















UGC Guidelines on Determination of a Uniform Span  
Period Within which a Student may be allowed to  
Qualify for a Degree.

The Commission has observed that universities across the country adopt varying span period within which a student may be allowed to complete a programme to be qualified for a degree. In order to evolve a uniform policy, the Commission had constituted an Expert Committee to consider the issue of determining a uniform span period. On the basis of the recommendations made by the Committee, the Commission has formulated following guidelines for compliance of the universities:

1. Normally, the student is expected to complete his programme within the minimum period as laid down under the relevant Regulation of the university which should be in conformity with the UGC Regulations on the award of First Degree and Masters Degree and also in line with the notification, issued from time to time, on Specification of Degrees under Section 22 of UGC Act, 1956.
2. A student who for whatever reasons is not able to complete the programme within the normal period or the minimum duration prescribed for the programme, may be allowed two years period beyond the normal period to clear the backlog to be qualified for the degree. The general formula, therefore should be as follows:
  - a) Time Span =  $N+2$  years for the completion of programme.  
where N stands for the normal or minimum duration prescribed for completion of the programme.
  - b) In exceptional circumstance a further extension of one more year may be granted. The exceptional circumstances be spelt out clearly by the relevant statutory body concerned of the university.
  - c) During the extended period the student shall be considered as a private candidate and also not be eligible for ranking.
3. Ordinarily, no student should be given time beyond the extended period of two years. However, in exceptional circumstances and on the basis of the merits of each case university may allow a student one more year for completion of the programme.
4. These guidelines are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the statutory bodies and universities governing the grant of degrees.

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