

**Guidelines for Curricular Aspects, Assessment
Criteria and Credit System in Skill based Vocational
Courses under NSQF**



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

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UGC GUIDELINES FOR CURRICULAR ASPECTS, ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND CREDIT SYSTEM IN SKILL BASED VOCATIONAL COURSES UNDER NATIONAL SKILLS QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK (NSQF)

1. PROGRAMMES AND CURRICULA:

In order to make education relevant and to create 'industry fit' skilled workforce, the institutions recognized under Community Colleges / B.Voc Degree programme, and Deen Dayal Upadhyay KAUSHAL Kendras offering skill based courses will have to be in constant dialogue with the industry and respective Sector Skill Council(s) so that they remain updated on the requirements of the workforce for the local economy. There will be credit-based modular programmes, wherein banking of credits for skill and general education components shall be permitted so as to enable multiple exit and entry. This would enable the learner to seek employment after any level of Award and join back as and when feasible to upgrade her / his qualification / skill competency either to move higher in her / his job or in the higher educational system. This will also provide the learner an opportunity for vertical mobility to second year of B.Voc degree programme after one year diploma and to third year of B.Voc degree programme after a two year advanced diploma. The students may further move to masters and research degree programmes (NSQF Level 8 – 10)

As the CBSE and many other school boards are initiating skill based vocational courses with certification at NSQF Level 4 for students completing 10+2, there may be three types of learners getting admission to first semester of skill based courses under NSQF:

Category – 1 : students already acquired NSQF certification Level 4 in a particular industry sector and opted admission in the skill based courses under NSQF in the institutions recognized under Community Colleges / B.Voc Degree programme / Deen Dayal Upadhyay KAUSHAL Kendras in same trade with job role for which he / she was previously certified at school level.

Category – 2 : students who have acquired NSQF certification Level 4 but may like to change their trade and may enter into skill based courses in a different trade.

Category – 3 : students passed 10+2 examination with conventional schooling without any background of vocational training.

The institutions / community college / KAUSHAL Kendras will develop curriculum and arrange for skill intensive training / teaching for the learners belonging to the

category-2 and 3 as above during the first six months who will be assessed and certified for NSQF Level 4 of skill competency by concerned SSC at the end of first semester. However, learners belonging to category-1 will not require such certification as they were already having NSQF level 4 certificates in same industry sector / job role required for specified skill credits.

All the learners continuing to Diploma courses or further will be treated at par from second semester onwards. Students may exit after six months with a Certificate (NSQF Level 4) or may continue for diploma or advanced diploma level courses. An academic progression for the students in vocational stream is illustrated below:

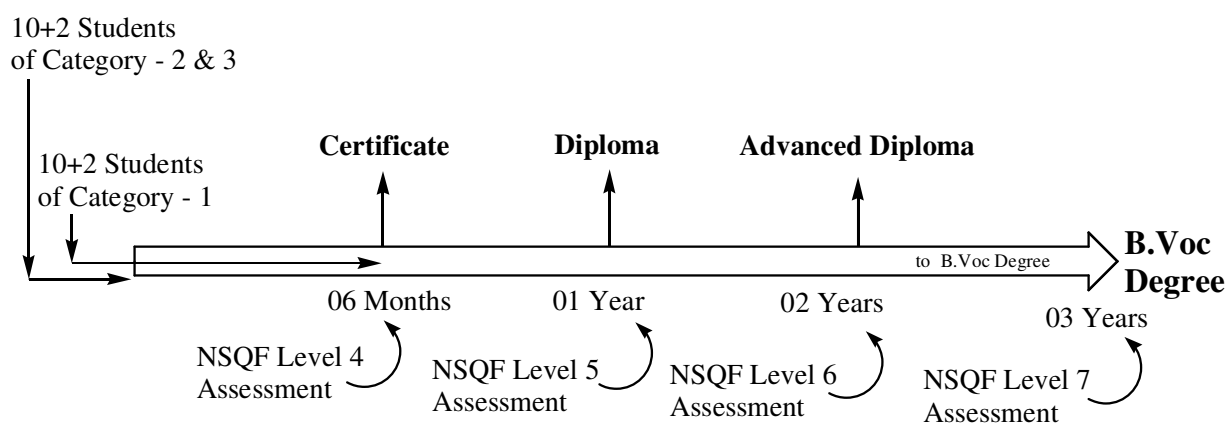


Fig. 1: Assessment of Skill Component under NSQF in Vocational Courses

As an illustration, awards could be given at each stage as per Table 1 below for cumulative credits awarded to the learners in skill based vocational courses.

TABLE - 1

NSQF Level	Skill Component Credits	General Education Credits	Total Credits for Award	Normal Duration	Exit Points / Awards
7	108	72	180	Six Semesters	B.Voc Degree
6	72	48	120	Four semesters	Advanced Diploma
5	36	24	60	Two semesters	Diploma
4	18	12	30	One semester	Certificate

The NSQF Levels in above illustrations indicate that there should be at least one job role at the concerned NSQF Level in the curriculum to be assessed and certified for skill component. The normal training hours for skilling should be proportionate to the weightage for skill credits and an appropriate component of skill training may be imparted as on-site training at actual work place.

2. ASSESSMENT

2.1. The Skill component of the course will be assessed and certified by the respective Sector Skill Councils. In case, there is no Sector Skill Council for a specific trade, the assessment may be done by an allied Sector Council or the Industry partner. The certifying bodies may comply with and obtain accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) set up under Quality Council of India (QCI). Wherever the university/college may deem fit, it may issue a joint certificate for the courses with the respective Sector Skill Councils.

2.2. The credits regarding **skill component** will be awarded in terms of NSQF level certification which will have 60% weightage of total credits of the course in following manner.

- Certificate courses: **NSQF level 4 certificate - 18 credits**
- Diploma courses: **NSQF level 5 certificate - 36 credits**
- Advanced diploma courses: **NSQF level 6 certificate - 72 credits**
- B.Voc. Degree : **NSQF level 7 certificate - 108 credits**

The learners will be assessed for skill components at various levels as illustrated in Fig. 1. The skill credits indicated above at a particular level are cumulative to the level concerned *i.e.* a candidate in advanced diploma level will be assessed for NSQF level – 6 to acquire 72 credits of skill component will considered for overall 72 credits only. However, candidate would have been assessed for NSQF level 4 and 5 in previous semesters; these credits will not be added to skill credits after one acquires higher level of skill competency. Similarly for B.Voc degree, the 108 credits of NSQF level 7 are inclusive of the credits awarded at NSQF level 4, 5 and 6 for the skill competence of candidate assessed at different stages before he/she acquired the skill competence at NSQF level 7.

2.3. The **general education component** will be assessed by the concerned institutions themselves as per the norms for university / collegiate education. The

following formula may be used for the credit calculation in general education component of the courses:

- General Education credit refers to a unit by which the course work is measured. It determines the number of hours of instructions required per week. One credit is equivalent to one hour of teaching (lecture or tutorial) or two hours of practical work/field work per week. Accordingly, one Credit would mean equivalent of 14-15 periods of 60 minutes each or 28 – 30 hrs of workshops / labs.
- For internship / field work, the credit weightage for equivalent hours shall be 50% of that for lectures / tutorials.
- For self-learning, based on e-content or otherwise, the credit weightage for equivalent hours of study shall be 50% of that for lectures / tutorials.

2.4. The award of ‘Certificate’ / ‘Diploma’ / ‘Advanced Diploma’ / Degree to the successful learners in both skills and general education components of the curriculum may be done as illustrated at Table 1.

2.5. The institutions recognized under Community Colleges / B.Voc Degree programme, and Deen Dayal Upadhyay KAUSHAL Kendras should adopt and integrate the guidelines and recommendations of the respective Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) for the assessment and evaluation of the vocational component, wherever available.

2.6. Letter Grades and Grade Points: The UGC recommends a 10-point grading system with the following Letter grades as given below:

Table 2: Grades and Grade Points

Letter Grade	Grade Point
O (Outstanding)	10
A+ (Excellent)	9
A (Very Good)	8
B+ (Good)	7
B (Above Average)	6
C (Average)	5
P (Pass)	4
F(Fail)	0
Ab (Absent)	0

A student obtaining Grade F shall be considered failed and will be required to reappear in the examination.

2.7. Computation of SGPA and CGPA: Following procedure to compute the Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA) and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) may be adopted:

- The SGPA is the ratio of sum of the product of the number of credits with the grade points scored by a student in all the course components taken by a student and the sum of the number of credits of all the courses undergone by a student, *i.e*

$$\text{SGPA (S}_i\text{)} = \frac{\sum(C_i \times G_i)}{\sum C_i}$$

where 'C_i' is the number of credits of the ith course component and 'G_i' is the grade point scored by the student in the ith course component.

- The CGPA is also calculated in the same manner taking into account all the courses undergone by a student over all the semesters of a programme, *i.e.*

$$\text{CGPA} = \frac{\sum(C_i \times S_i)}{\sum C_i}$$

where 'S_i' is the SGPA of the ith semester and C_i is the total number of credits in that semester.

- The SGPA and CGPA shall be rounded off to 2 decimal points and reported in the transcripts.
- The skill component would be taken as one of the course component in calculation of SGPA and CGPA with given credit weightage at respective level.
- UGC guidelines on Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) may be referred for further illustration on computation of SGPA, CGPA *etc.*
