MALLA REDDY
VISHWAVIDYAPEETH
(Deemed to be University)

Academic Regulation for Ph.D. Program – 2025

University Grants Commission

(Minimum Standards and Procedures for the Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022

Contents

1.   SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROGRAM

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program at Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) (MRV)[1] is governed by the University Grants Commission's Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree Regulations, 2022[2], and aims to promote high-quality multidisciplinary research. The UGC regulations (2022) consolidate and integrate best practices to ensure academic rigor and relevance. The MRV aims to create an environment for research and admission to the Ph.D. program based on merit and as per the guidelines of UGC.
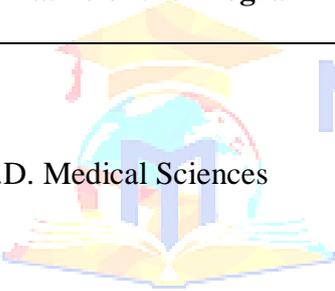
2.   DEFINITIONS

a) "Act" means the University Grants Commission Act,1956 (3 of 1956).

b) "Credit" means the number of hours of instruction required per week over a semester. A three-credit course in a semester means three one-hour lectures per week, with each one-hour lecture counted as one credit.

c) "Course" means one of the specified units comprising a study program.

d) "Course Work" means courses of study prescribed by the MRV to be undertaken by a student registered for the Ph.D. Degree.

e) "Guide/Research Supervisor" means an academician/researcher recognized by MRV to supervise the Ph.D. scholar for his/her research.

f) "Plagiarism" means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing them as one's own.

g) "Research Proposal" means a brief write-up outlining the proposed research work which the Ph.D. scholar shall submit along with the application for registration for the Ph.D. program.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE ADMISSION TO THE Ph.D. PROGRAMME

3.1. Candidates with the following qualifications are eligible for enrollment for the Ph.D. program at MRV: A 1-year/2-semester master's degree programme after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree programme after a 3-year bachelor's degree programme or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55 % marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed.

Name of the Program	Eligibility Criteria
Ph.D. Medical Sciences	Master's degrees such as Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Master of Surgery (MS) in the concerned subject from an Institute recognized by the National Medical Council (NMC) with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3.1).
Ph.D. Dental Sciences	Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) after Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3.1).
PhD. Allied and Public Health Sciences	Master's degree in relevant eligible discipline with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3.1).
Ph.D. Pharmacy	Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) and Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3.1).
Ph.D. Nursing	Master's degree in relevant eligible discipline with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3.1).

Ph.D. Digital Health	Master's degree in relevant eligible discipline with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3.1).
Ph.D. Engineering and Technology	Master of Engineering (ME)/Master of Technology (MTech) degree in the respective branches of engineering with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3.1).

3.2. A candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree program should have a minimum of 75 % marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale, wherever the grading system is followed, is permitted to register for a Ph.D. Program.

3.3. Candidates who completed the M.Phil. program with at least 55 % marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever grading system is followed or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency that is approved, recognized, or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit, or assure quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. program.

3.4. Relaxation of 5 % marks or its equivalent grade will be allowed for those belonging to ST/SC/OBC (non-creamy layer), Differently abled, and Economically Weaker Section (EWS).

4. DURATION OF THE PROGRAM

4.1. The full-time Ph.D. program shall have a minimum duration of three (3) years and a maximum of six (6) years, including coursework, from the registration date.

4.2. The total duration of completing a full-time Ph.D. program should not exceed six years from the registration date.

4.3. Further, a maximum of two (2) more years extension can be given through a re-registration process with proper justification provided jointly by the candidate and Research Supervisor. However, the total period for completion of such Ph.D. program should not exceed eight (8) years overall from the date of admission in the Ph.D. program.

4.4. The part-time Ph.D. program shall have a minimum duration of Four (4) years and a maximum of eight (8) years, including coursework, from the registration date.

4.5. Female Ph.D. Scholars may be provided maternity leave/childcare leave for up to 240 days for the entire duration of the Ph.D. program.

4.6. The indicative milestone and duration of the Ph.D. program are followed by students and MRV (Table 1).

Table 1: Milestones and duration (Indicative)

S. No	Milestone	Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration
1	Written Test	D/M/YY (Day/Month/Year) (Jan/Jul)	
2	Interview	D/M/YY + 1 D	D/M/YY + 7 D
3	Admission confirmation	D/M/YY + 7 D	D/M/YY + 20 D
4	Course fee payment	D/M/YY + 8 D	D/M/YY + 30 D
5	Course work	D/M/YY + 6 M	D/M/YY + 18 M
6	Proposal defense	D/M/YY + 8 M	D/M/YY + 10 M
7	DAC Review - 1	D/M/YY + 12 M	--
8	DAC Review - 2	D/M/YY + 18 M	--
9	DAC Review – 3	D/M/YY + 24 M	--
10	DAC Review – 4	D/M/YY + 30 M	--
11	Synopsis submission	D/M/YY + 32 M	

| 12 | Final thesis submission | D/M/YY + 36 M | |
| 13 | Thesis defense | D/M/YY + 36 M | D/M/YY + 72 M |

DAC – Doctoral Advisory Committee

5.   PROCEDURE OF SELECTION AND ADMISSION

5.1.   The application for enrollment in the Ph.D. program shall be made in the prescribed forms, which shall be made available on the MRV website following the notification available in the public domain. The filled-in application forms and the proposed area of work routed through the proper channel shall be submitted to the MRV on or before the last date prescribed in the notification on the payment of the requisite fee.

5.2.   All applicants must submit duly attested copies of their degree certificates, birth certificates, Aadhaar, and other relevant qualification documents as part of the Ph.D. registration process.

5.3.   The name of the department and institution where the candidate proposed conducting the research should be mentioned—a summary outlining the proposed research work, with special emphasis on the objectives and tentative methodology.

5.4.   The incomplete applications received by the MRV will be rejected without further correspondence. However, the candidate can resubmit the application with all the required details for the next enrollment cycle.

5.5.   The MRV shall admit candidates through a two-stage process: an entrance examination followed by an interview. The entrance examination syllabus comprises 50 % of the Current affairs, Research methodology, and 50 % is subject-specific. The entrance examination should be conducted at the MRV, as notified beforehand.

5.6. Candidates with a minimum of 50 % marks in the entrance test will be considered eligible for the interview. The interview shall be conducted as per the prescribed procedure as per MRV.

5.7. A candidate who qualifies for fellowship/scholarship in UGC NET/UGC-CSIR/NET/GATE/CEED and similar national-level tests based on interview exams is exempted from appearing in the entrance examination.

5.8. Applications, entrance exam results, interview outcomes, and brief research proposals of the candidates will be presented to a committee constituted by MRV. The committee will evaluate and review the research proposals and, upon determining the applicant's qualifications and suitability, will recommend admission to the Ph.D. program in an eligible discipline at MRV.

5.9. A relaxation of 5 % marks will be allowed in the entrance examination for candidates belonging to the SC/ST/OBC/differently abled category, Economically Weaker Section (EWS), and other categories of candidates.

5.10. Candidates who passed the professional degree courses such as MBBS, BDS, BHMS, BVSc etc., and M.Phil. degree examinations from any recognized university, with a minimum of 55 % aggregate marks, are exempted from the entrance examinations.

5.11. National/State-level reservation policy in allotting Ph.D Seats (Explain)

5.12. A list of Ph.D. supervisors and the details of Ph.D. scholars admitted under them will be provided on the MRV website.

6. ALLOCATION OF RESEARCH SUPERVISOR

All regular professors, associate professors/readers, and assistant professors working full-time at MRV holding a degree (Ph.D./MCh) are eligible to be considered guide/research supervisors with the approval of the Board of Studies subject to the following:

6.1. Any permanent faculty member working as a Professor/Associate Professor of the MRV with at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and permanent faculty members working as Assistant professors in MRV with a Ph.D. and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognized as Research Supervisors at the University.

6.2. An eligible Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can guide up to eight (8)/ six (6)/ and four (4) Ph.D. scholars, respectively, at any given time.

6.3. Provided that in areas/disciplines with no or limited number of referred journals, the institution may relax the above condition from time to time to recognize a person as a research supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.

6.4. Professors in the post-graduate departments of the constituent colleges/units of the MRV who do not have a Doctoral degree in the concerned/ related subject shall be deemed to be the recognized Research supervisors in their subjects, provided they have at least 10 years of teaching experience after having acquired their Master's Degree of which 5 years shall be post-graduate teaching in the relevant discipline. They also should have a minimum of FIVE original research publications in indexed journals to his/her credit, of which at least THREE as first/second/corresponding author, as evidence of active research involvement.

6.5. In the case of interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary research, a co-supervisor may be appointed from outside the Department/School/Centre/College/University as well as from relevant industry and R&D organizations.

6.6. Adjunct Faculty: Adjunct faculty members shall not be eligible as Research Supervisors; however, they can serve as co-supervisors based on their domain knowledge.

6.7.   Change of Research Supervisor: Under normal circumstances, the change of research supervisor is not permitted for Ph.D. candidates. In exceptional cases, with no objection certificate from the current research supervisor and willingness from among the other recognized research supervisors (of the same specialty) is permitted to guide the candidate. This change should be endorsed by the Head of the Institution which will be approved by the university following the due process of the committee constituted for the above purpose.

6.8.   In case of relocation of Ph.D. woman scholar due to marriage or other reasons given in writing, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the university to which the scholar intends to relocate, provided all the other conditions in these regulations are followed in letter and spirit. This is allowed except for the research work that does not pertain to the project secured by the parent /previous institution/supervisor from any funding agency. The scholar will, however, give due credit to the parent research supervisor and the institution for the part of the research already conducted thereof.

6.9.   Faculty members with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be allowed to take new research scholars under their supervision. However, such faculty members can continue to supervise Ph.D. scholars who are already registered until superannuation and as a co-supervisor after superannuation, but not after attaining the age of 70 years.

7.   ADMISSION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN Ph.D. PROGRAMME.

Each supervisor can guide up to two international research scholars on a supernumerary basis within the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars approved for each cadre.

8.   ALLOTMENT OF Ph.D. SCHOLARS UNDER RESEARCH SUPERVISORS

The total number of Ph.D. scholars under a faculty member as a supervisor shall not exceed eight (8)/ six (6) / four (4) for the cadre of professor/associate professor/assistant professors, respectively, at any given time, including the national and international Ph.D. candidates.

9.   COURSE WORK

Ph.D. scholars must undertake coursework for at least one semester at the MRV.

9.1.   The Credit requirement for the Ph.D. coursework shall be a minimum of 12 credits, including a "Research and Publication Ethics" course as notified by UGC vide D.O. No. F.1–1/2018 (Journal/CARE) in 2019 and a research methodology course[3]. The DAC can also recommend UGC-recognized online courses as part of the credit requirements of the Ph.D. program.

9.2.   Candidates admitted to the Ph.D. program are required to complete the Ph.D. coursework prescribed by the department as follows:

S.No.	Course	Credits	Mode of Evaluation	Performance
1.	Research Methodology - I	2	Written Test	Satisfactory/Not satisfactory
2.	Research Methodology - II	2	Computer-based test	
3.	Research and Publication Ethics	2	Seminar/presentation	
4.	Course – 1- Related to the area specialization	3/4	MOOC courses, Swayam, Coursera, Approved by DAC	
5.	Course – 2- Related to the area specialization	3/4	MOOC courses, Swayam, Coursera, Approved by DAC	

9.3. The candidate must submit all coursework completion certificates to the Controller of Examination (COE), MRV. The 12-credit coursework should be completed within 12-18 months of the date of registration.

9.4. To complete coursework, a Ph.D. scholar is required to secure a minimum of 55 % to pursue the research work.

9.5. All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of discipline, shall be required to train in teaching /education /pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject during their doctoral period. Ph.D. scholars may also be assigned 4-6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship for conducting tutorial or laboratory work and evaluations.

9.6. A Ph.D. scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% marks or its equivalent grade on the UGC 10-point scale in the coursework to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit his or her thesis.

10. DOCTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) AND ITS FUNCTION

10.1. A Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC) will be formed for each Ph.D. candidate before the departmental procedure. The DAC shall consist of (i) the Head of the Dept / Institution, (ii) Guide (Convenor), (iii) Co-Guide(s), and (iv) Two external experts.

10.2. The DAC collectively has the following responsibilities:

a) Evaluation, refinement, and approval of the Ph.D. Research Proposal.

b) Review progress periodically, preferably every six months, from registration until thesis submission. Each semester, a Ph.D. candidate shall appear before the DAC to make a presentation and submit a brief report on the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The DAC shall submit its recommendations along with a copy of the Ph.D. scholar's progress report to the MRV concerned. A copy of such recommendations shall also be provided to the Ph.D. scholar.

c) In case the progress of the Ph.D. scholar is unsatisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the Ph.D. scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Advisory Committee may recommend, with specific reasons, the cancellation of the registration of the Ph.D. scholar from the Ph.D. programme.

d) Evaluation of the pre-submission synopsis and other academic requirements of Ph.D. candidate ensuring the submission of the research proposal for the approval of research topics adhering to the prescribed guidelines of MRV.

e) Approval of the final Ph.D. thesis report for submission to MRV for evaluation.

11. EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT METHODS, MINIMUM STANDARDS/CREDITS FOR AWARD OF THE DEGREE, ETC.

11.1. Before submitting the dissertation/thesis, the scholar shall make a synopsis presentation in the department concerned before the DAC of the candidate, which shall also be open to all faculty members and other research scholars. Their feedback and comments obtained from them may be suitably incorporated into the draft dissertation/thesis in consultation with the DAC members.

11.2. Ph.D. scholars must publish at least two original research papers as first authors in National or International SCOPUS/ WOS-indexed journals and make at least two paper presentations as presenting authors at National/International conferences and seminars before the submission of the dissertation/thesis for adjudication and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates and/or reprints.

11.3. Ph.D. students must submit an application and the final summary of their research work duly signed by both the research supervisor and co-supervisor(s). This submission should be made to the Controller of Examinations (MRV) through the Dean Concerned at least three months before submitting the final thesis.

11.4.   A certificate of plagiarism check of the final thesis copy endorsed by the research supervisor and research co-supervisor shall be submitted along with the final thesis [4].

a)   This work is devoid of plagiarism.

b)   Any work, including the literature, images, figures, diagrams, flowcharts, or other intellectual property sourced from published authors or articles, must be duly cited and acknowledged.

c)   The similarity percentage in the thesis should not exceed 10 %, as determined by plagiarism detection software (preferably Turnitin software and or any equivalent)

11.5.   Thesis Submission

The final viva voce (defense) shall be conducted within six months of the thesis submission date.

a)   The candidate shall submit three copies of his/her thesis and a soft copy within six months after submission of the summary duly signed by the research Supervisor and Co-supervisor to the Controller of Examinations.

b)   The Controller of Examinations (MRV) will forward the summary to two selected external examiners (one of the external examiners should be chosen from outside India). Upon receipt of acceptance in writing by both the external examiners, the Controller of Examinations shall send the thesis to them for evaluation.

c)   A candidate shall also submit along with his/her thesis- "No due certificates" from the Head of Department and Head of the Institution where he/she has worked, from the University Librarian and the Finance Officer of the MRV and other authorities as specified from time to time by MRV.

d)   The thesis submitted by a Ph.D. scholar shall be evaluated by at least TWO external examiners who are experts in the field. Such examiners (s) should be academics with a good record of scholarly publications wherever possible. The viva voce board shall

consist of a research supervisor and at least one external examiner. The viva voce shall be an open defense, and it may be conducted online.

e) The MRV shall complete the entire process of evaluating a Ph. D. thesis, including the declaration of the viva voce result, within six (6) months from the thesis's submission date.

12.   Ph.D. THROUGH PART-TIME MODE

12.1.   Ph.D. programs through part-time mode will be permitted, provided all the conditions stipulated in these Regulations are fulfilled.

12.2.   The MRV concerned shall obtain a "No Objection Certificate" through the candidate for a part-time Ph.D. program from the appropriate authority in the organization where the candidate is employed, clearly stating that:

a.   The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis.

b.   His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time to research.

c.   If required, he/she may be relieved from the duty to complete the coursework.

13.   ISSUING A PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE

Before awarding the Ph.D. degree, the degree-awarding MRV shall issue a provisional certificate stating that the Ph.D. is being awarded as per the provisions of these Regulations.

14.   DEPOSITORY WITH INFLIBNET

14.1.   Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree(s), the institution concerned shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis to INFLIBNET for hosting the same to make it accessible to all Institutions/Colleges.

14.2.   The MRV may frame guidelines for further clarity regarding implementing regulations. The Ph.D. regulations outlined by other statutory bodies, such as NMC, DCI, PCI and

such other regulatory bodies from time to time may be considered and implemented as and when required.

15. REFERENCES

(1)   https://mrvv.edu.in/about-us/. (accessed 10-02-2025)).

(2)   University Grants Commission Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree Regulations, 2022. https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/0909572_Minimum-Standards-and-Procedure-for-Award-of-Ph.D.-Degree.pdf. (accessed 10-02-2025).

(3)   Research and Publication Ethics - D.O. No. F.1- 1/2018(Journal/CARE) December 2019. (accessed 10-02-2025).

(4)   University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018 https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/7771545_academic-integrity-Regulation2018.pdf. (accessed 10-02-2025).