

THE APOLLO UNIVERSITY

LATERAL ENTRY AND ADVANCED ENTRY POLICY

1. PREAMBLE

The Apollo University (TAU) recognizes diverse educational pathways and supports flexible, multidisciplinary and student-centric progression into higher education in accordance with the principles of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, applicable UGC regulations, statutory/professional council requirements, and the academic regulations of the University. The University therefore provides opportunities for eligible students who have successfully completed an appropriate diploma or undergraduate qualification to enter a programme at an advanced stage, subject to academic equivalence, eligibility, availability of seats, credit requirements, and applicable regulatory provisions.

This Policy establishes a transparent and uniform framework for:

1. **Lateral Entry into Undergraduate (UG) Programmes;** and
2. **Advanced Entry into Postgraduate (PG) Programmes following a four-year Bachelor's/Honours degree.**

The policy aims to ensure that entry at an advanced level does not compromise academic standards, professional competency, learning outcomes, or regulatory requirements.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Policy are to:

1. Provide flexible pathways for students holding recognized diplomas or equivalent qualifications to pursue undergraduate degrees.
2. Facilitate academic progression from diploma-level technical/professional education to appropriate degree programmes.
3. Recognize prior learning and appropriately completed undergraduate education.
4. Facilitate progression from a four-year Bachelor's/Honours/Honours with Research degree to relevant postgraduate programmes.
5. Ensure that students admitted through lateral or advanced entry achieve all prescribed Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs).

6. Establish transparent criteria for admission, credit transfer, course equivalence and academic progression.
7. Maintain parity in academic standards between regular-entry and lateral/advanced-entry students.
8. Ensure compliance with UGC, AICTE, professional statutory councils, and other competent regulatory bodies wherever applicable.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Lateral Entry

"Lateral Entry" means admission of an eligible student directly into an advanced year/semester of an undergraduate degree programme after successful completion of a recognized diploma or equivalent qualification in the relevant discipline.

3.2 Advanced Entry

"Advanced Entry" means admission to a postgraduate programme by a candidate who has completed a relevant four-year Bachelor's degree, including a Bachelor's degree with Honours or Honours with Research, where such qualification satisfies the eligibility requirements of the postgraduate programme.

3.3 Prior Learning

"Prior Learning" means knowledge, skills and competencies acquired through a recognized diploma, degree, or other formally assessed academic programme that may be considered for academic credit in accordance with University regulations.

3.4 Credit Transfer

Credit Transfer means acceptance by the University of eligible academic credits earned from a recognized institution/programme towards the requirements of the programme into which the student is admitted.

3.5 Bridge Course

A Bridge Course is a prescribed academic component designed to address identified knowledge or competency gaps between the student's previous qualification and the programme into which admission is granted.

4. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This Policy shall apply to:

A. Undergraduate Programmes

1. B.Sc. programmes
2. B.Tech. programmes
3. Other undergraduate programmes where lateral entry is permitted by the University and applicable regulatory authorities.

B. Postgraduate Programmes

1. M.Sc. programmes
2. M.Tech. programmes
3. Other postgraduate programmes where admission following a four-year Bachelor's degree is academically and regulatorily permissible.

C. Exclusions

Lateral/advanced entry shall not be permitted where:

- prohibited by the applicable statutory/professional regulatory authority;
- the student's previous qualification does not meet the prescribed academic equivalence;
- essential prerequisite courses or competencies are absent and cannot reasonably be addressed through bridge requirements;
- professional internship, clinical training, laboratory training or other mandatory requirements cannot be fulfilled within the prescribed programme structure.

5. PRINCIPLES GOVERNING LATERAL ENTRY

All lateral-entry admissions shall be governed by the following principles:

5.1 Academic Equivalence

The previous qualification must be relevant and academically comparable to the programme into which admission is sought.

5.2 Relevant Discipline

The candidate must have completed a diploma or equivalent qualification in the same or an appropriately allied discipline, as specified by the concerned School/Department.

5.3 Minimum Eligibility

The candidate must satisfy the minimum marks/grade requirements prescribed for the programme.

5.4 Recognition of Qualification

The qualifying diploma/degree must be awarded by a recognized institution, university, board, statutory authority, or other competent body.

5.5 Learning Outcome Equivalence

Admission shall be permitted only where the student's prior learning provides an appropriate foundation for successful completion of the advanced-stage curriculum.

5.6 Regulatory Compliance

Where a programme is governed by a statutory or professional council, the eligibility and lateral-entry provisions of the concerned regulator shall prevail.

6. UG LATERAL ENTRY

6.1 General Eligibility

A candidate seeking lateral entry into an undergraduate programme shall:

1. Have successfully completed a recognized diploma or equivalent qualification in the relevant discipline.
2. Have obtained the minimum percentage/grade prescribed by TAU for the concerned programme.
3. Fulfil any subject-specific prerequisite prescribed by the concerned School/Department.
4. Produce valid academic and eligibility documents at the time of admission.
5. Fulfil any additional requirements prescribed by the applicable regulatory authority.

7. B.TECH. LATERAL ENTRY

Candidates possessing a **three-year diploma in Engineering/Technology** in the relevant or allied discipline from a recognized institution may be considered for admission to the corresponding B.Tech. programme, subject to applicable regulations.

The existing TAU eligibility framework provides for lateral entry into B.Tech. programmes such as CSE, AI & Data Science, AI & Machine Learning and Cyber Security, with a three-year programme duration and a minimum diploma performance requirement.

7.1 Proposed Minimum Eligibility

The candidate shall have:

- completed a recognized three-year diploma in Engineering/Technology in the relevant discipline; and
- secured **at least 50% aggregate marks**, or the percentage prescribed by the applicable regulatory authority, whichever is higher.

7.2 Programme Mapping

Admission shall normally be granted to the corresponding or academically allied B.Tech. programme.

Examples:

Diploma Qualification	Eligible B.Tech. Programme
Diploma in Computer Engineering / CSE	B.Tech. CSE
Diploma in Computer Engineering / CSE	B.Tech. CSE – AI & Data Science
Diploma in Computer Engineering / CSE	B.Tech. CSE – AI & Machine Learning
Diploma in Computer Engineering / Cyber Security	B.Tech. CSE – Cyber Security
Other relevant diploma	As determined by the concerned School/Equivalence Committee

The University may prescribe bridge courses wherever required.

8. UG LATERAL ENTRY INTO B.SC. PROGRAMMES

Candidates holding a recognized diploma in the relevant specialization may be considered for lateral entry into the corresponding B.Sc. programme.

The current TAU framework already provides lateral-entry pathways into selected programmes including B.Sc. Medical Laboratory Technology, B.Sc. Imaging Technology, B.Sc. Anaesthesia and Operation Theatre Technology, B.Sc. Renal Dialysis Technology, B.Sc. Respiratory Therapy Technology and Bachelor of Optometry.

8.1 Eligibility

The candidate shall:

- have passed a recognized diploma in the relevant specialization;
- have completed the qualification from an institution recognized by the appropriate authority;
- satisfy the minimum marks requirement prescribed by TAU and/or the relevant regulatory authority.

8.2 Programme Duration

Unless otherwise prescribed by the applicable statutory/professional body, the lateral-entry student shall normally complete **three academic years** of the undergraduate degree programme.

The exact duration may be modified where additional academic, clinical, laboratory, internship or professional requirements are prescribed.

8.3 Clinical/Professional Programmes

For programmes involving clinical education, practical training, internship or professional competency requirements, lateral-entry students must complete all mandatory components prescribed by:

- the University;
- the concerned School/Department; and
- the applicable statutory/professional regulatory authority.

No student shall be awarded the degree unless all mandatory academic, practical, clinical, internship and credit requirements have been successfully completed.

9. UG LATERAL ENTRY – CREDIT AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Admission into an advanced semester/year shall not automatically imply exemption from all courses of the earlier years.

The concerned Department shall undertake **academic mapping** of the student's previous qualification against the curriculum of the degree programme.

The University may:

1. grant credit for equivalent prior learning;
2. prescribe bridge courses;

3. prescribe additional foundation courses;
4. require completion of selected first-year/second-year courses where essential competencies are not demonstrated;
5. require additional laboratory/clinical/practical training.

The student must ultimately fulfil the **minimum total credits and programme requirements prescribed for award of the degree.**

10. PG ADVANCED ENTRY AFTER FOUR-YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREE

10.1 Academic Position

Admission to a postgraduate programme following completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree shall be treated as **Advanced Entry to PG**, rather than conventional UG lateral entry.

Candidates who have successfully completed a relevant:

- four-year Bachelor's degree;
- Bachelor's degree with Honours; or
- Bachelor's degree with Honours with Research

from a recognized University may be considered for admission to the appropriate postgraduate programme.

11. ELIGIBILITY FOR PG ADVANCED ENTRY

A candidate shall:

1. Possess a recognized four-year Bachelor's degree in the relevant discipline or an appropriately allied discipline.
2. Meet the minimum aggregate percentage/grade prescribed for the concerned PG programme.
3. Fulfil the prerequisite subject requirements of the programme.
4. Satisfy any additional requirements prescribed by the University or applicable regulatory authority.

11.1 Minimum Academic Requirement

Unless otherwise prescribed for a specific programme, the candidate should have secured **at least 50% aggregate marks or equivalent grade** in the qualifying Bachelor's degree.

The concerned School/Department may prescribe a higher percentage for programmes requiring advanced disciplinary preparation.

12. PG PROGRAMME-WISE ADVANCED ENTRY

Examples of appropriate progression pathways include:

Four-Year Bachelor's Qualification	Possible PG Programme
B.Sc. Biotechnology / Life Sciences	M.Sc. Biotechnology
B.Sc. Biomedical Sciences / Life Sciences	Relevant M.Sc. programme
B.Sc. Genetics & Molecular Biology	M.Sc. Biotechnology / relevant Life Science PG
B.Sc. Data Science / Computer Science / Mathematics / allied discipline	M.Sc. Health Informatics and Analytics, subject to eligibility
B.Tech. CSE / allied discipline	M.Tech./M.Sc. programmes as per prescribed eligibility
B.Sc. Health Sciences / Allied Health Sciences	Relevant M.Sc. Health Sciences programme

The existing TAU eligibility framework already permits several relevant Bachelor's qualifications for its postgraduate programmes, including M.Sc. Health Informatics and Analytics and M.Sc. Biotechnology.

13. HONOURS WITH RESEARCH AND PG ADMISSION

A candidate completing a **four-year Bachelor's degree with Honours or Honours with Research** shall be eligible to seek admission to an appropriate postgraduate programme where the candidate satisfies the disciplinary prerequisites and minimum marks requirements.

Completion of a four-year Honours/Honours with Research degree shall **not automatically result in reduction of the prescribed duration of the Master's programme.**

Any exemption, advanced standing or credit recognition shall be determined through academic equivalence and credit mapping and shall remain subject to applicable UGC/regulatory provisions.

14. CREDIT RECOGNITION FOR FOUR-YEAR DEGREE HOLDERS

Where a student entering a PG programme has completed relevant advanced-level coursework during the four-year Bachelor's programme, the University may evaluate such coursework for credit recognition.

Credit recognition shall be based on:

1. course content;
2. learning outcomes;
3. number of credits;
4. level of the course;
5. assessment methodology;
6. laboratory/practical components;
7. recency of the qualification; and
8. equivalence with the TAU curriculum.

Credit recognition shall not compromise the minimum academic requirements or learning outcomes prescribed for the PG degree.

15. BRIDGE COURSES

Where a candidate's previous qualification does not fully cover essential prerequisite knowledge, TAU may prescribe bridge/foundation courses.

Bridge courses may include:

- foundational disciplinary courses;
- mathematics/statistics;
- programming/data science;
- laboratory sciences;
- research methodology;
- domain-specific subjects.

Bridge courses may be:

- non-credit;
- credit-bearing; or
- additional requirements,

as determined by the concerned School/Department.

The student must successfully complete prescribed bridge requirements within the stipulated period.

16. ADMISSION PROCESS

All lateral and advanced-entry admissions shall follow the University's approved admission process.

Step 1 – Application

The candidate shall submit the prescribed application form along with:

- qualifying examination certificate;
- marksheets/transcripts;
- diploma/degree certificate;
- migration/transfer certificate, wherever applicable;
- identity and other prescribed documents.

Step 2 – Eligibility Screening

The Admissions Office and concerned School/Department shall verify:

- recognition of the qualification;
- discipline;
- marks/grades;
- subject prerequisites;
- equivalence.

Step 3 – Academic Equivalence

The concerned Department/School shall determine whether the previous qualification provides adequate academic preparation.

Step 4 – Entrance/Interview, Where Applicable

TAU may conduct an entrance test, aptitude assessment, interview, or other academic assessment where considered necessary.

Step 5 – Credit Mapping

The Department shall identify courses/credits that may be recognized and courses that must be completed.

Step 6 – Admission Approval

Final admission shall be approved by the competent authority in accordance with University regulations.

17. SEAT AVAILABILITY

Lateral/advanced-entry admission shall be subject to:

1. availability of seats;
2. sanctioned intake;
3. applicable regulatory requirements;
4. infrastructure and faculty availability;
5. clinical/laboratory capacity, wherever applicable; and
6. University admission policy.

Lateral-entry admissions shall not result in violation of the sanctioned intake or applicable regulatory norms.

18. MERIT AND SELECTION

Where applications exceed available seats, selection shall be based on merit.

The merit score may consider:

- qualifying examination/diploma marks;
- relevant subject performance;
- entrance examination, where applicable;
- interview/academic interaction, where applicable;
- relevant academic achievements.

The University may prescribe programme-specific merit criteria with approval of the competent authority.

19. ACADEMIC STATUS OF LATERAL-ENTRY STUDENTS

Students admitted through lateral entry shall have the **same academic status, rights and responsibilities** as other students of the programme, subject to the provisions of this Policy.

They shall be governed by the same:

- attendance requirements;
- examination regulations;

- grading system;
- academic progression rules;
- disciplinary regulations;
- academic integrity policy;
- graduation requirements.

20. ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC PROGRESSION

Lateral/advanced-entry students shall comply with the minimum attendance requirements prescribed by TAU and applicable regulatory bodies.

Failure to satisfy attendance, academic, clinical or practical requirements shall result in the same academic consequences applicable to other students.

21. DURATION OF STUDY

UG Lateral Entry

Normally, lateral-entry students shall complete the remaining **three academic years** of the respective four-year undergraduate programme, subject to credit mapping and regulatory requirements.

PG Advanced Entry

Students entering a two-year postgraduate programme after a four-year Bachelor's degree shall normally complete the **full prescribed duration of the Master's programme**, unless a specific approved credit/advanced-standing provision permits otherwise.

22. RESERVATION AND OTHER STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Reservation, category benefits, fee concessions, scholarships and other statutory provisions shall be applicable in accordance with:

- Government of India regulations;
- Government of Andhra Pradesh regulations, where applicable;
- UGC regulations;
- applicable statutory/professional councils; and
- University policies.

23. FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates holding qualifications awarded outside India shall provide appropriate recognition/equivalence documentation from the competent authority wherever required. Admission shall be subject to verification of the qualification, academic equivalence and applicable Government/UGC requirements.

24. PROFESSIONAL AND REGULATED PROGRAMMES

For programmes governed by professional/statutory councils, the provisions of the relevant council shall prevail over this Policy to the extent of any inconsistency.

This includes, wherever applicable, requirements relating to:

- eligibility;
- lateral-entry intake;
- curriculum;
- clinical/practical training;
- internship;
- minimum duration;
- attendance;
- registration;
- degree award.

25. UNIVERSITY LATERAL ENTRY / EQUIVALENCE COMMITTEE

The University may constitute a **Lateral Entry and Academic Equivalence Committee** comprising:

1. Dean/Director of the concerned School – Chairperson
2. Head of the concerned Department – Member
3. Programme Coordinator – Member
4. Academic Affairs representative – Member
5. Admissions representative – Member
6. Examination/Academic Administration representative – Member
7. Subject expert(s), wherever required.

The Committee shall:

- examine qualification equivalence;
- review transcripts and syllabi;
- recommend credit transfer;
- identify bridge courses;
- determine academic entry level;
- recommend eligibility;
- address exceptional cases;
- maintain records of equivalence decisions.

26. DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD KEEPING

The University shall maintain a complete record of lateral/advanced-entry admissions, including:

- application;
- eligibility documents;
- equivalence assessment;
- credit mapping;
- bridge-course requirements;
- admission approval;
- academic progression;
- final credit completion.

Such records shall be made available for academic audit, statutory inspection and accreditation requirements as applicable.

27. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

Any candidate who is dissatisfied with an eligibility, equivalence or credit-transfer decision may submit a written representation to the Dean of the concerned School within the prescribed period.

The decision of the designated University authority/Committee shall be final, subject to the University's grievance-redressal mechanisms.

28. FRAUDULENT OR MISREPRESENTED QUALIFICATIONS

Admission granted on the basis of forged, fraudulent, misleading or materially suppressed information shall be liable to cancellation at any stage.

The University reserves the right to take appropriate academic and disciplinary action in accordance with its regulations.

29. EXCEPTIONAL CASES

Any case not explicitly covered under this Policy shall be referred to the **Lateral Entry and Academic Equivalence Committee** and subsequently to the competent academic authority for decision.

No exception shall be granted where it would violate a mandatory statutory or regulatory requirement.

30. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF POLICY

This Policy shall be reviewed periodically by the University to ensure continued alignment with:

- NEP 2020;
- UGC regulations and notifications;
- AICTE requirements, wherever applicable;
- professional/statutory council regulations;
- changes in academic programmes;
- credit framework and curriculum reforms.

The University reserves the right to amend this Policy with the approval of competent authority.

31. RECOMMENDED UNIVERSITY-WIDE FRAMEWORK

For operational clarity, the following framework shall ordinarily apply:

Entry Category	Minimum Qualifying Qualification	Normal Entry	Normal Duration
UG Regular Entry	10+2/equivalent	Year 1	Full programme duration
UG Lateral Entry – B.Sc.	Relevant recognized Diploma	Advanced stage	Normally 3 years
UG Lateral Entry – B.Tech.	Relevant 3-year Diploma in Engineering/Technology	2nd year	Normally 3 years
UG Lateral Entry – Other programmes	Relevant recognized Diploma	As approved	As prescribed
PG Advanced Entry	Relevant 4-year Bachelor's degree	PG Year 1	Normally 2 years
PG after Honours	Relevant 4-year Bachelor's Honours	PG Year 1	Normally 2 years

32. POLICY STATEMENT

The Apollo University is committed to providing flexible and academically rigorous pathways for lifelong learning and vertical mobility. Lateral entry and advanced entry shall be facilitated wherever academically appropriate and legally permissible, while ensuring that every student admitted through such pathways acquires all competencies, credits, practical skills, clinical exposure and learning outcomes required for the award of the respective degree.

The granting of lateral/advanced entry shall therefore be based not merely on possession of a qualification, but on demonstrated academic equivalence, credit compatibility, programme prerequisites and fulfilment of all University and regulatory requirements.