

M.A. in Political Science

a) Mission, Objectives and Relevance of the Programme:

The objective of the Masters programme in Political Science is to impart knowledge to the aspirant students about various theoretical and practical dimensions of the subject. Political Science centres on the struggle to gain and retain power, to exercise power or influence over others or to resist that exercise. This will make students socio-political and administrative aware. The main objectives of introducing M.A. in Political Science is: equipping the students for career in various vocations, equipping the students for research in government, teaching and other research organizations, preparing the students for Civil Services. The learners can also undertake research in the contexts which are related to the local, national or global in nature.

b) Nature of Prospective Target Group of Learners:

- Those who belong to the rural and semi-urban areas.
- Those who cannot afford regular education in due to time or financial constraints, especially the female students who are desirous of obtaining higher education but cannot do so due to personal or family reasons.
- Those who are employed at remote places, especially the army and para-military personnel as well those who have long gap in their studies.
- Those who are preparing for competitive examinations like Civil and Administrative Services & NGOs etc.
- The candidates who are employed at various positions in government offices, public sector and private organizations after graduation and want to pursue higher studies get an opportunity to upgrade their qualification.
- Students are provided the opportunity to develop their leadership, organizational and decision making skills.
- The course also examines the inter-relationship between public, private and non-governmental sectors.

c) Appropriateness of the Programme to be Conducted in Open and Distance Learning Mode to Acquire Specific Skills and Competence:

- Students after completing post-graduation in Political Science can pursue research.
- After qualifying UGC/NET examination, students can take up teaching as profession in colleges and universities.
- Students can work as lecturers in Sr. Sec. Schools.
- Students can get jobs in Govt. Projects, Civil society organisations, Media Sector, Leadership positions, Overseas diplomats, Public and Private analyst
- Students can also join the civil services.

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d) Instructional Design:

- The two-year programme has four semesters.
- Personal Contract Programmes (PCPs) are held for a week during each semester. In addition to the formal lectures, consultation is provided to the learners during the PCPs.
- Print/Online lessons are provided to the learners. Along with English medium Learning material is also made available in the vernacular (Punjabi, in our case).
- Faculty is available in accordance to the prescribed UGC norms. There are number of research fellows in the department who extend support in teaching in case of a need. Services of teachers from other departments, especially the Department of Political Science are sought and provided whenever required.
- Internal Assessment is based on assignments and Tests.

e) Procedure for Admission, Curriculum, Transaction and Evaluation:

- Anyone with a score of 35% at under-graduate level (from any discipline, e.g. Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, Engineering, Medical Science etc. can seek admission to the course.
- Our curriculum is at par with the one offered through the regular mode of education.
- Students are made to prepare assignments and take tests (Offline/Online).
- Attendance during the PCPs (mandatory) is taken into account while preparing Internal Assessment.
- Teachers are accessible in person on all working days. They can also be contacted on phone or through email.

f) Requirement of Laboratory Support and Library Sources:

- No laboratory required.
- Library already exists and is rich in Text Books, Research Books and Journals of Political Science.

g) Cost Estimate of the Programme & the Provisions:

h) Quality Assurance Mechanism and Expected Programme Outcomes:

- Regular updating of the syllabi that have been prepared time to time by the concerned Board of Studies of the University following the UGC guidelines for curriculum. The Syllabi of the ODL is at par with that of Regular Department.
- The course has been designed to facilitate students to compete for SET/NET and other competitive examinations.

