

Point-Wise Summary of the Minimum Standards and Procedure for the Award of PhD Degree

1. Eligibility Criteria for PhD Admission:

- Candidates must have a **Master's degree** or equivalent in a relevant discipline with at least **55% marks** (or an equivalent grade).
- A **5% relaxation** is provided for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/differently-abled candidates.
- Candidates with **MPhil degrees** can also apply.

2. Admission Procedure:

- **Entrance Test:**
 - Universities conduct a **PhD entrance test** as the first stage of admission.
 - The test assesses **research aptitude**, subject knowledge, and analytical skills.
- **Exemptions:**
 - Candidates with **UGC-NET (including JRF), CSIR-NET, GATE, or SLET** qualifications are exempted from the entrance test.
- **Interview and Presentation:**
 - Shortlisted candidates are called for an **interview and/or research proposal presentation**.
 - The selection committee evaluates the candidate's research potential, domain knowledge, and suitability for the program.
- **Final Selection:**
 - Admission is granted based on **combined performance** in the entrance test, interview, and academic qualifications.

3. Duration of the PhD Program:

- The minimum duration is **three years**, including coursework.
- The maximum duration is **six years** from the date of admission.
- Extension beyond six years may be granted in exceptional cases with due approval.

4. Coursework Requirements:

- PhD candidates must complete **coursework of at least 8 credits**.
- The coursework includes:
 - **Research methodology** (compulsory).
 - Subject-specific courses.
 - A minimum of **50% passing marks** is required in coursework.

5. **Research Supervision:**

- Each faculty member can supervise a limited number of PhD scholars:
 - **Professor:** 8 candidates.
 - **Associate Professor:** 6 candidates.
 - **Assistant Professor:** 4 candidates.
- Co-supervisors from other recognized institutions are allowed.

6. **Evaluation and Assessment Process:**

- The PhD thesis is assessed by **at least two external examiners**, one of whom is from outside the state/country.
- The thesis should demonstrate original research and contribute to the field of knowledge.
- **Plagiarism check** is mandatory before submission.

7. **Publication Requirements:**

- The candidate must publish at least **one research paper** in a refereed journal before the final thesis submission.
- Presentation of at least **two papers** in national or international conferences is mandatory.

8. **Thesis Submission and Defense:**

- The candidate must submit a **synopsis** of the research work before the final thesis submission.
- The thesis defense includes a **viva voce examination** conducted in the presence of the supervisor, external examiner, and the university committee.
- The viva voce is open to faculty members, research scholars, and students.

9. **Award of the PhD Degree:**

- The PhD degree is awarded only after:
 - Successful defense of the thesis.

- Fulfillment of all coursework and publication requirements.
- Approval by the university's academic council or designated authority.

10. Ethical Research Practices:

- PhD scholars are expected to adhere to **ethical research standards**.
- Plagiarism and data falsification result in disqualification or revocation of the degree.

11. Amendments and Regulations:

- The university reserves the right to make amendments or introduce new regulations.
- Regular audits and reviews of the PhD program are conducted to ensure compliance with standards.

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have the authority to **conduct their own entrance tests** for PhD admissions. Here's what it implies:

1. Autonomy in Admission:

- Individual universities or colleges (HEIs) can **organize and administer their own PhD entrance examinations**, rather than relying solely on national-level exams like UGC-NET, CSIR-NET, GATE, etc.
- This allows institutions to have more control over their **admission process** and select candidates based on their specific requirements.

2. Entrance Test Structure:

- The **syllabus** of the entrance test is divided into two parts:
 - **50% Research Methodology:** This section assesses the candidate's understanding of research concepts, methods, and techniques (e.g., research design, data analysis, sampling methods, etc.).
 - **50% Subject-Specific:** This section evaluates the candidate's expertise in their chosen field of study (e.g., commerce, management, science, etc.)

3. Purpose:

- This entrance test is designed to **evaluate both research skills and subject knowledge**, ensuring that candidates possess the necessary academic and analytical abilities required for doctoral studies.

✓ PhD Program Structure for College Website (Ready for Upload)

🏠 Section 1: PhD Program Overview

📖 Welcome to the PhD Program at Sheth NKTTC College of commerce and JTT College of arts Thane

At NKTTC, we are committed to fostering **advanced research and academic excellence**. Our PhD program offers students the opportunity to pursue **original and impactful research** under the guidance of experienced faculty members. The program is designed to develop strong **research skills, critical thinking**, and academic proficiency in various disciplines.

🔍 Section 2: Eligibility Criteria

✦ To apply for the PhD program, candidates must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- **Minimum Qualification:**
 - A **Master's degree** or equivalent with at least **55% marks** (or equivalent grade).
 - **5% relaxation** is provided for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/differently-abled candidates.
 - **MPhil Degree Holders:**
 - Candidates with an **MPhil degree** are also eligible.
 - **Exemptions from Entrance Test:**
 - Candidates who have cleared **UGC-NET (including JRF), CSIR-NET, GATE, or SLET** are exempted from the entrance test and qualify directly for the interview stage.
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📘 Section 3: Admission Procedure

🎯 Two Pathways for PhD Admission:

1. **National-Level Exam Pathway:**

- Candidates with valid scores in **UGC-NET, CSIR-NET, GATE, or SLET** are directly eligible for the interview and research proposal presentation stage.

2. HEI-Level Entrance Test Pathway:

- Candidates who have not cleared national-level exams must appear for the **[College Name] Entrance Test**.
 - The test syllabus consists of:
 - **50% Research Methodology**
 - **50% Subject-Specific Knowledge**
 - **Selection Process:**
 - Shortlisted candidates based on the entrance test are invited for an **interview and/or research proposal presentation**.
 - Final admission is based on the **combined performance** in the entrance test, interview, and academic qualifications.
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Section 4: PhD Coursework and Duration

Coursework Requirements:

- All PhD candidates must complete **a minimum of 8 credits** of coursework, including:
 - **Research Methodology** (compulsory).
 - Subject-specific courses.
- A minimum of **50% marks** is required in coursework for successful completion.

Duration of the Program:

- **Minimum Duration:** 3 years (including coursework).
 - **Maximum Duration:** 6 years (with the possibility of an extension in exceptional cases).
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Section 5: Research Supervision

Faculty Supervision Capacity:

- **Professor:** Can supervise up to **8 PhD candidates**.

- **Associate Professor:** Can supervise up to **6 PhD candidates**.
 - **Assistant Professor:** Can supervise up to **4 PhD candidates**.
 - **Co-Supervisors:** Scholars can also have co-supervisors from **recognized external institutions**.
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Section 6: Thesis Submission, Evaluation, and Defense

Thesis Evaluation Process:

- The PhD thesis is assessed by **at least two external examiners**, with one from outside the state or country.
- The thesis must demonstrate **original research** and contribute to the field of study.
- A **plagiarism check** is mandatory before submission.

Publication Requirements:

- Candidates must **publish at least one research paper** in a peer-reviewed journal before the final thesis submission.
- Presentation of **at least two research papers** at national or international conferences is required.

Viva Voce Examination:

- The final thesis defense involves a **viva voce examination** in the presence of:
 - The **supervisor**.
 - An **external examiner**.
 - The university's academic committee.
 - The viva is open to **faculty members, scholars, and students**.
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Section 7: Award of the PhD Degree

The PhD degree is awarded only after the candidate has:

- Successfully defended their thesis in the **viva voce examination**.
 - Fulfilled all **coursework and publication requirements**.
 - Obtained approval from the **academic council** or designated authority.
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Section 8: Ethical Research Standards

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy:

- The college adheres to **strict ethical research standards**.
 - The thesis undergoes **plagiarism detection** before submission.
 - Any instances of **data falsification or unethical practices** may lead to disqualification or revocation of the PhD degree.
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Section 9: Contact Information and Helpdesk

For inquiries regarding PhD admissions, please contact:

- **PhD Program Coordinator:** [Name]
- **Email:** [Contact Email]
- **Phone:** [Contact Number]
- **Office Hours:** [Timings]

Download Links:

- [PhD Admission Guidelines PDF]
 - [Application Form]
 - [Important Dates and Notifications]
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