NMC lowers pass marks to 40% in MBBS to focus on competency-based learning

Candidates scoring 40% in theory, 60% in practicals will be declared qualified in the subject

Dr. Raj Vardhan, OSD chairman, NIMS Hospital, North International University, says, "Medical students must focus more on gaining comprehensive knowledge and skills rather than just aiming to pass exams. This will encourage a deeper understanding of the subjects." Dr. Vardhan explains how the guidelines will improve the quality of medical education, aligning it with international standards and addressing specific challenges faced during medical training.

MBBS students often prefer practising just after completing their degree to enhance their clinical skills, says Dr. Ravi Kant. "Every student who wants to pursue specialization will be given in-depth knowledge about their subjects during the programme," he adds.

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ADMISSIONS
GATE 2024
GRADUATE APTITUDE TEST IN ENGINEERING

Organising Institute: Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560012
Contact No.: 0802293 2644/3333. Website: https://gate2024.iisc.ac.in

Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is a computer-based test (CBT) and an all-India examination conducted nation-wide jointly by IISc and seven IITs, on behalf of the National Coordinating Board (GATE), Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India. Admission to Post-Graduate Programs with MoE and other Govt. Scholarship/Assistantship at engineering colleges/institutes in the country are open to those candidates who qualify GATE, subject to fulfilling the admission criteria of the admitting Institute. The GATE score may also be used by some Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/Govt. organisations for their recruitment. GATE 2024 score will be valid for THREE YEARS from the date of announcement of results. GATE 2024 shall be conducted in selected cities and towns distributed across eight zones in India. GATE 2024 will not be conducted in international centres. Foreign nationals/Indian nationals residing abroad must travel to India to appear for the test.

Eligibility for GATE 2024: A candidate who is currently studying in the 3rd or higher year of any undergraduate degree program OR has already completed any government approved degree program in Engineering/Technology/Architecture/Science/Commerce/Arts.

GATE 2024 will be conducted for the following papers: Aerospace Engineering (AE), Agricultural Engineering (AG), Architecture and Planning (AR), Biomedical Engineering (BM), Biotechnology (BT), Civil Engineering (CE), Chemical Engineering (CH), Computer Science and Information Technology (CS), Chemistry (CY), Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (DA), Electronics and Communication Engineering (EC), Electrical Engineering (EE), Environmental Science and Engineering (ES), Ecology and Evolution (EV), Geomatics Engineering (GE), Geology and Geophysics (GG), Instrumentation Engineering (IN), Mathematics (MA), Mechanical Engineering (ME), Mining Engineering (MN), Metallurgical Engineering (MT), Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (NM), Petroleum Engineering (PE), Physics (PH), Production and Industrial Engineering (PI), Statistics (ST), Textile Engineering and Fibre Science (TF), Engineering Sciences (XE), Humanities and Social Sciences (XH), Life Sciences (XL).

Two-paper combinations in GATE 2024: A candidate may appear for either ONE or TWO test papers from the approved list of combinations given on the website. The scheduling of two papers is subject to availability of infrastructure and feasibility constraints. Even if a candidate chooses to appear for TWO test papers, the candidate should fill ONLY ONE application form. Duplicate applications will be rejected, and the fee paid will not be refunded.

Disclaimer: Qualifying GATE does NOT guarantee admission or scholarship. Admission to any Institute is fully dependent on the admitting institute’s criteria for educational qualification. GATE qualification does not assure a job, as it depends on the recruitment procedure of the employer. GATE committee is NOT liable for any legal obligations related to admission, scholarship, or a job.

Important Dates for Application Submission:
- Opening Date of online registration / application portal: August 31, 2023
- Closing Date of REGULAR online registration / application: September 29, 2023
- End of EXTENDED period for online registration / application (with late fee): October 13, 2023

Dates of Examination: February 3, 4, 10 and 11, 2024. Forenoon and afternoon sessions on each exam day.

Application Fee:
- Per test paper: ₹ 900 for female candidates, SC/ST candidates and PwD candidates with benchmark disability (greater than or equal to 40%) and ₹1800 for all other candidates. Additional fee during the extended period is ₹ 500. The application fee must be paid ONLINE. The application fee once paid SHALL NOT BE REFUNDED.

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Contact details of the zonal GATE offices

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# GATE 2024

## GRADUATE APTITUDE TEST IN ENGINEERING

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https://gate.iitk.ac.in

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Kharagpur -721302  
https://gate.iitkgp.ac.in

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Chennai -600036  
http://gate.iitm.ac.in

GATE Office  
IIT Roorkee  
Roorkee-247667  
https://gate.iitr.ac.in
NMC lowers pass marks to 40% in MBBS

Candidates scoring 40% in theory, 60% in practicals will be declared qualified in the subject

The changes have been made due to the evolving medical education standards,

been made by the NMC due to the evolving medical education standards, feedback

from medical educators, and

the changing healthcare landscape. This formula typically refers to the weightage given to theoretical (written) and practical (clinical) assessments. For example, 40% of the assessment may be based on written exams and 60% on clinical evaluations or case studies.

This approach aims to ensure that students have a well-rounded skill set.

Lowering the pass percentage in the MBBS exam will align the assessment criteria with the CBMS approach, which focuses on competency-based evaluation rather than traditional percentage-based grading.

This will encourage a deeper understanding of the subject, says Dr. Somasekhar, former director, King George's Medical University, Lucknow.

The students will focus more on clinical training during the course, says Dr. Raj Verma, chairman, NIMS Hospital, New Delhi.

Medical students must focus more on gaining comprehensive knowledge and skills rather than just preparing for exams. This will encourage a deeper understanding of the subject, says Dr. Somasekhar, former director, King George's Medical University, Lucknow.

ISRO's women leading the way

Women helming the recent space missions, Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1, continue to be an inspiration for girls interested in space technology in years to come. We take a look at the qualifications, grit and determination of those who touched the stars.

The deputy project director of Chandrayaan-3, Smita Rastogi, earned her PhD in Space Science from IIT Bombay. She is also an alumnus of IISc Bangalore.

Kalpana Kaladhar

Director, ISRO

Smita has been a key player in India’s Mars Orbiter Mission. As the mission director of Chandrayaan-2 and head of Chandrayaan-3, Smita has been instrumental in India’s space exploration. She has been a key player in India’s Mars Orbiter Mission. As the mission director of Chandrayaan-2 and head of Chandrayaan-3, Smita has been instrumental in India’s space exploration.

Ritu Kirti Seth

Director, ISRO

Seth, a research scholar at Lucknow University, was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the university in 2019. She has published over 20 papers in journals. The movie Mission Mangal illustrated her life on the big screen.

Tara Siddha

Director, ISRO

Tara Siddha, a research scholar at Lucknow University, was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the university in 2019. She has published over 20 papers in journals. The movie Mission Mangal illustrated her life on the big screen.

Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2024

Organising Institute: IISc, Bengaluru

GATE 2024 is a prestigious national entrance examination conducted by the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. It is the Organising Institute for GATE 2024.

The examination dates are February 3, 4, 10, and 11, 2024. GATE 2024 features a new test paper on Data Science and Big Data Intelligence. Candidates can appear in one or two test papers. The Application Portal is open until September 20, 2023. Visit https://gategate2024.iisc.ac.in for details or scan the QR code.

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NMC lowers pass marks in MBBS to push competency-based learning

Aayushi Gupta

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has recently reduced the pass marks to 45% in MBBS exams. This amendment is in line with the Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) guidelines of the International Medical Education Board (IMED). According to the guidelines, the NMC aims to improve the quality of medical education by focusing on competency-based evaluation rather than traditional academic examinations.

"The changes have been made by the NMC due to the evolving medical education standards, feedback from medical education, and the changing healthcare landscape. This approach aims to ensure that students have a well-rounded skill set," says Dr. Somashekhar SR, global director of the Asian Institute of Oncology.

Lowering the pass percentage in the MBBS exam will align with the assessment criteria with the CBME approach, which focuses on competency-based evaluation rather than traditional academic examinations, adds Dr. Somashekhar SR.

This move is expected to increase the number of doctors who graduate, thereby increasing the healthcare supply in society. It will also increase the number of primary healthcare providers in rural and smaller cities, and in villages.

"This model is similar to China's 'barefoot doctors,' who were clinically skilled doctors and nurses with comprehensive knowledge and skills rather than just aspiring to pass exams. This will encourage doctors to work harder and develop their skills," adds Dr. Vardhan, underline how the guidelines will improve the quality of medical education, aligning it with international standards and addressing specific challenges faced during medical training.

MBBS students often prefer practising after completing their degree to enhance their clinical skills. NMC has come up with the 45-60 and 50-60 formulas, says Dr. Vardhan.

"Every student who wants to pursue specialization will be given in-depth knowledge about their subjects," adds Dr. Vardhan, underlining how the guidelines will improve the quality of medical education, aligning it with international standards and addressing specific challenges faced during medical training.

NMC aims to increase the number of doctors to manage the increasing healthcare need. To maintain the fine balance in society, this will increase the number of primary healthcare providers in rural and smaller cities.

"This change is expected to increase the number of doctors who graduate, thereby increasing the healthcare supply in society. It will also increase the number of primary healthcare providers in rural and smaller cities, and in villages."
NMC lowers passing marks to 40% in MBBS to focus on competency-based learning

Any candidates scoring 40% in theory and 60% in practicals will be declared qualified in the subject.

Ayushi.Gupta1@timesgroup.com

The undergraduate medical education board under the National Medical Commission (NMC) has recently shrunk the passing marks to 40% in MBBS subjects. This amendment was done under the Competency-Based Medical Education Regulation (CBME)-2023 guidelines which is responsible for regulating the curriculum, MBBS admission process, and academic calendar among others.

As per the latest update, MBBS students should obtain 50% aggregate marks and 60:40 (minimum) or 40:60 (minimum) in university-conducted exams separately in theory and in practical (including clinical and viva voce) in order to pass the subjects.

Dr Somashekar SP, global director, Aster International Institute of Oncology, says, “The changes have been made by the National Medical Commission due to the changing medical education standards, feedback from medical educators, and the evolving healthcare landscape.” This formula typically refers to the weighting given to theoretical (written) and practical (clinical) assessments. For example, 40% of the assessment may be based on written exams, while 60% may be based on practical assessments.

Dr vi Kant, former vice-chancellor, King George’s Medical University, Lucknow.

The students will focus more on clinical training during the degree course, Dr Raj Vardhan, OSD chairman, NIIMS Hospital, Noida International University, says. “Medical students must focus more on gaining comprehensive knowledge and skills rather than just aiming to pass exams. This will encourage a deeper understanding of the subjects,” adds Dr Vardhan, underlining how the guideline will improve the quality of medical education, aligning it with international standards and addressing specific challenges faced during medical training.

MBBS students often prefer practising just after completing their degree to enhance their clinical skills, hence the NMC has come up with the 40:60 and 60:40 formula, says Dr Ravi Kant. “Every student who wants to pursue specialisation will be given in-depth knowledge about their subjects during the programme. NMC’s focus here has shifted from enhancing students’ theoretical concepts to making them clinically skilled doctors who can serve the primary healthcare system as we do not need super specialists everywhere,” adding Kant.
Strike hits morning commute: some schools opt for online classes, others declare holiday

While the transport workers’ strike was called off in the afternoon, cab and auto services resumed only partially, continuing to pose hurdles.

For the drivers, the end of the strike was not a cause for celebration. Many commuters who are dependent on public transport for their daily commute were left stranded.

Chinks in public transport infrastructure exposed

The strike exposed the weak link in public transport infrastructure such as the lack of integration of various modes of transport, the inability to service areas that are not planned and the challenge of connecting rural and urban areas.

While the strike was called off, the #MeToo movement and the #MeToo Tehelka controversy are far from over. The case against the actor’s husband was filed in December 2019 and the trial is ongoing.

Protesters attack non-participant cab drivers, bike taxi riders

Minister pacifies protesters with assurances; drivers await written guarantees

Despite the advisor’s repeated assurance of the strike’s end and the easing of traffic congestion, many drivers and commuters remained unconvinced.

Due to unrealistic guarantees of ATM Sarkari in the State, the drivers were not convinced that all the demands and warnings of the private transport system, the people, and the police were taken into account.

Airport commuters face hardship

The strike had a significant impact on the flights. Many flights were delayed or cancelled, causing inconvenience to passengers and airlines.

The strike had a significant impact on the flights. Many flights were delayed or cancelled, causing inconvenience to passengers and airlines.

While the strike may have caused some inconvenience, it also highlighted the need for better planning and coordination in the public transport sector.

Services resume only partially in the evening

The Berhampur-Bhubaneswar and Cuttack-Bhubaneswar trains were also affected, with some trains running late.

While the strike had a significant impact on the public transport system, it also highlighted the need for better planning and coordination in the public transport sector.

PTI employees,WFH as fast-mile connectivity becomes scarce

While the connectivity to metro and bus stations became scarce on Monday, many private and corporate companies, start-ups and individuals, including students, were also affected.

The strike had a significant impact on the public transport system, it also highlighted the need for better planning and coordination in the public transport sector.

Organising Committee: GATE 2024

GATE 2024 is a prestigious national level examination. Indian candidates can apply online through the official website. GATE 2024 is scheduled for February 5-6, and the results will be announced on March 12.
ISRO's women power

Women leading the recent space missions Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 were the biggest highlight. Two women were interested in space technology in the years to come. We take a look at the educational qualifications of two women who have contributed to the space mission.

Popularly known as a 'Rocket Woman' of India, Ritu Karidhal Srivastava played a major role in India's Mars Orbiter Mission Mangalyaan as the deputy operations director. As the mission director of Chandrayaan-2 and head of Chandrayaan-3 mission, Srivastava has carved a path for women in space research and technology. She joined ISRO in 1997 after earning a Master's (Aerospace Engineering) from IISc, Bangalore. A Lucknow University product, Srivastava studied Physics in BSc and MSc. She enrolled for a doctorate in the Physics department where she later taught.

The deputy project director of Chandrayaan-3, she has been the second-in-command to the mission after project director P Veeramuthuvel. Born in Bengaluru, Kalahasti graduated in Aeronautical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur and joined ISRO in 2001. Her career began as a radar engineer at the Satish Dhawan Space Center (SHAR), where she devoted extra efforts to the intricate details of the project and made it run even during the pandemic.

Kalahasti’s achievements have earned her several awards including the ISRO Team Excellence Award in 2019. Before the Chandrayaan-3 project, Kalpana was associated with the second lunar mission and the Mangalyaan mission. Due to her prior experience, she played a pivotal role in coordinating the successful launch of numerous remote sensing satellites.

PG medical students suffer

While the stipends are non-uniform across states, the NMC called for equalization. Rajakshmi Ghosh, editor, @timesgroup.com, writes:

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued an advisory recently, warning private medical colleges against withholding the stipends of their PG medical students, following its survey that revealed over 20% of students have not been paid. The medical regulator has warned of strict action if provisions of the PG Medical Education Regulations (PGMER) 2020, are violated by the self-financed/private medical colleges.

The PGME 2020 states, “The postgraduate students of the institutions which are located in various States/Union Territories shall be paid remuneration on a par with the remuneration being paid to the postgraduate students of State government medical institutions/central government medical institutions in the State/Union Territory in which the institution is located.” Experts are of the opinion that the NMC must not take a soft stand on the issue, and while its advisory may have cautioned the institutes, no mention is made about the arrears.