

**Subject: Exit option from the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program with the BS degree alone**

**Reference: Senate 24 (Agenda Item No. 24.5)**

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**Report of the committee for exit option for the BS-MS (Dual Degree) programme with the BS Degree alone**

The Group of Directors (GoD) of IISERs in a meeting on 24 November 2013, agreed to provide academically deficient students a BS only exit option, at the end of 5 years from admission to the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program. Such deficient students were to be awarded the BS degree alone upon fulfilling the criteria mentioned below:

- a. Be a student who does not have the potential to graduate with the BS-MS (Dual Degree) in 7 years,
- b. Spend a minimum of 5 years (and a maximum of 7 years) in residence at the Institute,
- c. Earn a minimum of 2/3 of the total credits for the award of BS-MS (Dual Degree)

A committee was constituted vide office order no. IISERB/DIR/2013/45 dated: December 16, 2013 to recommend the implementation scheme for the said exit option.

The convener of the committee called for a meeting of all members to discuss various aspects of the BS exit option. Following are the recommendations of the committee:

**1. Identification of academically deficient students who do not have the potential to complete the BS-MS (Dual Degree) in 7 years:**

In accordance with GoD criterion 'a' the committee deliberated on the methodology for identification of academically deficient students. The committee recommends that the academic performance of all BS-MS students be reviewed at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> semester. Students who have earned 120 course credits (course work and lab) with  $CPI \geq 5$  and having 'F' grade in no more than a total of 24 credits will be allowed to register for the project work in the 9<sup>th</sup> semester. All other students (i.e. those who have earned course credits less than 120 or having  $CPI < 5$  or 'F' grade in more than a total of 24 credits) will be identified as academically deficient and these students will not be allowed to register for project work following the end of 8<sup>th</sup> semester review.

The criteria to identify academically deficient students were prescribed bearing in mind the following aspects:

- Students will not be allowed to register in the 5<sup>th</sup> semester unless they have earned at least 64 out of 76 credits in the first two years of their study. Additionally, students should not have more than 4F in all the core courses, of which no more than 1F should be in theory courses and 1F in lab course for

the discipline in which the student wants to major. In case of not fulfilling the above criteria, he/she will have to drop a year to clear all backlogs.

- A student will not be allowed to register for 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> semester, if he/she has not cleared all courses of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years, respectively. In addition he/she should not have more than 4F in all courses, of which no more than 1F should be in theory courses and 1F in the lab courses in his/her major discipline.
- A total of 24 credits with 'F' were specified, allowing an average of 1F in a 3 credits course, per semester, for 4 years.

## **2. Minimum requirements for award of the BS degree:**

The committee recommends the following criteria for award of a BS (major) degree alone:

1. Minimum residence of 5 years and a maximum residence of 7 years from admission to the BS-MS (Dual Degree)
2. Minimum of 144\* credits earned from course and laboratory work.
3. Minimum CPI of 5.0 in the 144 credits mentioned in above 2.
4. No 'F' in all courses registered for.

\*minimum of 120 credits at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> semester + 12 credits each during the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> semester yielding a total of 144 credits in 5 years.

### **Policies for special circumstances:**

1. If a student requires less than 12 credits in any semester (after the completion of 5 years) to achieve the 144 credit requirement for BS (major) degree, he/she may be allowed to register for less than 12 credits in a semester and still be considered a full time student.
2. If student achieves the minimum requirements for award of BS degree at the end of an odd semester (after the completion of 5 years), he/she will be awarded the degree in the following convocation.

## **3. BS-MS option for the students identified as academically deficient (as per 1):**

The committee recommends that if an academically deficient student meets the requirements to earn BS degree latest by the end of year 6 from the time of admission to the BS-MS (Dual Degree) [i.e. minimum 144 course credits with CPI  $\geq$  5.0.] he/she may be allowed to register for project work to complete BS-MS in the following years (upto a maximum of the start of year 7). The student should complete all course and project work requirements specified for BS-MS (Dual Degree). However under no circumstances a student leave with the BS degree before 5 years. This decision will be made on a case-by-case by the Dean, Academic Affairs in consultation with DUGC Convener/Coordinator of the Department in which the student will major. Such approvals will be reported to the Senate.

**4. To allow exit option with BS degree alone for students who are not academically deficient:**

Although this committee was asked to recommend the implementation scheme for an exit option with the BS degree alone to academically deficient students, the committee recommends providing the exit option to all students upon the fulfillment of the following criteria:

1. Minimum residence of 5 years and a maximum residence of 7 years from admission to the BS-MS (Dual Degree)
2. Completion of the minimum requirements for the award of BS degree (i.e. minimum 144 course credits with  $CPI \geq 5.0$  and no 'F' in all courses registered for, at the end of year 5)
3. Exercising an option not to register for project work at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> semester
4. Continuing to register for at least 12 credits per semester upto 5 years of residence even if the minimum requirements for the award of BS (major) degree are fulfilled.