



ABHILASHI UNIVERSITY

Guidelines for Special Programs for Slow Learner and Advanced Learner

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1. Purpose

The university has implemented several special programs to support diversity in variety of learning abilities of its students. After the admission into the university, through its **Educational Enhancement CELL(EEC)**, it empowers students to realize their potential by providing services and activities that compliment and enrich classroom instruction improve students' performance and advance instructional goal for learning, retention and progression.

Education Enhancement CELL Initiatives include:

- a) New Student Orientation
- b) One-on-one mentoring and academic advising with faculty mentors
- c) Peer-led individual tutoring
- d) Academic Success Program - a proactive initiative to provide all students who were unsuccessful in the semester examinations with essential academic support and resources to assist them in their future academic achievement.
- e) Restart Program - a mandatory program to support students repeating the semester on academic probation
- f) Undergraduate Research Experience
- g) Workshops on various topics including:
 - i. Learning and Study Strategies
 - ii. Time Management
 - iii. Active Learning/ Active Reading
 - iv. Critical Thinking
 - v. Note taking & Note making
 - vi. Dissecting Multiple Choice Questions
 - vii. Interpersonal Skills
 - viii. Test Anxiety

The Abhilashi University through its new orientation program identifies learning needs of students based on their abilities, categorized as (i) slow learners and (ii) advanced learners.

Slow learners are identified by continuous assessment in class and other assignment based work. This includes periodic assessment of performance in classrooms. Laboratories and programmes by teachers/supervisors for tasks, assignments and self-appraisal of students.

Following are the strategies adopted to facilitate slow learners:

Faculty Mentoring: Students in groups of 15 or 30 are assigned to Faculty Mentors for mentoring on course related difficulties/problems on a regular basis. Consultative committee meetings/ mentor- mentee meetings bring out student's concerns which are redressed immediately. Dropouts are mentored by special interactive sessions. .

Peerled Individual Tutoring: University assigns from advanced learners to support slow learners through the mechanism of peer to peer tutoring.

Academic Success Program:

- **Remedial Classes:** Remedial classes are run after mid-semester for academically weaker students who are at the risk of failure in examinations. These are held under the supervision of a teacher and schedule of such extra classes is notified in advance. Additional assignments /online courses are also suggested to improve their understanding of the course.
- **Summer Term:** Summer term for academically weaker students is also held during summer break by running compressed summer semesters. Summer Term students are evaluated similarly as those of regular term.
- **Summer School:** Summer School will be organized for the benefit of students who have been debarred due to shortage of attendance. It will be organized during Summer Break. Summer Schools will be arranged in the form of a compressed semester with the minimum input 5 hours per credit in case of face to face and HBO mode, whereas in case of online courses the summer school and supplementary examination will be conducted online.
- **Restart Program:** this program is meant for students who could not cop up and have to repeat the entire semester.

Advanced learners are identified through their performance in examinations, interaction in class room and laboratory, their fundamental knowledge, concept understanding and articulation abilities etc., The University promotes independent learning to such advanced learners which contributes to their academic and personal growth.

Following are the strategies adopted to facilitate advanced learners:

Undergraduate Research Experience: Such students are further challenged through Undergraduate Research Experience program, which includes follows facets.

1. Attachment with teachers and PhD research scholars to support their research and co-publish papers with them.
2. Internships in leading research establishments within country and outside country.

Activity Clubs: Various Activity Clubs build around scientific, literary and social themes motivate advanced learners to take up activities/ competitions of their interest.

The university also organizes specialist classes and expert lectures by eminent people to help advanced learners to explore beyond curriculum boundaries.

Peer led Individual Tutoring: Advanced learners are encouraged to teach their fellow students in turn they become confident and also help them to learn more of the subject by referring to the reference books.

Project based assignment: In project work involving a team, the members are constituted of slow, average and advanced learners. This has proved to be very effective since the advanced learners being self-motivated also motivate other members of the team resulting in better performance of the team.

Various Other Intellectually Stimulating Activities for Advanced Learners:

- The college enhances intellectual capability of advanced learners by involving them in research projects, presentations in seminars, quiz etc.
- Library issues scholar cards to meritorious students which enable them to borrow more books than otherwise available to all students.
- Advanced learners are also encouraged by their teachers to appear for competitive exams and they are provided with reference material.

The success of the above methods is observed by the transformation observed in the advanced learners in terms of goal setting, awareness of capabilities which has led to achieving higher grades, improved performance in paper/ seminar presentations.

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