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## Term-end exams of final year students will definitely take place: HRD Minister

For final year students, the minister said the term-end exams will be conducted. "If the situation does not improve by July then for then, new dates or modes of conducting exams can be thought about but the exam will take place for final year students," he said.

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"Final exam to honge hi (will definitely take place)," said the Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank today during a live interaction with higher education institutes across India. He was joined by chairpersons of NAAC and UGC. Talking about one of the most pressing issues, the HRD minister clarified that the term-end exams will take place for final year students.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) had suggested holding exams for all students in July, however, the HRD minister said that if the situation caused due to the coronavirus does not improve by July, then the first-year students can be promoted based on internal assessment. Similarly, the intermediate year or semester students can be promoted by giving 50 per cent weightage to internal assessment and 50 per cent to previous academic performance.

For final year students, however, the minister said that the term-end exams will be conducted. "If the situation does not improve by July then, new dates or modes of conducting exams can be thought of but the exam will take place for final year students," he said.

The UGC had suggested earlier that colleges can also innovate in their

assessment parameters. This has led to several universities and colleges to opt for online mode of examination. Students from across India have been opposing final-year exams claiming lack of infrastructure, incomplete courses among others. Further, most universities have announced to hold exams online. This has not gone down well with teachers or students. Further, students also fear the delay in getting degrees which in turn can impact their joining their jobs.

The exams in July will be held amid tight security and hygiene concerns. Suggestions from the Ministry of Home Affairs are also being sought in this regard, informed the minister. He also said that if students have grievances they can reach out to UGC's COVID-19 task force. Colleges and universities have been asked to conduct their own task force to quickly resolve issues caused by the pandemic. As per the academic calendar proposed by the UGC, classes will begin from August for enrolled students, and from September new batches will begin.

[Link:https://indianexpress.com/article/education/no-way-out-for-final-year-students-term-end-exams-will-take-place-says-hrd-minister-6431564/](https://indianexpress.com/article/education/no-way-out-for-final-year-students-term-end-exams-will-take-place-says-hrd-minister-6431564/)

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## **DU to conduct semester exam online**

**DU released a new plan to conduct all the exams and assignments before end term.**

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Delhi University (DU) recently released their new plan for conducting internal assessments, practical, theory exam etc. before this academic term ends amidst the Covid-19 lockdown.

According to the new rules all the Assessment, Practical, Viva-Voce, Projects, Oral (Moot courts), Apprenticeship, Internship, Field Work etc. must be completed before end term theory exam 2020 can be held.

These changes in the internal assessment will only be effective for the current semester.

### **Delhi University final semester 2020: Assignment rules**

Instead of three existing components of internal assessment (class tests, tutorial tests, and attendance) only one component, i.e. internal

assignments will be considered for this semester through IT tools.

Delhi University teachers have to give out assignments to students through email and students have to submit the solved assignments through email. Attendance will be considered full for the lockdown period and benefit should be granted to all students while calculating IA for each paper as per the distribution of marks.

#### **DU semester exam 2020: Brief of new rules**

- For programmes which have a practical component, wherever applicable, the evaluation will be done in the 100 percent continuous evaluation mode.
- For lab papers, teachers will give assignment based on Experiments already performed through email to the students and students will submit solved assignments via email.
- For final and intermediate semester/term/year students of all professional and technical programmes, activities like practical and viva-voce, and oral (moot courts) examinations will be held through Skype or other meeting apps.

#### **DU: Internship plans**

Delhi University has decided that students can take up only online internships/activities. Students can be engaged as interns in ongoing projects and the date for the start of internship can be delayed. The period of the internship can be reduced clubbing it with assignments etc.

Evaluation of Dissertations of UG/PG programs has to be conducted by written assignments based on the work carried out by the students before the lockdown i.e. March 20, 2020.

Such evaluations will be done in the form of written assignments by the respective teacher through e-mails within a defined time period.

Colleges have also been directed to accept review-based/secondary data-based projects or software-driven projects instead of laboratory-based experiments or field/ survey-based assignments.

Link:<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/notification/story/du-to-conduct-semester-exam-online-check-complete-details-here-1677931-2020-05-14>

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## **UGC Task Force To Decide On Precautions During Final Year Exams: Education Minister**

**Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' held a webinar and interacted with heads of over 45,000 higher education institutes from across the country.**

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Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' held a webinar

and interacted with heads of over 45,000 higher education institutes from across the country. During the webinar he answered some frequently asked questions about education and its future in the country.

The theme for the webinar was turning the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic into opportunities' which was organized by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

The Minister said that for higher education related matters during coronavirus pandemic, UGC has constituted a task force. The task force headed by UGC Chairman has already prepared an alternative academic calendar keeping in mind utmost safety of students.

He said that the exams for the 2019-20 academic year will be held in July, observing social distancing norms. The UGC task force will make sure that precautions are observed by students. The exams will be held in consultation with the Home Ministry and Health Ministry.

In areas where situation does not improve by July, he said that first year students would be promoted on the basis of performance in internal assessment held throughout the academic year. For second year students, 50% weightage will be given to previous semester exams, and 50% weightage will be given to internal assessment. For third year, he said that exams will definitely be held.

UGC has also constituted a core team whose job will be to address issues of students related to covid-19. Universities and constituent and affiliated colleges have also been asked to form similar committees to address students' issues.

Link:<https://www.ndtv.com/education/ugc-task-force-decide-on-precautions-during-final-year-exams-education-minister>

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