

THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

Guidelines

NCC as a Value-Added Course (VAC) under FYUGP



SEPTEMBER 2025

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Foreword

The Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) was introduced in the State Universities/ Colleges w.e.f 2024-25 academic year. The Kerala State Higher Education Curriculum Framework for Undergraduate Programme (2023) emphasises, flexibility, multidisciplinary learning and student choice. The framework includes Ability Enhancement Courses (AEC), Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC) and Value-Added Courses (VAC) as foundation courses. The Kerala Framework highlights foundation courses to strengthen multidisciplinary grounding, along with AEC, SEC and VAC. The FYUGP curriculum, among other things, included NCC participation as equivalent to a VAC. Students completing NCC with 75% attendance over three years are awarded 3 credits and equivalent to one VAC requirement. This formal recognition positions NCC as an academic component within the FYUGP structure.

The Executive Body meeting of the Council held on 26.08.2025 approved the guidelines pertaining to NCC as a VAC under FYUGP.

01.09.2025
Thiruvananthapuram

The Kerala State Higher Education Council

Guidelines

NCC as a Value-Added Course (VAC) under FYUGP

1.0 Introduction

In accordance with the directives issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) [Ref 1: Letter No. 1-18/2019(CPP-II), dated 15 April 2021], the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) [Ref 2: Letter No. AICTE/P&AP/NCC-GE/Circular/2021, dated 26 April 2021], and the Ministry of Defence [Ref 3: Letter No. 4/9/2021-D(GS-VI)/35/Def Secy/21, dated 4 May 2021], all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have been directed to integrate NCC as a General Elective (GE) credit course in undergraduate programs.

Further, as per Ref 4 [Letter No. 47002/JSM/DO/II, dated 14 June 2024 from the Additional Director General, NCC Directorate Kerala & Lakshadweep], a detailed course structure and credit framework have been submitted to the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice, and subsequently forwarded to KSHEC for academic scrutiny and recommendations.

Based on Ref 5 [Govt Letter No. B3/385/2022/HED, dated 16 March 2024] and the proceedings of the Vice Chairman, KSHEC [Ref 6: KSHEC-A3/306-17, dated 19 April 2024], a committee was constituted to examine the inclusion of NCC, NSS, Sports, and Arts within the academic credit structure. The committee has recommended that successful completion of structured programs like NCC/NSS be awarded 3 academic credits, equivalent to one Value-Added Course (VAC) under the FYUGP framework.

However, the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) has been receiving a considerable number of queries from universities, colleges, and students regarding various aspects of the implementation of NCC as a Value-Added Course under the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP). These queries pertain to areas such as course registration procedures, credit awarding mechanisms, evaluation and grading practices, eligibility norms, and documentation requirements. In order to ensure clarity, uniformity, and smooth academic integration of the NCC programme within the FYUGP framework, KSHEC is issuing the following additional guidelines. These guidelines are intended to facilitate effective

implementation of the course, standardize assessment protocols, and enable seamless creditisation for eligible NCC cadets across all Higher Education Institutions in the state.

2.0 Description of the VAC course for NCC

Suggested course title: National Service, Leadership, and Civic Engagement through NCC

Course Objectives

- To instill a sense of discipline, civic responsibility, and leadership in students.
- To develop competencies in disaster response, environment conservation, and community engagement.
- To enhance physical fitness, coordination, and confidence through drills and field activities.
- To foster national integration and personality development.

Course Duration

- Three/two Years (6/4 Semesters) with progressive documentation and evaluation.
- Credit awarded at the end of the sixth semester upon successful completion.
- Course Credit

3 Credits (equivalent to one VAC course)

3.0 Implementation

Universities may include a Value-Added Course titled “National Service, Leadership and Civic Engagement through NCC” in their course basket under the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP). This course shall be open exclusively to students who are officially enrolled as NCC cadets during their undergraduate studies. To be eligible, students must complete a minimum of two to three years of active and continuous participation in NCC activities, fulfilling all prescribed requirements related to theory sessions, practical training, and camp attendance. Only those who meet the stipulated academic and attendance benchmarks will be eligible for credit recognition. The course carries 3 academic credits, which shall be awarded at the end of the sixth semester upon successful verification of completion. The curriculum of this VAC must align with the official NCC training modules and additionally ensure the inclusion of essential learning components such as Disaster Management and First Aid, Personality Development and Leadership, and Community Service and Civic Engagement, along with any other components as prescribed by the NCC from time to time.

This integrated approach aims to foster civic responsibility, national service orientation, and leadership qualities among students, while also contributing meaningfully to their holistic development and social consciousness.

4.0 Course Outcomes (COs)

Upon completion, the cadet will be able to:

- **CO1:** Demonstrate discipline, physical endurance, and commitment to service.
- **CO2:** Exhibit leadership skills, personality traits, and team management.
- **CO3:** Apply disaster response techniques and participate in community services.
- **CO4:** Communicate effectively in social awareness programs.
- **CO5:** Engage in environmental and national service activities with civic responsibility.

5.0 Role of University

The university shall play a central role in the academic integration and administration of the NCC course under the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP). Based on the FYUGP regulation it shall officially notify the inclusion of NCC as a Value-Added Course (VAC) in the curriculum, ensuring that the structure, credit allocation, and evaluation framework are aligned with UGC and NCC guidelines. The university shall recognize the training activities, parades, and camps completed by cadets over a span of two to three years as equivalent to three academic credits and shall formalize the credit transfer and evaluation mechanism. To facilitate student participation, the university shall open registration for this course in both odd and even semesters through its course management system. Students who have successfully completed the prescribed NCC training requirements shall be advised to register for the course in the immediate subsequent semester. For example, a student who enrolls in the NCC programme in the first semester and completes the required training by the end of the fourth semester may register for the NCC course in either the fourth or fifth semester. Similarly, a student who joins NCC during the second year shall be permitted to register for the course in the sixth or seventh semester, based on the completion of the training criteria. The university shall also ensure proper coordination with colleges and NCC units to validate student performance records, issue necessary approvals, and incorporate the credits into the student's academic transcript.

6.0 Role of the NCC Directorate:

The NCC Directorate holds a crucial role in standardizing, guiding, and ensuring the effective implementation of the NCC-based Value-Added Course under the FYUGP framework. It shall be responsible for developing a comprehensive and standardized syllabus for the course, incorporating both traditional NCC activities—such as parade drills, leadership training, and camps—and structured academic modules on Disaster Management, Personality Development, Civic Engagement, and related topics. This syllabus, along with a clearly defined evaluation and grading scheme, shall be submitted to the universities for formal academic approval. The Directorate shall also ensure that Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) are adequately trained to deliver the course content, assess students' performance, and maintain academic rigour in line with university standards. It must facilitate the timely appointment and orientation of ANOs across institutions and arrange periodic training programmes to keep them updated on course delivery, assessment methodologies, and curricular expectations. To ensure smooth integration, the Directorate shall coordinate with university authorities and state education departments to align NCC activities with the academic calendar, minimizing scheduling conflicts and optimizing student participation. Additionally, the Directorate shall monitor the conduct of NCC programmes at the institutional level to ensure uniform quality and discipline. It must also maintain a centralized and verifiable database of enrolled cadets, detailing their attendance, training progress, camp participation, and academic outcomes for audit and academic credit purposes. The NCC Directorate shall serve as the principal policy-level link between universities and institutions, proactively addressing jurisdictional and implementation challenges to uphold the integrity and effectiveness of the course across the state.

7.0 Role of Associate NCC Officers (ANOs):

Associate NCC Officers (ANOs), play a pivotal role in the academic and operational implementation of NCC as a Value-Added Course under FYUGP. ANOs shall ensure the official enrolment of eligible students into the NCC programme and maintain accurate records of each cadet's participation and progress. In particular, ANOs must verify that students who register for the NCC course in any specific semester—whether odd or even—complete all the required academic formalities within that semester, including the prescribed internal assessments and final grade submissions. They are entrusted with organizing regular parade sessions, theoretical instruction, and practical training in alignment with the approved NCC syllabus. ANOs shall also conduct both internal and end-semester evaluations of the course at

the college level, regardless of the semester in which the student is registered. Detailed attendance records, assessments of discipline, leadership, and camp participation must be maintained meticulously and submitted to the designated nodal officer or institutional coordinator within the stipulated time. Furthermore, ANOs shall ensure the participation of cadets in mandatory camps, and community engagement programmes. In addition to their instructional responsibilities, ANOs play a key mentoring role, guiding students to align their NCC activities with academic and personal development goals. They also serve as the communication link between the institution, the affiliating university, and the NCC Directorate, ensuring that all stakeholders remain informed and coordinated throughout the delivery of the course.

8.0 Evaluation Scheme (100 Marks Total)

Component	Mode of Evaluation	Weightage
Theory (internal & external)	Written test/MCQs (institutional level)	30%
Practical Training & Drill	Continuous assessment by ANO	30%
Camp Participation & Reports	Certificate verification, reflective report	20%
Community & Environmental Engagement	Portfolio submission, activity reports	15%
Attendance & Discipline	Maintained by ANO / college coordinator	5%
Total		100%

9.0 Grading (10-Point FYUGP Scale)

Marks (%)	Grade	Grade Point
≥ 90%	O	10
80 – 89%	A+	9
70 – 79%	A	8
60 – 69%	B+	7
50 – 59%	B	6
40 – 49%	C	5
< 40%	F (Fail)	0

10.0 Course Components and Structure(Illustrative)

SI No	Component	Mode	Hours Equivalent	Assessment Mode
1	Institutional Training (Parades, Drills, Weapon Training)	Practical	60 hrs	Attendance, Practical Evaluation
2	Camps (e.g., ATC, RDC, NIC, Trekking, etc.)	Experiential	40 hrs	Participation Certificate + Report
3	Theory (Disaster Management, First Aid, Leadership, Civic Engagement, Personality Development, National Integration, Environment)	Lectures (Online/Offline)	30 hrs	Internal Exam / Assignment
4	Community Service (Swachh Bharat, Blood Donation, etc.)	Field Work	20 hrs	Activity Log + Reflective Essay
5	Discipline, Leadership & Personal Conduct	Continuous Observation	-	ANO Remarks & Institutional Report

11.0 Syllabus Outline (Illustrative Topics)**A. Theoretical Component (minimum 30 hrs)**

- **Disaster Management and First Aid**
Types of disasters, emergency response, basic life support, first aid kits.
- **Civic Engagement and Community Development**
Role of youth in nation-building, Panchayati Raj, government schemes.
- **Leadership and Personality Development**
Leadership qualities, communication skills, time management, team building.
- **National Integration and Constitution**
Diversity of India, duties and rights of citizens, national symbols.
- **Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Development**
Climate change, conservation, waste management, water harvesting.
- **Or any other topic as decided by NCC**

B Practical Component (more than 90+hrs)

1. Drills
2. Trainings
3. Physical fitness, yoga, obstacle training
4. Participation in ATC/NIC/RDC or equivalent
5. Blood donation, cleanliness drives, tree planting, traffic awareness
6. Or any other activity as decided by the NCC directorate



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