



CIRCULAR

Sub.: Carrying out a Research Project in each Semester

Students are carrying out innovative and research oriented projects as part of their academic curriculum through Project Based Learning (PBL), Research Based Learning (RBL), Undergraduate Research Experience (URE), etc. In order to extend the learning experience and distribute projects in all semesters of the Programme, students shall carry out ONE innovative research project under the guidance of a course teacher/ faculty in all semesters of their Programme. This 'Semester Project' work shall carry a weightage of 2 credits to all 4 and 5 year Programmes and 3 credits to all two/ three year PG programmes. Students of all 3 year UG programmes are exempted from this 'Semester Project'. Students of all UG Programmes, MS(SE) and five year integrated M.Sc. Programme are exempted from carrying out the 'Semester Project' during their first semester of their Programme. Two/ three year PG Programme students shall carry out this 'Semester Project' in all their semesters instead of their SET project. Annexure – I lists the credit distribution of projects for various programmes.

For example, B.Tech. students earn 12 credits during their first 7 semesters by doing 'Semester Projects' and during their final semester, they can register their one semester 'XXX499 Student Project for 8 credits. Hence the final year 'Project Work' is carried out for the balance credits (20 credits minus total Semester Project credits *registered*) in all Programmes of the University. Thus credit balance of all current programme curricula is maintained.

In order to optimize the project work load of a student in each semester, students are permitted to register only one research project per semester, apart one more project offered as part of a PBL course registered by the student. For this purpose, a list of core courses offered under PBL will be declared by various Schools a priori. Programme or University elective courses shall not be offered under PBL. Thus, students can register only one PBL course per semester and hence may end up doing a maximum of two projects per semester. Necessary training will be provided to faculty handling PBL courses for the first time by the Schools concerned.

This semester research project will be continuously guided, monitored and evaluated by the guide for its satisfactory progress, as indicated in Annexure – II. At the end of the semester, students shall display their project outcome by preparing a poster and displaying the same to other students and faculty to know about their project work. They will also write a paper which will be added to the SET Conference proceedings. Their poster will be evaluated by the guide along with one of the SET Conference Technical Committees constituted by the Programme School. Papers of selected good projects by the SET Conference Technical Committee will be recommended for an oral presentation during the SET Conference organized at the end of each semester. Selected SET papers will be further guided and modified by project guides for a journal publication. Since a large number of students are going to carry out projects, one week's time starting after the 'Last Instructional Day' of a semester will be set apart to evaluate these projects. Theory Term End Exams (TEE) will be scheduled subsequently. Students who have completed their project presentations can use the remaining period to prepare for their TEEs.

It is compulsory for all faculty members to guide student projects in each semester and is considered as part of faculty workload. Students are free to select projects of their own topic and a faculty member as their guide across the University. Hence students are advised to discuss their tentative projects with the faculty and identify a guide in their current semester so that they will be ready for the ensuing semester course registration much before its commencement. Individual or a group of students, *not exceeding*

three in numbers, may join together and register the semester project. Change in group members (or) guide is permitted during the Add/ Drop period only. Subsequently no change in project group/ guide is permitted, except the title. The projects are expected to be technical in nature, innovative, research oriented, or socially relevant/ development of a concept or idea or an application. Projects could be theoretical, experimental or survey based, and plagiarism attracts punishment.

This 'Semester Project' concept is introduced with effect from the Fall 2013-14 semester onwards in all Programmes offered by the University except MBA programmes. Current students in various Programmes shall also be covered under this. Depending on the number of semesters left out in meeting their programme duration, credits of their final year 'Student Project/ Master's Thesis' may vary, as shown in Annexure – I.

Individual CBL and PBL course evaluation methodology currently in practice shall continue. Instead of all PG programme courses to be under RBL, only select core courses identified by the Programmes and announced a priori will be offered under PBL. All other courses will be, by default, under CBL. *Hence there will not be any course offered under RBL.*

If a student is awarded an 'F' or 'N' grade in the 'Semester Project', the student needs to compensate the loss of credits earned by *carrying out course(s)* during their subsequent semester(s) or in their final semester along with their Student Project/ Thesis. These letter grades will be indicated in their regular semester and consolidated grade sheets. The loss in CGPA will be compensated subsequent to their earning the same through course work. Such failed semester projects shall not be substituted by another project (due to extra project load in a semester) or added to the semester/ final project work credits (being a full semester duration work) and has to be compensated only by doing *courses from their Programme Electives* for the total credits failed to earn. Since project credits are being substituted by course(s), even registering those courses for the first time attracts re-registration charges.

All existing and future timed-out students are exempted from carrying out the 'Semester Project' when they register courses in a semester. When a current student becomes timed-out, the number of credits they will earn by doing their last semester project work will be the same as that of a student finishing within the programme period. However, the condition of doing 'PE courses' in lieu of N/F grades received in their earlier Semester Projects (before becoming timed-out) is applicable to timed-out students also.

Registering a Semester Project can be carried out as part of the regular semester course registration. Since carrying out the semester project is compulsory, withdrawal from the project is not permitted. Academic Regulations stands modified to this effect.

D.Subhakar
Dean (Academics)

Encl.: Annexures I and II

To

All Deans and CoE

Copy to: Core Group, Registrar, allstudents.vellore, allfaculty, all School & Hostel Notice Boards

Annexure – I

Credits for Student Project/ Master's Thesis based on Semester Project credits earned

Programme	Semester Project credit weightage	# of semesters in the Programme	Final year project curriculum credits	Batch	Number of completed semesters	Number of semesters left for programme completion	Credits earned by Semester Projects till final semester	Credits for Final year project
B.Tech.	2	8	20	2013-14	0	8	12	8
B.Tech.	2	8	20	2012-13	2	6	10	10
B.Tech.	2	8	20	2011-12	4	4	6	14
B.Tech.	2	8	20	2010-11	6	2	2	18
M.Tech./ 2 yr M.Sc.	3	4	20	2013-14	0	4	9	11
M.Tech./ 2 yr M.Sc.	3	4	20	2012-13	2	2	3	17
MS(SE)/ 5 yr M.Sc.	2	10	20	2013-14	0	10	16	4
MS(SE)/ 5 yr M.Sc.	2	10	20	2012-13	2	8	14	6
MS(SE)/ 5 yr M.Sc.	2	10	20	2011-12	4	6	10	10
MS(SE)/ 5 yr M.Sc.	2	10	20	2010-11	6	4	6	14
MS(SE)/ 5 yr M.Sc.	2	10	20	2009-10	8	2	2	18
MCA	3	6	20	2013-14	0	6	15	5
MCA	3	6	20	2012-13	2	4	9	11
MCA	3	6	20	2011-12	4	2	3	17

Annexure – 2

Semester Project Evaluation Methodology

Activity	Weightage	Remarks
First Review (Fixing the scope of the project work and identification of work methodology)	5%	To be completed within 20 days after the completion of Add/Drop
Mid Review of the progress made in the Project	30%	To be scheduled two weeks after the completion of CAT-I period. If a group project, individual's contribution will be evaluated and marks assigned to individual members.
Final Review of the Project outcome	30%	Guide reviews the project work completed based on its quality and quantum of work. If a group project, individual's contribution will be evaluated and marks assigned to individual members. Evaluation to be completed by the Guide at least one week before the 'Last Instructional Day' of the Semester Guide may schedule the presentation according to mutual conveniences Guide decides whether the paper should be recommended to the Technical Committee or recommended only for the Poster presentation
Project Report	10%	Report should be submitted at least one week before the 'Last Instructional Day' so that the guide can evaluate the project work and decide on further action on it
SET Paper based on the Project Work	10%	Submitted to the Guide along with the Project Report. Guide corrects the paper and the final 'photo-ready' form will be uploaded by the student for the Conference proceedings Student receives a participation certificate
Evaluation of the Project poster	15%	Guide and the SET Conference Technical Committee will jointly award marks
SET Conference – Oral presentation of paper	-	SET Conference Technical Committee shall decide whether the paper can be accepted for an Oral presentation Student receives a certificate stating that he/she made an oral paper presentation