



**MALLA REDDY
VISHWAVIDYAPEETH**
(Deemed to be University)

Academic Regulation for PhD Programme – 2025

University Grants Commission

(Minimum Standards and Procedures for the Award of PhD Degree) Regulations, 2022

(Version 1)

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Academic Regulation for PhD Programme – 2025

1. Short Title and Commencement of the Programme

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme at Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth (MRV) (Deemed to be University)¹ is governed by the Minimum Standards and Procedure of University Grants Commission (UGC) for Award of PhD Degree Regulations, 2022², and aims to promote high-quality multidisciplinary research. The UGC regulations (2022) consolidate and integrate best practices to ensure academic rigour and relevance. The MRV aims to create an environment for research and admission to the PhD programme based on merit and UGC guidelines.

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.
- 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 PhD programme.
- e. “Guide/Research Supervisor” means an academician/researcher recognized by MRV to supervise the PhD scholar for his/her research.
- f. “Plagiarism” means the practice of taking someone else’s work or idea and passing it as one’s own.
- g. “Research Proposal” means a brief write-up outlining the proposed research work, which the PhD scholar shall submit along with the application for registration for the PhD programme.

3. Eligibility Criteria for Admission to the PhD Programme

- a. Candidates with the following qualifications are eligible for enrolment in the PhD programme 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 Programme	Eligibility Criteria
Faculty of Medicine	Master's degrees such as Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Master of Surgery (MS) in the concerned subject from an Institute recognised by the National Medical Council (NMC) with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3a).
Faculty of Dentistry	Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) after Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3a).
Faculty of Allied and Health Sciences	Master's degree in a relevant and eligible discipline with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3a).
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) and Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3a).
Faculty of Public Health	Master's degree in a relevant and eligible discipline with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3a).
Faculty of Digital Health	Master's degree in a relevant and eligible discipline with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3a).
Faculty of 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 3a).
Faculty of Management	Master's degree in a relevant and eligible discipline with a minimum of 55% marks (Clause 3a).

- b. A candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale, wherever the grading system is followed, and is permitted to register for a PhD programme.
- c. Candidates who completed the MPhil programme 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, recognised, or authorised 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 PhD programme.

4. Duration of the Programme

- a. The full-time PhD programme shall have a minimum duration of three (3) years and a maximum of six (6) years, including coursework, from the registration date.
- b. The total duration of completing a full-time PhD programme should not exceed six years from the registration date.
- c. 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 PhD programme should not exceed eight (8) years overall from the date of admission in the PhD programme.
- d. The part-time PhD programme shall have a minimum duration of four (4) years and a maximum of eight (8) years, including coursework, from the registration date.
- e. Female PhD scholars may be granted maternity or childcare leave as per the MRV norms.
- f. The indicative milestone and duration of the PhD programme are followed by students and MRV, as given below:

Milestones and duration (Indicative)

- a. The Written Test will be conducted on a specified date, typically two months prior to the commencement of the January or July batch.
- b. The Interview will be held within one to seven days after the written test.
- c. Admission Confirmation will occur between seven to twenty days from the test date.
- d. Course Fee Payment should be completed within eight to thirty days.
- e. The coursework will span from six to eighteen months.
- f. The Proposal Defence should take place between eight to ten months from the start date.
- g. Research Advisory Committee Review–1 will be held at twelve months.
- h. Research Advisory Committee Review–2 will be conducted at eighteen months.
- i. Research Advisory Committee Review–3 will be scheduled at twenty-four months.
- j. Research Advisory Committee Review–4 will take place at thirty months.
- k. Synopsis submission is scheduled from thirty-two to thirty-six months.
- l. Final Thesis Submission is expected at thirty-six months.

- m. The Thesis Defence will be conducted between thirty-six to seventy-two months from the commencement date.

5. Procedure of Selection and Admission

- a. The application for enrolment in the PhD programme 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.
- b. All applicants must submit duly attested copies of their degree certificates, birth certificates, Aadhaar, and other relevant qualification documents as part of the PhD registration process.
- c. 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.
- d. 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 enrolment cycle.
- e. 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 and Research methodology, and 50% is subject-specific. The entrance examination should be conducted at the MRV, as notified beforehand.
- f. 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.
- g. A candidate who qualifies for a 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.
- h. 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 PhD programme in an eligible discipline at MRV.

- i. 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.
- j. A list of PhD supervisors and the details of PhD 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 (PhD/MCh) are eligible to be considered guide/research supervisors with the approval of the Board of Studies, subject to the following:

- a. 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 PhD and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognised as Research Supervisors at the University.
- b. An eligible Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can guide up to eight (8)/ six (6)/ and four (4) PhD scholars, respectively, at any given time.
- c. Provided that in areas/disciplines with no or a limited number of referred journals, the institution may relax the above condition from time to time to recognise a person as a research supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.
- d. 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 recognised 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 FOUR original research publications in indexed journals to his/her credit.
- e. 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 organisations.
- f. Adjunct Faculty: Adjunct faculty members shall not be eligible as Research Supervisors; however, they can serve as co-supervisors based on their domain knowledge.

- g. Change of Research Supervisor: Under normal circumstances, the change of research supervisor is not permitted for PhD candidates. In exceptional cases, with no objection certificate from the current research supervisor and willingness from among the other recognised research supervisors (of the same speciality) 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.
- h. In case of relocation of a PhD 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.
- i. 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 PhD 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 the PhD Programme

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

8. Allotment of PhD Scholars Under Research Supervisors

The total number of PhD 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 PhD candidates.

9. Course Work

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

- a. The Credit requirement for the PhD 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 course³. The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) can also recommend UGC-recognised online courses as part of the credit requirements of the PhD programme.
- b. Candidates admitted to the PhD programme are required to complete the PhD coursework prescribed by the department as follows:

S. No.	Course	Credits	Mode of Evaluation	Performance
1.	Course 1 – Research & Publication Ethics	2	Online (SWAYAM)	Satisfactory/Not satisfactory
2.	Course 2 – Research Methodology and Statistics	4	Written Test Seminar/presentation	Satisfactory/Not satisfactory
3.	Course 3 – Theoretical Foundation & Core Subject	3/4	Online/Offline (Guides), MOOC courses, Swayam, Coursera, Approved by RAC	
4.	Course 4 – Literature Review and Research Proposal	3/4	Online/Offline (Guides), MOOC courses, Swayam, Coursera, Approved by RAC	

- c. 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.
- d. To complete coursework, a PhD scholar is required to secure a minimum of 55% to pursue the research work.

- e. All PhD scholars, irrespective of discipline, shall be required to train in teaching /education /pedagogy/writing related to their chosen PhD subject during their doctoral period. PhD scholars may also be assigned 4-6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship for conducting tutorials or laboratory work, and evaluations.
- f. A PhD 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. RAC and Its Function

- a. An RAC will be formed for each PhD candidate before the departmental procedure. The RAC shall consist of (i) the Head of the Dept/ Institution, (ii) Guide (Convenor), (iii) Co-Guide(s), and (iv) one or two external experts.
- b. The RAC collectively has the following responsibilities:
 - i. Evaluation, refinement, and approval of the PhD Research Proposal.
 - ii. Review progress periodically, preferably every six months, from registration until thesis submission. Each semester, a PhD 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 RAC shall submit its recommendations along with a copy of the PhD scholar's progress report to the MRV concerned. A copy of such recommendations shall also be provided to the PhD scholar.
 - iii. In case the progress of the PhD scholar is unsatisfactory, the RAC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the PhD scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the RAC may recommend, with specific reasons, the cancellation of the registration of the PhD scholar from the PhD programme.
 - iv. Evaluation of the pre-submission synopsis and other academic requirements of the PhD candidate, ensuring the submission of the research proposal for the approval of research topics, adhering to the prescribed guidelines of MRV.
 - v. Approval of the final PhD thesis report for submission to MRV for evaluation.

11. Evaluation and Assessment Methods, Minimum Standards/Credits for Award of the Degree, etc.

- a. Before submitting the dissertation/thesis, the scholar shall make a synopsis presentation in the department concerned before the RAC 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 RAC members.
- b. PhD 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.
- c. PhD 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 COE (MRV) through the Dean at least three months before submitting the final thesis.
- d. 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.
 - i. This work is devoid of plagiarism.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. The similarity percentage in the thesis should not exceed 10%, as determined by plagiarism detection software (preferably iThenticate software or any equivalent)
- e. Thesis Submission

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

 - i. 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 COE.
 - ii. The COE (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 COE shall send the thesis to them for evaluation.

- iii. 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, the Finance Officer of the MRV, and other authorities as specified from time to time by the MRV.
- iv. The thesis submitted by a PhD 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 defence, and it may be conducted online.
- v. The MRV shall complete the entire process of evaluating a PhD thesis, including the declaration of the viva voce result, within six (6) months from the thesis's submission date.

12. PhD Through Part-Time Mode

- a. PhD programs through part-time mode will be permitted, provided all the conditions stipulated in these Regulations are fulfilled.
- b. The MRV concerned shall obtain a “No Objection Certificate” (Annexure I) through the candidate for a part-time PhD programme from the appropriate authority in the organisation where the candidate is employed, clearly stating that:
 - i. The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis.
 - ii. His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time to research.
 - iii. If required, he/she may be relieved from the duty to complete the coursework.

13. Issuing a Provisional Certificate

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

14. Depository with INFLIBNET

- a. Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the PhD degree(s), the institution concerned shall

submit an electronic copy of the PhD thesis to INFLIBNET for hosting the same to make it accessible to all Institutions/Colleges.

- b. The MRV may frame guidelines for further clarity regarding implementing regulations. The PhD regulations outlined by other statutory bodies, such as the National Medical Commission, Dental Council of India, Pharmacy Council of India, 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).