

Frequently Asked Questions on course selection and the answers

1. When do I get to select my courses?

- a. End of a semester (just before endsem). Changes can also be made in the first week of the following semester provided there is no time table clash.

2. When do I get to choose my pre-major?

- a. End of Spring semester of level 1 (just before endsem)

3. How do I decide which pre-major should I choose?

- a. While the choices are largely individual, but asking the following questions might help:
 - i. Which three subjects do I like most?
 - ii. Which three subjects fascinate me?
 - iii. In which subjects, do I feel at ease?
- b. You may take counselling from the UGAC members of specific Departments
- c. You may also talk to your seniors.
- d. At the end, it's your decision.

4. Can I change my pre-major after I spend one year in level 2?

- a. No you cannot change your pre-majors, unless you fail multiple courses and repeat the entire year.

5. When do I get to choose my major?

- a. End of spring semester of level 2 (just before endsem)

6. How do I decide which major should I choose?

- a. Check the answer of the pre-major question above.

7. Can I change my major after spending a year at Level 3?

- a. At the moment there are no provisions for changing your major.

8. Do I get my first choice of major?

- a. Almost always. Some departments (for example, DPS) restricts the intake to a pre-determined number (say n). This number cannot of course be less than 25% of the batch strength. For example, for 17MS batch there are 216 students. So, DPS cannot take less than $216/4 = 54$ from this batch. The selection is by score = (40 % of overall CGPA) + (40% of GPA in Physics courses in Levels 1 and 2) + (20% of GPA in Level 1 Mathematics courses). So first n students from the descending list of this score (of who has given first choice) would be selected for Physics major. The remaining students would get their second choice.

9. What courses do I get to choose in the third year?

- a. You would have 5 core courses from the department. In addition, you may select another course (i) either from your other pre-major subjects, OR (ii) a course (from non-pre-major subjects) provided the course has no prerequisite.

10. What courses do I get to choose in the fourth year?

- a. You may have core courses of your department. In addition, you may select electives from your department or from other department. You need to fulfill the prerequisites of the course.

11. May I select a third (fourth) year course while I am in my fourth (fifth) year?

- a. Normally no. But if the department offers the very same course with a fourth (fifth) year course code (for fourth (fifth) year students) then of course yes.

12. I have backlog(s) in the level 2. Should I choose courses from third year?

- a. Yes. If you clear the summer supplementary(s) then you would start as a level 3 student in the next academic year.
- b. If you cannot clear the supplementary then of course you would not be promoted.
- c. For all promotion related queries, please check the flow chart in the Academic guideline.

13. I have one backlog in the level 1. Will I be promoted to level 2?

- a. Yes.
- b. For all promotion related queries, please check the flow chart in the Academic guideline.

14. I have two backlogs in the level 1. Will I be promoted to level 2?

- a. No.
- b. For all promotion related queries, please check the flow chart in the Academic guideline.

15. I made a choice of courses and then during summer I realized that I need to change the choices. Is that allowed?

- a. Yes. But the timetable would be made based on the choices that you have provided. So, after the semester starts, you would be able to select courses which respects the timetable.

16. Do I have to take a “Humanities” course?

- a. There are three humanities courses: 'History and Philosophy of Science' in the autumn semester and 'Introduction to Economics' and 'Introduction to Psychology' in the spring semester. You have to take at least one of these three courses in your levels 3 and 4.

17. Do I have to take a “Mathematical Methods” course in Level 2?

- a. As of now, the Autumn semester of Level 2, has a mandatory Mathematical Methods of 3 credits for all students. So, yes, you have to take it. Total credit for Autumn semester (in Level 2) is = 3×7 credit from each pre-major + 3 credit from Math = 24.

18. How many credits do I need to earn a Major in a subject?

- a. 120 credits from the specific subject.

19. How many credits do I need to earn a Minor?

- a. 40 credits from the specific subject.

20. In the level 3, I have my five core courses from my major subject. I am not interested in any other disciplines. May I select the sixth course also from my Department?

- a. Yes. If your department offers a course as an elective for Level 3 students then of course you can.

21. How do I choose my electives? I have been advised by my friends and my seniors and I am confused.

- a. It is strongly advised that you protect and nurture your own interests while choosing electives. You should of course listen to all the advice and comments, but at the end it remains your decision. Choosing electives merely to enhance CGPA is strongly discouraged.
- b. Asking the following questions may help:
 - i. Does this elective fit in with my overall plan of being a scientist working in XYZ area?
 - ii. I have a broad vision and no specific plan of working in XYZ area. Does this elective expand my horizon?
 - iii. Do I feel at ease with the subject?

22. May I choose any course from any Department as my elective?

- a. Yes, as long as you satisfy the prerequisites.