

GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDING ACADEMIC EQUIVALENCE TO STUDENTS FOR COMPLETING MOOCs/CERTIFICATIONS

1. Purpose

To acquaint the students with various learning opportunities available in addition to their normal program scheme and encourage them to take up various online MOOC courses or certifications to widen their knowledge and job prospects.

2. Introduction

To provide world class learning opportunities and exposure to students, the University is providing an option to enroll in the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) or complete certifications of national/ international repute.

MOOCs now have attained spotlight providing an alternative, informal and continuous method of learning. These are Massive Open Online Courses which are offered via various private/government companies and other global educational online platforms. All these courses are delivered by subject or topic experts with many additional features like flexible learning timings, availability of recorded lectures for easy and round the clock access, peer-to-peer interactions, discussion forums etc.

Advantages of the MOOCs

- i. Exposure to content delivered by renowned world class experts.
- ii. Delivers standard education to students irrespective of their geographical location.
- iii. Apart from quality study material, students get to participate in live discussions with peers and professors too get their doubts clarified.
- iv. With no constraints of class size, extended reading and course material, MOOCs can provide quality in higher education.
- v. Many courses have no/minimal fee, thus making them highly affordable and viable option for seeking and expanding skills and knowledge.
- vi. The students are also encouraged to complete certifications to enhance their career prospects and gain an edge over their peers in their academic progress.
- vii. Wherever a complete course waiver is applicable ,the equivalent credit weightage shall be granted to the students as per university guidelines.

To encourage the students to take up online MOOCs or certifications, the University shall be providing some academic equivalence of one or more evaluation components viz. CA, MTT and ETE in the course(s) registered to student in the upcoming term(s) which is the mostly closely mapped with the content of the MOOC/certification studied by the student.

3. Important points for applying academic equivalence from evaluation component(s) in lieu of MOOC/Certification course:

- a. To avail academic equivalence, student shall have to submit the request online through UMS. The request shall be examined by a Committee constituted for the purpose and shall be approved/disapproved for the requested academic equivalence.
- b. While deciding the possible exemption(s), factors such as quality/reputation MOOC Institution, course duration, course scope, MOOC evaluation mechanism followed by institution, similarity of course contents of the MOOC with University course etc. will be taken into consideration.
- c. Based on the above stated parameters, the Committee can grant the student academic equivalence in one or more than one evaluation components viz.
- d. Continuous Assessment, Mid Term Test (MTT) and End Term Examination (ETE) of the courses against which MOOC has been completed.
- e. Depending upon the nature and the relevance of the MOOCs registered by the student, wherever required, courses shall be explored by the HoDs, so that the academic benefit can be extended to the courses like PEP, Open Minor. (as per guidelines)
- f. The academic equivalence shall be applicable for a course registered to the student in the current term as well as subsequent future terms, and whose syllabus and scope are similar to the content of the MOOC/certification selected by the student.
- g. Wherever applicable the academic benefit can be extended to the courses already studied by the student in his/her previous terms.
- h. Students can also get the benefit against the MOOCs course which may not reflect direct mapping with the courses offered in his scheme, provided the MOOCs/certification is industry oriented with futuristic approach or the orientation of the MOOCs course is towards self-development and personal

development of the student.(as per guidelines)

- i. Students for whom exemption requests have been approved will be required to undertake the permitted course as per the conditions mentioned by the Institution/Organization offering MOOC/Certification.
- j. After the completion of course, student will be required to upload the certificate mentioning the grade/marks obtained as per the evaluation scheme of the MOOC Institution/Organization.

Note: Approved academic equivalence shall be credited to student only after the students uploads the course completion certificate on the designated UMS link.

In circumstances wherein the MOOC/Certificate has been completed from very reputed national/international institution/organization such as SWAYAM/NPTEL etc., the entire course may also be waived off and the grade/ marks earned by the student through MOOC/Certificate course will be transferred to the student grade sheet

- k. If for whatever reasons the student is unable to complete the approved MOOC or fails to submit completion certificate, then in that case the evaluation component(s) which had earlier been waived off/benefit had been offered in anticipation of MOOC completion will now be null and void. Based on the recommendations of the School Committee the student in such cases will be required to register the course as backlog/re-appear course.

Note: The academic equivalence can also be requested by students who have already completed a MOOC/Certification course in the past academic terms (after joining LPU). For such students, clauses mentioned in point 3 shall be applicable.

UMS link for submission of academic equivalence request in lieu of MOOC certification:

UMS Navigation→ Learning Management System→ MOOC Certification

4. Step-by-Step Procedure to be followed by student for MOOC selection and registration for seeking academic equivalence:

- a. The student shall explore courses available on various platforms related to his/her programme and employability skills required and shortlist the courses/certifications he/she wants to undertake. There are large numbers of government and private organisation/institutions which offer MOOCs over

diverse and interdisciplinary domains such as engineering, sciences, humanities, law, management and many more. Some of the of these platforms are given below as examples:

- i. Government: SWAYAM, NPTEL, IIMBx, agMOOCs, IIT BombayX etc.
 - ii. Private: Coursera, Oracle, UpGrad etc.
- b. The student shall analyze and note features of the course/certification such as details of offering agency, course fee, course duration, pattern of examination etc.
 - c. The student shall consult his/her mentor/faculty member for enhanced clarity.
 - d. Then he/she shall visit the UMS Link specified above to request approval to undertake and seek suitable academic equivalence for his/her shortlisted MOOC/certification.
 - e. The next step will be to fill in all details pertaining to the chosen course/certification in the provided interface
 - f. Then, he/she shall select the course from the list of courses registered to him/her in the upcoming term, which according to the student is the nearest in syllabus similarity with the selected MOOC/certification course.
 - g. For mapping of the syllabi, the student can refer the syllabi of all the upcoming term's courses from the link specified in the registration interface itself.
 - h. Guidelines on usage of registration interface with screenshots have been attached as Annexure-I
5. Approval of submitted requests: Once the student successfully submits his application his/her request will be forwarded to the Authorized Committee. Based on the parameters such as course mapping, reputation of MOOC platform, MOOC course type, evaluation pattern, the committee may approve/disapprove the student requests for academic equivalence.
 6. In case the academic equivalence for the course requested by the student is accepted by the committee, then he/she will be required to complete the course registration process with the MOOC platform. And after registering the course the details of registration are to be uploaded on the interface provided for the same.
 7. Upon successful completion of the course, student shall be required to upload the completion certificate at the below given link, so that the approved academic equivalence can be credited to him/her.

8. Important timelines:

Activity	Date
Submission of request by student for seeking academic equivalence against a MOOC/Certification	According to timelines specified in UMS announcement
Display of Committee decision in the student's account	Within 15 working days of closure of interface
Uploading of proof of successful course completion by the student	According to timelines specified in next UMS announcement

- 9. Display of result/committee decision:** After the request submitted by the student is approved by the committee, the panel members shall decide the type of academic equivalence deemed fit to be given to the student in the mapped course of the upcoming term. In consideration of all various factors concerning the MOOC/certification like quality, time frame, repute, career scope, difficulty level etc. the committee shall decide upon giving the equivalence in one or more evaluation components of the mapped course i.e. in CA, MTT or ETE.

- 10. Mapping of the MOOCs/Certificate courses and permitted Academic Equivalence:**
For providing the benefit of academic equivalence to the student who has registered for the MOOCs/Certificate course along with reputation of organization and duration of the course, below given parameters are required to be followed for mapping of the content and maximum permitted equivalence with course weightages.

Mapping and Academic benefit to be given for Proctored MOOCs /Certificate courses

Percentage of Syllabus / content mapping	Maximum permitted benefit in component(s) of evaluation
30%	One academic task (AT)
> 30% - < 50%	All ATs (i.e. complete CA)
>= 50% - < 70%	a) MTE and all ATs (<i>i.e. complete CA</i>)
>= 70% - < 80%	a) ETE and MTE or b) ETE and all ATs (i.e. complete CA)
> =80%	Whole course** can be waived off

If the MOOC course doesn't reflect direct mapping with the courses offered in his scheme but the MOOC is industry oriented with futuristic approach	Depending upon the nature of MOOC, any course from Open Minor /PEP nature can be chosen for providing academic benefit. Maximum to full weightage associated with Two Academic Tasks.
If the MOOC course doesn't reflect direct mapping with the courses offered in his scheme but the MOOC course is relevant to self-development and personal development	Depending upon the nature of MOOCs, any course from Open Minor /PEP nature can be chosen for providing academic benefit. Maximum to full weightage associated with One Academic Tasks.

How to calculate marks in case of proctored MOOCs(NPTEL/SWAYAM)

Score in Proctored MOOCs(%)	Marks to be given
40-59%	70% of maximum marks shall be awarded for permitted evaluation component(s)
>=60-69.99%	75 % of maximum marks shall be awarded for permitted evaluation component(s)
>=70-84.99%	80% of maximum marks shall be awarded for permitted MTT and ETE evaluation component(s) whereas 90% marks shall be awarded in permitted CA
>=85%- 90%	90% of maximum marks shall be awarded for permitted MTT and ETE evaluation component whereas 100% marks shall be awarded in CA
>90%	100 % marks shall be awarded for permitted evaluation component(s)

Mapping and Academic benefit to be given for Non Proctored MOOCs /Certificate courses

Percentage of Syllabus / content mapping	Maximum permitted benefit and marks to be awarded in components of evaluation
> =40% - < 79%	<i>One CA (70 % of weightage associated with evaluation component shall be given)</i>
>=80%	<i>All ATs (i.e. complete CA) (75% of weightage associated with evaluation component shall be given)</i>

If the MOOC course doesn't reflect direct mapping with the courses offered in his scheme but the MOOC is industry oriented with futuristic approach	Depending upon the nature of MOOCs, any course from Open Minor /PEP nature can be chosen for providing academic benefit . Maximum to 75% weightage associated with One Academic Tasks.
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*: Shall be discussed in person with CPD Head

11. The decision of the committee shall be displayed to the student under the 'View Detail ' tab in the registration interface itself.