
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Regulations (wef: 2024-2025)



**SIDDHARTHA ACADEMY OF HIGHER
EDUCATION**

**(An Institution Deemed to be University)
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh – 520 007**



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Ph.D. Regulations 2024

1. Ph.D. – Category of Admission

1.1 Full-Time Category

i) With Fellowship:

- ❖ Fellowships will be provided as per university norms.
- ❖ The Full-Time category candidates should work on the campus throughout their research program with or without fellowship.

ii) Without Fellowship:

a) Sponsored Candidates:

Candidates with an excellent academic record and sponsored by institutions / research organizations / industries can also join the doctoral program.

b) Self-Financed:

Candidates with an excellent academic record and self-financed candidates are eligible under this category.

1.2 Part-Time Category

- ❖ Sponsored candidates working in institutions / research organizations / industries are eligible without fellowship.
- ❖ They have to fulfill the norms of the university to complete the Ph.D. program.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Ph. D in Engineering

1. 10+2+4+2 pattern of studies or equivalent in Engineering Degree / 10+2+5 year Integrated M.Tech Programme, Integrated M.S. Programme in Engineering. MCA & M.Tech (CSE / IT) / M. Sc. (Maths / Computer Science) & M.Tech (CSE / IT) are also eligible for Ph.D. in Computer Science and Allied Engineering.
2. Candidates with a Master's in Engineering / Technology or M.S. by Research with a minimum of 60% (CGPA of 6.5/10) aggregate marks either in their Bachelor's or Master's Programme for general category (for SC/ST/OBC 55% aggregate or CGPA of 6.0/10 either in their Bachelor's or Master's Programme).
3. Candidates with MCA & M.Tech (CSE / IT) / M. Sc. (Maths / Computer Science) & M.Tech (CSE / IT) with a minimum of 60% (CGPA of 6.5/10) aggregate marks

either in their MCA / M.Sc. or M. Tech (for SC/ST/OBC 55% aggregate or CGPA of 6.0/10 either in their MCA / M.Sc. or M. Tech).

4. Preference may be given to candidates with valid GATE score for selection.
5. A valid SRCAT score is mandatory for both full-time and part-time admissions.
6. The candidates with valid score in UGC NET / APSET / APRCET are exempted from SRCAT (Siddhartha Research Common Admission Test).
7. If case of any candidate working in government recognized R&D institutions at Scientist Level with minimum two years of experience, the candidate may be exempted from SRCAT based on the recommendations of Vice-Chancellor.

2.2 Ph.D. in Mathematics / Physics / Chemistry / English / Social Science / Management

1. 10 + 2 + 3 + 2 or equivalent in Sciences / Humanities / Management.
2. The candidates under the above category are admitted under the part-time Programme and are not eligible for fellowship.
3. Candidates with a minimum of 60% aggregate marks in their Bachelor's or Master's in the relevant discipline or CGPA of 6.5/10 for the general category (for SC / ST / OBC 55% aggregate or CGPA of 6.0/10).
4. Preference may be given to candidates with a valid GATE score for selection.
5. A valid SRCAT score is mandatory for both full-time and part-time admissions.
6. The candidates with valid score in UGC NET / APSET / APRCET are exempted from SRCAT (Siddhartha Research Common Admission Test).
7. If case of any candidate working in government recognized R&D institutions at Scientist Level with minimum two years of experience, the candidate may be exempted from SRCAT based on the recommendations of Vice-Chancellor.

3. Selection Procedure

- 3.1 Admission notification shall be published in leading newspapers.
- 3.2 All candidates should register for admission through the prescribed URL: <https://admissions.vrsiddhartha.ac.in>
- 3.3 The schedule of admission test and test pattern including the syllabus will be intimated to all registered candidates after the last date of registration.
- 3.4 It is mandatory for all candidates who fulfill the eligibility criteria prescribed, shall appear for the SRCAT (Siddhartha Research Common Admission Test).
- 3.5 For those candidates who qualify UGC NET / APSET / APRCET, the entrance test may be waived off.

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- 3.6 Preference may be given to candidates with valid GATE score for selection.
 - 3.7 In the case of the candidates with a valid SRCAT / APRCET score, the selection is done with the following weightage of marks. Score in the entrance examination (40% weightage), PG Degree marks (20% weightage), Research Plan (10% weightage), and Personal Interview (30% weightage).
 - 3.8 In the case of the candidates with a valid UGC NET / APSET score, the selection is done with the following weightage of marks. Score in the entrance examination (70% weightage) and Personal Interview (30% weightage).
 - 3.9 Eligible candidates will be screened by a Departmental Selection Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor.
 - 3.10 The Shortlisted candidates should appear for a personal interview on the University Premises and submit their research plan.
 - 3.11 A merit list will be submitted for approval by the Departmental Selection Committee through the Dean (R &D) to the Vice-Chancellor.
 - 3.12 The selected candidates will be intimated through e-mail.

4. Orientation Program

Immediately on admission, the students are expected to undergo an orientation program in the concerned School / Department. This program is intended to familiarize the new students with research activities in the School / Department.

5. Research Supervisor

- 5.1 At the end of the orientation program, each research scholar will be assigned a Research Supervisor by the concerned Head of the Department / School, keeping the following in view.

1. The preference and research interests of the student.
2. The interest of the concerned faculty member and his / her availability.

The student will choose the topic of his / her research based on the advice of the Research Supervisor.

- 5.2 There shall not be more than two Supervisors for a research scholar.

In areas where there is not enough expertise at the University to supervise a research scholar on a particular topic, an expert from the R & D Lab / Institutions / Industry may be appointed as a Research Supervisor (Co-Supervisor) after due approval by the appropriate authority at the University. Even in such cases, there will be a Research Supervisor identified from within the University. A detailed

biodata of the proposed Research Supervisor (Co-Supervisor) should be enclosed along with the request.

6. Eligibility Criteria for Research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor

Any faculty member of the University who satisfies the following requirements is eligible for the appointment as a Research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor.

- 6.1 Any regular Professor / Associate Professor / Assistant Professor of the University, with at least two SCI indexed publications and with a minimum of two years of teaching experience post Ph.D. degree may be recognized as Research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor.
- 6.2 Only a full-time regular faculty of the University can act as a Research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor.
- 6.3 Adjunct faculty are not permitted to be Research Supervisors except being co-supervisors.
- 6.4 The allocation of a Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the Department concerned depending on the number of scholars per Research Supervisor, the available specialization among the Supervisors, and the research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview/viva voce.
- 6.5 In the case of topics that are inter-disciplinary and where the Department concerned feels that the expertise in the Department has to be supplemented from outside, the Department may appoint a Research Supervisor from the Department itself, who shall be known as the Research Supervisor, and a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department of the University or outside Institutions / Organizations, such terms and conditions as may be specified and agreed upon by the consenting Institutions / Organizations.
- 6.6 A Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor who is a Professor cannot supervise more than eight (8) Ph.D. scholars at any given point of time (including co-supervision).
- 6.7 An Associate Professor as a Research Supervisor can supervise up to a maximum of six (6) Ph.D. scholars (including co-supervision)
- 6.8 An Assistant Professor as a Research Supervisor can supervise up to a maximum of four (4) Ph.D. scholars (including co-supervision).
- 6.9 At any point of time the total number of candidates under research supervisor shall not exceed the number as prescribed above including the candidates under co-supervision.

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- 6.10 The Research Supervisor should declare the number of Ph.D. scholars registered with him / her periodically to the University. He/she cannot increase the number by using recognition from multiple universities.
- 6.11 In case any research supervisor resigns from his job, it is his/her responsibility to suggest a list of three faculty members who are experts in the same domain. The head of the department will review the list of recommended faculty members and select one as the new research supervisor to replace the resigning supervisor in consultation with RAC members.
- 6.12 University faculty after superannuation, if they are re-appointed in the parent University as a contract or honorary or distinguished or emeritus professor, may continue as Research Supervisors till the age of 70. The university, after considering the research track record and fitness of such superannuated faculty to supervise scholars, may decide on his/her continuation as a Research Supervisor without financial commitment.
- 6.13 Faculty who resigned and left the University will forfeit his / her claim as a research supervisor unless otherwise recommended by the Research Advisory Committee.

7. Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

A Research Advisory Committee (RAC) will be constituted for each research scholar, between the second to fourth week from the date of joining.

7.1 Composition of RAC:

1. Head of the Department in which the Research Scholar is enrolled	- Chairman
2. Research Supervisor (s)	- Convener
3. Two eligible faculty members to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from the list suggested by the Supervisor. The list may comprise of faculty members from any department within the university based on research area of the research scholar	- Member

In case any member goes on long leave or resigns or retires from the University, the Vice-Chancellor will nominate another member.

7.2 Committee Responsibilities:

- 7.2.1 To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research and identify the courses that he / she may have to do.
- 7.2.2 To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research scholar.
- 7.2.3 A research scholar shall appear before the RAC once in six months to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The six-monthly progress reports shall be submitted by the RAC to the University with a copy to the research scholar.
- 7.2.4 In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the RAC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the RAC may recommend the cancellation of Ph.D. admission.

8. Course Work

- 8.1 All the research scholars (Full-time and Part-time) shall undergo four courses for a minimum period of two semesters. The course work shall include a course on research methodology and a course in teaching / education / pedagogy / writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject. The other two courses may involve advanced techniques, latest developments in the field of research, and subjects related to the research problem.
- 8.2 The coursework for the “Area of Specialization” for a research scholar shall be prescribed by the Research Supervisor & RAC Members.
- 8.3 The research scholar has to obtain a minimum of 50% of marks or its equivalent grade in the coursework to be eligible to continue in the program and submit the thesis.
- 8.4 The research scholars shall be required to complete the coursework within three consecutive attempts, to pursue further their research work. For those who fail to complete the course work within the stipulated time, the Vice-Chancellor may recommend an extension of one more attempt, if the Vice-Chancellor is convinced of his / her performance. If not, the candidate should forfeit the Ph.D. admission.
- 8.5 Refer coursework guidelines in Annexure I.

9. Progress Reports

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- 9.1 The Research Scholars, both full-time and part-time, shall submit Progress Reports duly endorsed by the RAC once in six months to the Controller of Examinations until they submit their synopsis.
 - 9.2 Failure to submit the progress reports shall entail cancellation of registration.
 - 9.3 The minutes of the meeting of the RAC along with enclosures will be sent to the Controller of Examinations.

10. Break-in-Studies

- 10.1 Any Research Scholar can be permitted to break his / her studies on medical grounds with the Vice-Chancellor's approval in writing. The break is for a maximum period of one year.
- 10.2 If prior permission is not sought and obtained, it will be considered as a case of discontinuation and action will be taken to cancel the registration of such candidates.
- 10.3 For permitting a break in studies on medical grounds, a certificate from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) is essential. For the resumption of studies, such a candidate should produce a fitness certificate from the CMO.
- 10.4 Research Scholars who are permitted for break in studies should pay the applicable tuition and other fees to maintain their studentship.

11. Publication of Research Papers

11.1 Engineering, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics Research scholars:

Total number of publications required: **04**

- Two (2) Scopus-indexed journal papers (Q1/Q2).
A granted patent shall be considered equivalent to one of the above two papers.
- Two (2) Scopus-indexed conference proceedings or book chapters.
A published patent shall be considered equivalent to one of the above two conference proceedings/book chapters.

11.2 English and Management Research Scholars:

Total number of publications required: **04**

- Two (2) Scopus-indexed journal papers (Q1/Q2) or in journals rated 'B' or above on the ABDC Journal List.
A granted patent shall be considered equivalent to one of the above two papers.
- Two (2) Scopus-indexed conference proceedings or book chapters.
A published patent shall be considered equivalent to one of the above two conference proceedings/book chapters.

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- 11.3 The RAC shall certify the quality and authenticity of the publications and ensure that both the candidate and the Research Supervisor are only listed as authors of the papers with the correct affiliation.

12 Pre-submission Presentation

- 12.2 The pre-submission presentation of the thesis is a requirement to enrich the scholar and to fine-tune his / her research presentation.
- 12.3 This presentation shall be conducted before the submission of the synopsis before the RAC, Faculty members, Research Scholars, and P.G. Students. The recommendations of RAC may be incorporated before the submission of thesis.
- 12.4 The Research Supervisor shall forward a report on this event with an endorsement of HOD to the Controller of Examinations.

13 Submission of Synopsis

- 13.2 The submission of a synopsis may be permitted 3 months before the completion of the stipulated duration.
- 13.3 The Research Scholar shall submit 3 copies of the synopsis approved by the RAC along with a soft copy to the Controller of Examinations through the Research Supervisor, the HOD, and Dean R&D.

14 Submission of Thesis

- 14.2 The candidate shall submit five copies of the thesis along with the prescribed fee within three months after the submission of the synopsis. A grace period of 30 days may be allowed to submit the thesis after the prescribed duration. If the thesis is not submitted even after the grace period, the candidate has to pay the tuition fee for the year.
- 14.3 No dues certificates from the Department, Research Centre, Central Libraries, Hostel, etc., must be submitted along with the thesis copies. The Research Supervisor shall forward the thesis copies with the enclosures to the Controller of Examinations through the HOD and the Dean R&D. A soft copy of the thesis in PDF format inline with Shodhganga, shall also be submitted.
- 14.4 The similarity of the thesis report verified by licensed plagiarism software should not exceed 15%.

15 Procedure for Selection of Panel of Examiners

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- 15.2 A panel of examiners shall be provided by the Research Supervisor to evaluate the thesis from the following subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d).
- a) Five examiners from reputed Foreign Universities.
 - b) Five examiners from IITs / NITs / IIITs / Central Universities, reputed public /private / deemed-to-be universities in India.
 - c) Examiner(s) should be academicians with a good record of scholarly publications in the field and not below the designation of Associate Professor.
 - d) If the Research Scholar has carried out part of his / her work in another institution / organization, then the panel of examiners should not be from that institution / organization.
- 15.3 The Vice-Chancellor will select one Foreign Examiner and one Indian examiner from the panel recommended by RAC. He will also indicate the order of priority of Examiners from 1 to 3 out of 5 for the foreign and Indian examiners.
- 15.4 Once the Vice-Chancellor has approved the Panel of Examiners, the Controller of Examinations shall forward/ dispatch the Synopsis to the examiners and seek their acceptance for evaluation of the thesis.
- 15.5 Once the examiner agrees to evaluate the thesis, the Controller of Examinations shall arrange to send the thesis for evaluation along with all the necessary documents and guidelines of assessment.
- 15.6 If any Examiner denies the invitation to evaluate the thesis, the synopsis shall be sent to another Examiner in the list approved by Vice-Chancellor.
- 15.7 In the case of rejection of the invitation, the process will be continued till the acceptance of the third foreign examiner and third Indian examiner.
- 15.8 If the acceptance from the first panel is not received within 45 days, the CoE shall request the Research Supervisor to submit an additional panel members list.

16. Adjudication of Thesis / Evaluation of Ph.D. Thesis

There shall be two external examiners out of whom one shall be from outside the country and one Indian examiner shall be out of the state of the University Hereafter they are called the Board of Examiners.

- 16.1 The appointed board of examiners shall evaluate the thesis and submit a report on the originality and merit of the thesis for the award of the Ph.D. degree. Each examiner is expected to give a detailed report on the thesis as per the guidelines of the assessment and send it to the controller of examinations.
- 16.2 The Research Supervisor (Convener) shall consolidate the salient points of the individual examiners reports and submit them to the Controller of Examinations.
- 16.3 Each examiner shall be requested to send his/her report to the CoE within two months from the date of receipt of the thesis.
- 16.4 If an examiner(s) fails to send the reports within the stipulated time, the CoE shall send a reminder to him / her after the deadline (two months) and request him / her to send the report within fifteen days. If the concerned Examiner still

fails to comply even within the extended period, the CoE shall cancel the appointment forthwith and invite the next Examiner as per the order of preference from the approved panel, to evaluate the thesis.

16.5 Decisions may be taken based on the two reports according to the following:

Sl. No.	Recommendation of Examiners		Decision
	1	2	
1.	Accept	Accept	The scholar will be asked to appear for a public viva-voce examination
2.	Reject	Reject	The thesis will be rejected
3.	Accept	Reject	The thesis will be sent to 3rd Examiner of the same category who rejected
4.	Reject	Accept	The thesis will be sent to 3rd Examiner of the same category who rejected
5.	Accept	Revise	Revise & send to same Examiner who recommended revision (if requested by the Examiner)
6.	Revise	Accept	Revise & send to same Examiner who recommended revision (if requested by the Examiner)
7.	Revise	Revise	Revise & send to both Examiners (if requested by the Examiners)

17. Public Viva-voce / Thesis Defence

17.1 The viva-voce Board shall consist of the Research Supervisor, one of the examiners (External), and the Head of the Department (Internal). The Research Supervisor shall be the Convener of the viva-voce Board. The reports of the examiners shall be made available to the Convener (Research Supervisor) of the viva-voce board and the Co-Supervisor (if any). The Research Supervisor must consolidate the results of the viva-voce Examination.

17.2 If an examiner so appointed is unable / unavailable to conduct the viva-voce examination in person, the viva-voce examination may be conducted in online mode with due approval from RAC. Still if he / she is not able to conduct even in online mode, one of the Examiners from the Panel of Indian Examiners submitted shall be appointed to conduct the examination either through offline / online mode with the due approval from the Vice-Chancellor.

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- 17.3 If the Head of the Department happens to be the Research Supervisor, one of the senior Faculty in the department shall be appointed from the Department by the Vice-Chancellor as an Internal Examiner.
 - 17.4 The conduct of Ph.D. viva-voce examination shall be notified fifteen days before the date of the viva-voce examination.
 - 17.5 The viva-voce examination shall be held preferably on working days.
 - 17.6 The viva-voce examination shall be conducted before the RAC, Faculty members, Research Scholars, and P.G. Students.
 - 17.7 The viva-voce Board shall decide the award of the degree.

18. Award of Ph.D. Degree

Based on the recommendation of the Viva-voce board, the University would award the Ph.D. degree to the candidate after due approvals by the Executive Council and Academic Council.

19. Power to Modify

The Academic Council has the right to modify any of the above Regulations from time to time.