



PhD Program
Centre for Doctoral Studies – Directorate of Research
Pre-PhD Coursework

Contents

A. Preamble.....	1
B. Program Outcomes (PO)	1
C. Pre-Ph.D. Course Work under the Faculty of Study	2
D. Structure of the Pre-Ph.D. Course Work:	2
Course 1: Research & Publication Ethics	2
Course 2: Research Methodology and Biostatistics	3
Course 3 – Theoretical Foundation & Core Subject.....	3
Course 4: Literature Review and Research Proposal	4
F. Guidelines for Conduct, Evaluation and Assessment of Pre-Ph.D. Coursework	
Examinations.....	5

A. Preamble

The Ph.D. program at Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) (MRV) was initiated in 2024 in accordance with the UGC regulations. In line with the *UGC Regulations, 2022*, which describe the Minimum Standards and Procedure for the Award of the Ph.D. Degree, the regulations governing the Ph.D. program at MRV have been framed and adopted accordingly.

B. Program Outcomes (PO)

At the end of the Ph.D. program, under the guidance of a research supervisor, the scholars of MRV will be able to:

- PO1: Critically review the literature, identify gaps and scope for further research, design and plan the study, select appropriate methodologies, and acquire extensive knowledge to address the objectives of their project.
- PO2: Recognize and analyze dilemmas in research such as ethics, plagiarism, scientific misconduct, and biosafety, and adopt appropriate measures to uphold research integrity.
- PO3: Contribute to the discovery of novel findings in their research domain and provide valid explanations for them.
- PO4: Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills through original research publications and conference presentations.
- PO5: Appreciate the value of their research findings in terms of practical application, translational potential, and scope for future investigations.

C. Pre-Ph.D. Course Work under the Faculty of Study

MRV offers the Ph.D. program across all faculties under its ambit. To enhance the quality of research and ensure that Ph.D. scholars gain appropriate direction in planning and executing their research work, a **Pre-Ph.D. Course Work** is made mandatory for all registered scholars. Successful completion of the Pre-Ph.D. Course Work and the qualifying examination conducted at its conclusion is a prerequisite for continuation of the doctoral research.

Course 1 – Research & Publication Ethics

Course 2 – Research Methodology and Statistics

Course 3 – Theoretical Foundation & Core Subject (designed by respective guides)

Course 4 – Literature Review and Research Proposal

D. Structure of the Pre-Ph.D. Course Work:

Course	Credits	Duration	Mode
Course 1 – Research & Publication Ethics	2	8 weeks	Online (SWAYAM)
Course 2 – Research Methodology and Biostatistics*	4	60 hr	Offline (at MRV)/Online
Course 3 – Theoretical Foundation & Core Subject*	4	60 hr	Online/Offline (Classes conducted by respective guides)
Course 4 – Literature Review and Research Proposal	4	60 hr	Online/Offline (Classes conducted by respective guides)

* The scholar may also complete this course through SWAYAM, Coursera, or other recognized online learning platforms.

Course 1: Research & Publication Ethics

Course Type: Core

Level: Ph.D. (Pre-Ph.D. Course Work)

Credit Value: 2 Credits

Duration: 8 weeks

Course Coverage: SWAYAM and Coursera platforms (with transferrable credits)

The course will be highly beneficial for Ph.D. students, as they can earn 2 credits through the SWAYAM-MOOC platform. It comprises six modules covering the fundamentals of the philosophy of science and ethics, research integrity, publication ethics, identification of research misconduct and predatory publications, indexing and citation databases, open access publications, research metrics, and plagiarism detection tools.

The pedagogy includes recorded lectures, e-texts, self-assessment questions, and quizzes. A term-end examination will be conducted for certification.

Website: https://onlinecourses.swayam2.ac.in/nou22_ge73/preview

Course Outcomes (COs):

Upon successful completion of the course, the Ph.D. scholars will be able to:

- **Understand** the fundamentals of philosophy of science and ethics relevant to research.
- **Demonstrate awareness** of research integrity, publication ethics, and responsible conduct of research.
- **Identify** research misconduct, plagiarism, and predatory publications.
- **Utilize** indexing and citation databases effectively for literature surveys and referencing.
- **Evaluate** the impact of research through metrics and open access publication practices.
- **Apply** plagiarism detection tools and ethical standards in their own research work.

Submission of the soft copy of the SWAYAM certificate is mandatory for completion of Research Publication Ethics.

Course 2: Research Methodology and Biostatistics

Course Type: Core

Level: Ph.D. (Pre-Ph.D. Course Work)

Credit Value: 4 Credits

Duration: 60 hr

Total Marks: Final Examination = 100 Marks (5 questions x 20 marks)

Course Outcomes (COs)

At the end of this course, the Ph.D. scholars will be able to:

- **CO1:** Explain the research process and design a structured plan for their research.
- **CO2:** Identify quality journals, recognize different types of literature, and critically evaluate literature relevant to their research project.
- **CO3:** Describe principles of research ethics, plagiarism, biosafety, and adopt practices to prevent scientific misconduct.
- **CO4:** Apply rules of scientific writing and referencing methods for effective communication of research findings through publications and conference presentations.
- **CO5:** Explain statistical principles, select appropriate tests for data analysis, and apply suitable methods for presenting research findings in publications and conferences.

Conditions for Framing Questions: The question paper shall consist of five (05) questions carrying 20 marks each. Each question may or may not be divided into sub-questions; however, in cases where sub-questions are included, the total marks allotted to the sub-questions under each main question shall not exceed 20 marks.

Course 3 – Theoretical Foundation & Core Subject

Course Type: Core

Level: Ph.D. (Pre-Ph.D. Course Work)

Credit Value: 4 Credits

Duration: 60 hr

Total Marks: Final Examination = 100 marks (5 questions x 20 marks)

- The syllabus for the written paper of Course 3 shall be prepared and prescribed by the respective Research Supervisor.
- The proposed syllabus shall be reviewed and approved by the subject experts of the candidate's Research Advisory Committee (RAC).
- Conditions for Framing Questions: The question paper shall consist of five (05) questions carrying 20 marks each. Each question may or may not be divided into sub-questions; however, in cases where sub-questions are included, the total marks allotted to the sub-questions under each main question shall not exceed 20 marks.
- Once approved, the syllabus for Course 3 of the Ph.D. Course Work Examination shall be formally communicated to both: The Controller of Examinations (CoE), MRV, and the concerned Ph.D. candidate.

Course Outcomes (COs)

Upon successful completion of this course, Ph.D. scholars will be able to:

- **CO1:** Explain the subject-specific basic principles and theories related to their area of research.
- **CO2:** Describe the commonly used methodologies and techniques relevant to investigating their chosen topic of research.

Syllabus Framework

The syllabus for this course shall be designed in either of the following ways:

Pre-set Syllabus:

Prescribed by the respective Department/Center/School and approved by the Board of Studies (BOS). **OR**

Customized Syllabus:

Prepared by the **Research Supervisor** in accordance with the scholar's research topic, and approved by the **Research Advisory Committee** of the candidate.

Course 4: Literature Review and Research Proposal

This course emphasizes the **review of literature** and the **planning of the proposed research work**, culminating in the formulation of a tentative research title.

Course Outcomes (COs)

At the end of this course, Ph.D. scholars will be able to:

- **CO1:** Critically evaluate existing literature and prepare a structured review of literature.
- **CO2:** Analyze and discuss the strengths, weaknesses, and research gaps in the available literature.
- **CO3:** Formulate the **aim, objectives, and hypothesis** of their study based on the literature reviewed.
- **CO4:** Identify appropriate research methodologies and address ethical issues relevant to their proposed study.
- **CO5:** Elaborate on the potential impact and societal benefits of their research.

Specifications for the Review of Literature

- At least 50% of the literature reviewed must be from studies published within the last 10 years (from the start date of the scholar's study).
- Appropriate emphasis should also be given to historical developments in the chosen field of study.

- The review must be comprehensive, analytical, and presented in a structured format suitable for inclusion in the Ph.D. synopsis/proposal.

The candidates shall present their review of literature (minimum 25 original research articles) to their respective research guides.

Review of Literature and Research Proposal Presentation

Name of the Ph. D. Scholar and Title of the Research Work:

Name of the Research Guide/Co-guide:

Sl. No.	Particulars Scoring	Max. Marks 20	Obtained Mark
1.	Number of articles presented 20>25 = 20 marks; 10>20= 15 marks; 1>10= 10 mark	20	
2.	Introduction of the topic	20	
3.	Whether there was a logical sequence in the presentation	20	
4.	Whether any gaps have been identified? discussed any strengths & weaknesses in the available literature?	20	
5.	Presentation skills; Question and answer session: Whether the answers given by the candidate are knowledgeable	20	

OVERALL PERFORMANCE (out of 100): Name & signatures of the Research Guide/Co-Guide:

F. Guidelines for Conduct, Evaluation and Assessment of Pre-Ph.D. Coursework Examinations

1. Examination Fee for Pre-Ph.D. Coursework

An examination fee of ₹10,000 per candidate shall be collected towards examination-related expenses at the time of admission. This fee shall cover costs related to question paper setting, printing and stationery, invigilation duty, and answer script evaluation.

2. Eligibility Criteria and No-Dues Requirements

A candidate shall be eligible to appear for the Pre-Ph.D. coursework examination only if he/she has secured a minimum of 75% attendance in each course and has obtained a No-Dues Certificate in the prescribed format issued by the Centre for Doctoral Studies from the Library, Hostel (if applicable), Department, and Accounts Section.

3. Examination Pattern, Syllabus, Number of Papers & Duration

The Pre-Ph.D. coursework shall consist of four courses, namely Research Publication Ethics (SWAYAM), Research Methodology and Biostatistics, Theoretical Foundations, and Literature Review and Research Proposal. The syllabus shall be as approved by the Research Advisory Committee and communicated by the Controller of Examinations.

4. Appointment and Details of External Examiners
For each subject (Course 3 and 4), one external examiner shall be appointed, and the details including name, designation, affiliation, email ID, and mobile number shall be maintained.
5. Remuneration for Question Paper Setting and Evaluation
Remuneration for question paper setting, answer script valuation, and invigilation shall be paid as per MRV norms and approved rates. Question paper setting shall be paid as per university norms, valuation on a per script basis, and invigilation on a per session basis, with all payments processed through the Controller of Examinations and Finance Department.
6. Evaluation Methodology and Marking Scheme
Single valuation shall be followed for all coursework papers, and the same external examiner shall set the question paper and evaluate the answer scripts for Courses 2 and 3. Questions marked as NA (Not Answered) shall be awarded zero marks, and in cases of abnormal deviations, the answer scripts may be referred to the Chief Examiner or Controller of Examinations for review.
7. Pass Criteria for Theory Examinations
A candidate shall be declared pass only if he/she secures a minimum of 50% marks in each theory paper individually, and there shall be no provision for aggregate pass under any circumstances.
8. Provision for Re-totalling of Theory Papers
Re-totalling of theory papers is permitted on written request by the candidate on payment of a fee of ₹2,000 per paper. Only totalling errors shall be verified, and revaluation of answers shall not be permitted.
9. Revaluation Policy
Revaluation is strictly not permitted for any Pre-Ph.D. coursework examination under any circumstances.
10. Provision of Grace Marks
No provision for grace marks shall be applicable for Pre-Ph.D. coursework examinations.
11. Supplementary Examination Regulations
Candidates who fail in any paper shall be permitted to appear for a supplementary examination as per the university schedule. The supplementary examination shall be conducted with the same syllabus, pattern, and duration on payment of the prescribed supplementary examination fee.
12. Format and Contents of Mark Memo
The Mark Memo issued to candidates shall contain the university name and logo, candidate name, roll number, faculty, course names, marks obtained in theory

components, total marks, result, date of issue, signature of the Controller of Examinations, and the university seal.

Status	Name and Designation	Signature
Prepared by	Head of Centre for Doctoral Studies, MRV	
Reviewed by	Dean Academics, MRV	
Recommended by	Director of Research, Directorate of Research, MRV	
Approved by	Vice-Chancellor, MRV	