



Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research
(Deemed to be a University)

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OFFICE ORDER

MECHANISM FOR EARNING CREDITS THROUGH SKILL-BASED COURSES

1. Introduction

In view of rapidly evolving industry requirements and the increasing emphasis on employability-oriented education, higher education institutions must integrate skill-based learning alongside conventional academic programmes.

In alignment with the **Academic Credit Framework (ACF)**, **Skill India Mission**, and the guidelines issued by **AICTE**, **UGC**, and **MSDE**, the institution has established a structured, systematic, and transparent mechanism to enable students to earn academic credits through skill-based courses.

The institution acknowledges that skill development plays a vital role in bridging the gap between academic knowledge and industry expectations. Therefore, students are encouraged to acquire additional competencies through certified skill-based courses offered by nationally and internationally recognised platforms. These courses supplement the regular curriculum and contribute to holistic development, lifelong learning, and enhanced employability.

2. Objectives of the Mechanism

The primary objectives of implementing this mechanism are:

- To enhance students' employability and practical skill competencies
- To integrate industry-relevant skills with formal academic learning
- To promote multidisciplinary and flexible learning pathways

- To encourage participation in national skilling initiatives
- To facilitate credit accumulation and transfer through the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)

3. Regulatory Framework and Alignment

The institution's mechanism is aligned with the following national frameworks and regulatory guidelines:

- Academic Credit Framework (ACF) notified by the Ministry of Education
- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
- Skill India Mission
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
- AICTE Guidelines on Skill-Based Education and MOOCs
- UGC Regulations on Credit Transfer and Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)

This alignment ensures that credits earned through approved skill-based courses are duly recognised, transferable, and seamlessly integrated into the formal academic structure.

4. Approved Skill-Based Platforms

Students are encouraged to enroll in skill-based courses offered by nationally and internationally recognised platforms, including:

- SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds)
- NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning)
- Skill India Digital Platform
- NSDC-approved training partners
- MSDE-recognised certification programmes
- AICTE-approved FDPs, MOOCs, and vocational skill courses
- Industry-supported online and offline skilling platforms (subject to approval by the Academic Council)

Only courses with clearly defined learning outcomes and rigorous assessment mechanisms shall be considered eligible for credit recognition.

5. Institutional Mechanism for Credit Earning

The institution has established a structured, step-by-step mechanism to ensure systematic implementation and transparency.

5.1 Identification and Approval of Skill-Based Courses

- Departments shall identify relevant skill-based courses aligned with industry needs and programme outcomes.
- Courses shall be evaluated based on:
 - Duration and contact hours
 - Clearly defined learning outcomes
 - Assessment and certification methodology
 - Alignment with programme outcomes and employability skills
- The approved list of courses shall be reviewed by the Department Academic Committee and subsequently placed before the Academic Council for approval.

5.2 Student Awareness and Orientation

- Orientation programmes shall be conducted at the beginning of each academic year.
- Faculty mentors and course coordinators shall guide students in selecting suitable skill-based courses.
- Awareness shall be created regarding:
 - Available skill-based opportunities
 - Credit earning mechanism
 - Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) registration and benefits

5.3 Student Enrollment Process

- Students may enroll in approved skill-based courses during the semester or vacation periods.
- Prior approval must be obtained from:
 - Course Coordinator
 - Head of the Department
- Enrollment details shall be documented and monitored to ensure academic relevance.

5.4 Course Completion and Certification

Students are required to:

- Attend lectures and training sessions
- Complete assignments, quizzes, and practical components
- Appear for and successfully complete final assessments

Only students who successfully complete the course and obtain valid certification shall be eligible for credit recognition.

5.5 Credit Mapping and Evaluation

Completed skill-based courses shall be mapped to academic credits based on:

- Course duration
- Learning outcomes
- Level of complexity (Introductory / Intermediate / Advanced)

Credit equivalence shall be determined in accordance with institutional norms and regulatory guidelines. The Department Academic Committee shall verify and recommend the credits for approval.

5.6 Approval by Academic Council

- Credit recommendations shall be placed before the Academic Council for final approval.
- Upon approval, the credits shall be formally recognized and entered into the institution's academic records.

5.7 Credit Transfer and Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)

Students are encouraged to register with the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC).

Earned credits shall be:

- Uploaded to the student's ABC account, or
- Recognized as equivalent to:
 - Elective courses
 - Skill enhancement courses
 - Value-added courses

This ensures portability and lifelong usability of earned credits.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 Role of the Institution

- Establish policies and operational guidelines
- Appoint faculty coordinators
- Conduct awareness programmes
- Ensure compliance with AICTE and UGC norms
- Maintain proper documentation and records

6.2 Role of Faculty Coordinators

- Guide students in course selection
- Monitor student progress
- Verify certificates and assessment outcomes
- Recommend credit equivalence

6.3 Role of Students

- Register for approved courses
- Complete all prescribed requirements
- Submit valid certificates for credit approval
- Ensure ABC registration and compliance

7. Documentation and Record Maintenance

The institution shall maintain comprehensive records including:

- Approved skill-based courses list
- Student enrollment details
- Course completion certificates
- Credit mapping and equivalence records
- Academic Council approvals
- ABC credit transfer details

These records shall be periodically reviewed to ensure compliance and quality assurance.

8. Outcomes and Impact

The implementation of this mechanism has resulted in:

- Enhanced employability and industry readiness
- Improvement in technical and soft skills
- Increased participation in national skilling platforms
- Promotion of lifelong and self-directed learning
- Greater flexibility in academic progression

9. Continuous Improvement

The mechanism shall be regularly reviewed and updated based on:

- Feedback from students and faculty
- Regulatory updates
- Emerging industry requirements
- Technological advancements

This ensures that the system remains relevant, effective, and future-oriented.

Implementation of Skill India Mission – Extended Framework

To further strengthen employability and skill development, AICTE-approved institutions may implement structured mechanisms for earning credits through “Skilling” courses offered by:

- Skill India (MSDE)
- Government initiatives
- Recognized national and international platforms such as Coursera, edX, Udacity, LinkedIn Learning, NASSCOM
- Industry partnerships in AI, Data Science, Cyber Security, Digital Marketing, and other emerging domains

Types of Skilling Courses

- Technical Skills (Programming, AI, ML, Cloud, Cyber Security)
- Soft Skills (Communication, Leadership, Teamwork, Problem-Solving)
- Industry-Specific Skills (Automotive, Healthcare, Finance, Marketing, etc.)

Course Recognition and Accreditation

- Courses shall carry academic credits (e.g., 2–4 credits).
- Content shall align with programme outcomes.
- Quality standards shall be ensured through institutional validation.

Student Support Mechanisms

- Mentorship and advisory support
- Access to digital platforms and learning resources
- Financial support for economically disadvantaged students

Integration with Internships

Skill-based courses may be integrated with internship opportunities to provide practical exposure and real-world application.

Monitoring and Continuous Review

- Feedback mechanisms shall be established.
- Courses shall be periodically updated to match industry trends.

Post-Graduation Support

- Placement assistance through industry collaboration
- Alumni networking for career progression

Benefits

- Improved employability
- Practical, industry-ready competencies
- Stronger industry-institution collaboration
- Holistic student development

Challenges and Solutions

Challenge: Maintaining course relevance

Solution: Collaboration with recognized platforms and industry experts

Challenge: Financial constraints

Solution: Scholarships and institutional partnerships

Challenge: Student participation

Solution: Academic credits, certification, and recognition incentives

SBIST has successfully implemented a robust and systematic mechanism for earning academic credits through skill-based courses. By integrating national skilling platforms with formal academic structures, it promotes outcome-based education, multidisciplinary learning, and enhanced employability.

This initiative reflects the institution's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and alignment with national education and skill development policies.

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