

Guidance on Examinations and Academic Progression of Pharmacy students in the light of COVID-19 pandemic

- Ref:**
1. COE/PHA/UGD/EXM/2019-20/3554 Dated 13 Feb 2020
 2. COE/PHA/UGD/EXM/2019-20/4057 Dated 20 March 2020
 3. COE/PHA/PGD/EXM/2019-20/4057 Dated 20 March 2020

JSS AHER and its constituent colleges and departments are closely monitoring the information emerging regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impact on academic programs, examinations and the academic progression of our students. Our absolute priority is to help to protect the health and safety of our students, their families and staff.

We are closely following the advice of national and state governments, regulatory bodies and healthcare providers, and taking additional measures. Unfortunately, this means that many examinations notified earlier vide Ref above, will not take place on the scheduled dates. We are putting in place detailed plans to allow candidates to take their examinations as soon as possible once restrictions are eased and it is safe to do so. In the meantime, JSS AHER is providing online resources to all its students to help learning and examination preparation to carry on, despite the difficult situation.

As an organization, it is critical for us to ensure that the options we provide to our students and staff are fair and compassionate during these difficult circumstances. Our students, their well-being and their progression in future stages of life have been at the forefront of our thinking as we respond to this extraordinary pandemic.

This guidance on 'Examinations and Academic Progression' is based on the recommendation given by Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) vide Ref.No.14-56/2019-PCI (A), Dated 9th April 2020 as a onetime measure and shall be applicable only to the present COVID 19 situation and will be reviewed/modified from time to time to remove difficulties if any, while implementation.

Recommendations on examinations and academic progression

1. The institutions will conduct theory internal assessments using online assessment mode so that the students are able to complete a part of their academic requirement to be eligible for admission to the respective examinations.
2. As regards to the practical/experiential/clinical classes are concerned, the institutions will engage students to complete the same through block teaching on reopening of the colleges, keeping in view that the theory classes would have been completed through the online mode.

3. Internal assessments for practical/experiential/clinical will be held immediately after completion of block teaching as mentioned above. The VIII semester BPharm students shall submit their Project Reports to the principal on or before 15th May 2020.
4. JSSAHER plans to conduct the final Annual/Semester examinations for the following programs, three weeks from the date of reopening after the COVID pandemic break:
 - a) Final semester MPharm
 - b) PG Diploma in Pharmacy
 - c) V Year PharmD
 - d) VIII Semester BPharm (SS)
 - e) Final year BPharm (Old & RS1 Scheme)
 - f) 2nd Year BPharm (Practice)
 - g) Diploma in Pharmacy (Part-II)

The examination schedule and the detailed timetable will be notified as soon as the reopening dates for the college are finalised. This recommendation is proposed with the objective of letting the passing out graduate to prepare for their exams and be able to appear for the exams at the earliest possible window so as to pursue career ambitions without loss of time and delay in obtaining the academic qualifications.

5. JSS AHER will make efforts to announce the results of final year/final semester in the shortest possible time, so that students are able to pursue their internship/higher studies/careers without disruption.
6. The class work and internal assessments for all other lower levels (semesters/courses, except final semester/final year courses mentioned under 4) will be completed in all respects within one month of reopening. The final examination for these courses will be held on a later date or concurrently with next semester/year examinations.
7. These students will be permitted to progress into the next academic year/semester and will be permitted to take the examinations as may be planned by the JSS AHER during the ensuing next examination or may conduct a special examination.
8. The classes for next academic year/semester will commence immediately (irrespective of academic calendar schedule issued earlier) after completion of the class work and internal assessments of the previous semester/year. There shall be no break or vacation in between, to facilitate completion of course work and holding of two year's/semester's examinations during one academic session.
9. The students shall be eligible to secure class and distinction subject to their fulfilling the requirements mentioned in respective course regulations provided he/she passes in all the subjects in a single attempt.

10. The students who are undergoing their PharmD internship will be engaged using case-based studies/assignments through remote teaching and will be given credit to the number of days engaged such structured online learning process. This ensures timely completion of internship and the course.
11. Submission of Assignments by 2nd Year BPharm (Practice) students: The 2nd Year BPharm (Practice) students shall submit their Assignments by 15th of May 2020.
12. Submission of dissertations by final semester MPharm students: The final semester MPharm students shall submit their dissertations on or before 8th of May 2020.
13. The final approved dissertation in PDF format shall be submitted to JSS AHER by email with due credentialing by the competent authority of the institution of satisfactory completion of the work. The email ID for online submission of MPharm dissertation is: pharmacydissertations@issuni.edu.in
14. Dissertation viva-voce examination for final semester MPharm students is tentatively scheduled between 18th to 25th May 2020 either by regular examination mode or by video conferencing depending on the situation.

JSS AHER, keeping in view the extraordinary circumstances, has made the above recommendations to its constituent institutions and departments as a onetime measure and should not be cited as precedence in future. The institutions and the departments are requested to ensure that this information is disseminated to all concerned. We would like to reiterate and assure our stakeholders that JSS AHER is working constantly to take care of the academic progression of its students.

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Controller of Examinations
JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research
Sri Shivarathreeswara Nagara,
MYSURU-570 015