopsis registration) and get the 'I' changed to a two letter grade after submitting the certificate. In case at the time of registering for synopsis, if the minimum course credits and the total credits requirement is fulfilled, and the grade in any course registered on online platforms stays at 'I', then all such courses will be considered withdrawn.
- For PhD students, replacement/substitution by another course is allowed, subject to his/her CPI being less than the prescribed minimum requirement for PhD comprehensive examination as well as for the degree.
- In case a course is repeated or substituted, the old grade will also appear on the transcript although it will not be taken into account while computing the CPI.
- If a student is on leave for a part of the semester or submits his/her thesis in the middle of a semester, the PGC may reduce research credits the student has registered for in the semester.

2.5 Sponsored (Part-Time) / External (Part-Time) Category (Ph D):

Apart from the general eligibility criteria prescribed by the Institute, sponsored/external candidates require to fulfill the following additional requirements:

- a) Candidates must be sponsored by their employers for pursuing PhD studies in the Institute.
- b) At the time of application, the candidate is required to submit a letter of recommendation (LoR) from a faculty at DA-IICT who agrees to be the supervisor. With the LoR, it is assumed that the area of research, problem statement has been discussed and agreed upon, and a mutual understanding is established between the student and the recommender.
- c) Candidates are required to do course work and appear for the comprehensive examination as prescribed in Academic Requirement of the PhD program of the Institute.
- d) Sponsorship letter should be submitted in the prescribed format at the time of the PhD admissions. The Sponsorship Certificate (and a NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE for the candidates sponsored by College/University) from the organization in which he/she is employed should provide an undertaking that the candidate will be released to fulfill the course work requirement and comprehensive examination.
- e) The Sponsorship Certificate should mention that the candidate's services shall be retained with the employer after fulfilling the course work and comprehensive requirement at the Institute and the candidate will be allowed to go back to his/her parent organization where he/she will be doing the research work.
- f) Sponsored/external candidates should possess a minimum of two years job experience in an organization of repute.
- g) Sponsored/external candidates will not receive any stipend/scholarship from the Institute and the candidate will not be assigned any teaching assistantship.

Requirement	Sponsored / External Ph D
Guidance	Guide from DA-IICT, Co-Guide from sponsoring agency. However, Co-Guide from a sponsoring agency is optional and subject to mutual acceptance between Guide and Co-Guide.
Infrastructure (Research & Course)	DA-IICT and sponsoring agency respectively for the part in which student stays at DA-IICT and at the sponsoring agency.
Financial Support (TA/RA)	Not Applicable unless indicated in the agreement
Intellectual Property Rights	DA-IICT jointly with sponsoring agency as specified in the agreement.

2.6 Residency requirement

Residency during a semester implies that a student is available on the campus of the Institute for course work and research activities during all working days of the semester.

- Students enrolled under the Regular category should fulfill residency requirements during course work credits and research credits, both.
- Students enrolled under Sponsored and External category are not required to be residential while earning the course work credits and research credits. However, for a minimum number of working days (10) every semester, the student is required to be

residential. These days can include the RPS. The supervisor maintains the attendance sheet and submits the same to the Dean (AP) office at the end of each semester.

Under certain special circumstances the sponsored and external candidates may be permitted to earn course credits from an organization of repute on the basis of the recommendations of the faculty supervisor and with prior approval of the Dean (AP).

2.7 PhD Synopsis

A PhD student is expected to successfully complete PhD Synopsis examination by the stipulated maximum duration, as indicated in Table 1.

1. A student should obtain consent of his/her supervisor/RPC for synopsis registration.
2. A student needs to register for synopsis at the beginning of the semester.
3. The Synopsis Committee for the candidate will be constituted by Dean (AP).
4. The Synopsis presentation must be done by the end of the semester.
5. After successfully completing the PhD Synopsis exam, the student should submit a PhD thesis to the Dean (AP) within a maximum time of 6 months.
6. Registration for the synopsis can be done only if the minimum course credits, minimum research credits and minimum total credits have been earned by the student.

3. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT

3.1 Semester Performance Index (SPI) and Cumulative Performance Index (CPI):

The SPI is an indicator of the academic performance of a student in all the courses he/she has registered during a given semester. It is computed by taking the weighted average of the grades obtained in that semester. The CPI indicates the cumulative academic performance in all the courses taken including those taken in the current semester. CPI is computed by taking the cumulative weighted average of the grades earned till that semester. The SPI and CPI is calculated up to two decimal places. Courses with 'S' and 'X' will not be taken into account in the above computations.

3.2 Minimum CPI requirements for graduation in the program:

Program	CPI for Graduation
Ph D	7.0

3.3 Academic Probation and Dismissal:

A student whose CPI falls below the minimum required for graduation at the end of any semester will be placed on Academic Probation for the next semester with written intimation. A student in the Ph D program will be placed on Academic Probation if he/she obtains an X in a research course. For every student placed on Academic Probation for a semester, the PGC will prescribe a specified course load in the concerned semester and may also prescribe a minimum SPI the student must attain in the semester. The PGC will keep a watch on the progress of every student placed on probation and if the performance of a student is poor so that he/she is not likely to benefit from continuing in the program any further, will recommend to the Director that he/she should leave the Institute. A student who obtains more than 5 unsatisfactory (X) grades shall be discontinued from the program. If a student's continuation in the program is terminated, the appropriate authority will issue the letter of termination.

4. FELLOWSHIPS/TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 4.1** A student admitted under the Regular (full-time) category will be eligible for financial support (stipend) in the form of Teaching Assistantship (TA) / Research Assistantship (RA). The stipend is for a **maximum duration of five years**. The responsibilities associated with the teaching / research assistantship includes conducting laboratory courses and tutorials for undergraduate/postgraduate students, assisting in teaching, research projects, and academic

administration. The PhD stipend amount is announced in the Admissions Policy (and available on the website) of the Institute. A student can clarify stipend related doubts with Dean (AP)/PGC.

- 4.3 The stipend would be decreased by 50% for the following semester in case a student obtains more than one unsatisfactory (X) grade in any semester or the CPI falls below 7/10.

5. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

- 5.1 Students registered in the program must pass a comprehensive examination designed to test the overall comprehension of the student in the relevant subjects.

- 5.2 (i) For **Full-time** students, the comprehensive examination consists of two parts: **(I) Written or qualifiers (Part I) and (II) Proposal defense (Part II)**. The **Part I** examination will test a candidate's competency in the broad discipline, in which the candidate plans to pursue his/her PhD study. The syllabus of part I of the comprehensive examination will be based on the area core courses. The part II, i.e., **proposal** defense, consists of a literature survey and a research proposal which must be presented to RPC no later than four months after a candidate clears the Part I. None of the parts can be conducted before the start of semester II of the student.

(ii) The area coordinators will be responsible for organizing the comprehensive examination Part I for all eligible students every semester, while the supervisor and the RPC of a student are responsible for organizing the comprehensive examination Part II.

(iii) The Part I and II examinations can be conducted in tandem.

(iv) For **Part-time** students, the comprehensive examination consists of Part II only. The details of Part II are the same as that mentioned above. Part II cannot be conducted before the start of semester II of the student.

- 5.3 Students should have a minimum CPI of 7.0/10 in order to be eligible for appearing in either/both of the part I & II of the comprehensive examination. Also, the student must have registered for and passed the three courses as per the details mentioned in section 1.4 (a).
- 5.4 For full-time students, if students' semester II is the Winter semester of the academic year, then the Part I written test will be held at the end of January, with Part II expected by the end of May. Alternatively, if semester II is the Autumn semester of the academic year, then the Part I written test will be held in the middle of August, with Part II expected by the middle of December.
- 5.6 The maximum number of attempts for either of the parts of the comprehensive exam is **two**. A student can appear for only one PhD Comprehensive examination (each of the parts) in a given semester.
- 5.7 When a student has not passed the comprehensive examination in his/her first attempt, a second comprehensive examination will be conducted by the same board that was constituted earlier unless decided otherwise by the Dean (Academic Programs). In case the duration between the first examination and the desired second one is considered to be short, he/she may not be allowed to appear for the second examination.
- 5.8 A student will have to discontinue the program, if he/she fails to pass either of the comprehensive examinations (Part I or Part II) even in the second attempt.
- 5.9 A student enrolled in the program is formally admitted to the candidacy for the Ph D Degree after he/she has passed the comprehensive examination (both the parts). Passing the comprehensive examination shall imply passing both the parts for the full-time students, while passing Part II for the part-time students.

6. Supervisor Selection and RPC Formation

Supervisor for a student enrolled in the PhD program under sponsored and Part-time categories is the same person whose LoR the student submits at the time of admission. The Dean (AP) formally assigns the student with the supervisor by the middle of semester 1. In exceptional circumstances where the faculty member who provided the Letter of Recommendation (LoR) is unavailable to supervise the student, a new PhD supervisor will be appointed through the appropriate procedural framework.

Primary thesis supervisor for a student enrolled in the PhD program under the regular category can be identified by the student as early as possible, preferably by the end of the first semester. Once a prospective PhD thesis supervisor is identified, the Dean (AP) can formally assign the student with the supervisor after Semester I. The supervisor appointment must be done before the student appears for the part II of the comprehensive exam.

Research Progress Committee (RPC) comprising the thesis supervisor and two faculty members in the relevant research area will be formed by the Dean(AP)'s office for the candidate after the supervisor appointment. Out of the two RPC members, one external expert can be included with the approval of Dean-AP.

7. Research Progress Seminar

Research Progress Seminar (RPS) is held twice a year, (typically once in November (for Autumn Semester), and once in April (for Winter Semester) for the students who have cleared their comprehensive examination (both the parts).

- RPC of the student will assess the student's research progress.
- RPC may invite an external expert during the student's RPS. The supervisor of the student requires a formal approval of the Dean(AP) for involving an external expert in his/her student's RPS.
- Grades of the student will be decided by the supervisor in consultations with the RPC members.

8. MIGRATION RULES

8.1 Eligibility for M Tech Degree: A Ph D student who fails to pass the Ph D comprehensive examination within the specified duration, whether admitted directly or via internal migration, is eligible to receive the M Tech degree under the following conditions:

- The student fulfils the eligibility criteria for M Tech program
- The student fulfils the criteria for continuation in the M Tech program
- The student submits an M Tech thesis which fulfils the requirements for such within a maximum of two semesters. This duration would commence from the semester immediately following the semester in which the student failed the Ph D comprehensive examination. Furthermore, the student would not be eligible for financial support during this period.

8.2 Ph D to M Tech Migration: A student in the Ph D program is eligible to migrate to the M Tech program provided the student submits an application to the Dean (Academic Programs). Such an application can be accepted only when the student has completed a minimum of two semesters of Ph D and fulfils the following criteria:

- The students should have entered the program with a BTech/BE degree or equivalent.
- An appropriate M Tech program should be available in the Institute.
- At least 18 course credits completed.
- The student should have a minimum CPI of 6.5/10.0.

8.3 Completion of Requirements for M Tech Program: A student who migrates to the M Tech program from the Ph D program must complete all requirements for the M Tech Degree within two years (four semesters) from the time of migration. However, credits earned as a Ph D student would be carried over to the M Tech program.

9. Termination of a student's PhD Admission

- More than 5 unsatisfactory(X) grade in research courses during the entire PhD program would lead to a termination.
- Student who has not defended his/her PhD Synopsis successfully before the 'Max Duration (Years)' allowed then admission of that student will be terminated from the PhD program. Such a student may request for fresh admission to the PhD program by submitting an application to the Admission Committee. If the Admission Committee approves his/her admission, the candidate can be registered as a fresh PhD student and he/she will require completing academic requirements.
- If the student fails to pass the comprehensive examination even in the second attempt, then his/her PhD admission will get terminated.

10. GLOSSARY

Academic Probation: Academic Probation indicates that a student's academic performance is not up to the expected level. Over and above the academic consequences described in section 3.3, a student who has been placed on probation at any time may be subjected to other restrictions related to financial support, award of medals and prizes, etc.

Cumulative Performance Index (CPI): CPI indicates the cumulative academic performance in all the courses taken including those taken in the current semester. CPI is computed by taking the cumulative weighted average of the grades earned till that semester.

Grade Points: Product of the credits and points of a letter grade awarded to the course.

Postgraduate Committee (PGC): Committee of the Institute responsible for Policy Guidelines and Implementation Strategies covering the Postgraduate Programs.

Semester: Approximately 16 weeks duration each, the first one (Autumn Semester) extending from July to November and the second (Winter Semester) from December/ January to April.

Semester Credits: The sum of credits of courses registered by the student in a semester.

Semester Grade Points: The sum of the products of credits and points for each course registered by a student in a semester.

Semester Performance Index (SPI): SPI is an indicator of the academic performance of a student in all the courses he/she has registered during a given semester. It is computed by taking the weighted average of the grades obtained in that semester.