

राष्ट्रीयप्रौद्योगिकीसंस्थानसिक्किम
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SIKKIM

Ravangla, South Sikkim – 737139



Rules and Regulations
for the Degree of
Master of Technology (M.Tech.)

2017

Abbreviation:

CGPA	Cumulative Grade Point Average
CSE	Computer Science and Engineering
Dean (AA)	Dean (Academic Affairs)
Dean (SA)	Dean (Student Affairs)
ECE	Electronics and Communication Engineering
EEE	Electrical and Electronics Engineering
FA	Faculty Adviser of the Department
FIC	Faculty In-charge of the Department
HOD	Head of the Department
IPGC	Institute Post Graduate Committee
MHRD	Ministry of Human Resource Development
M.Tech.	Master of Technology
NFTE	Not Fit for Technical Education
NIT	National Institute of Technology
NIT Sikkim	National Institute of Technology Sikkim
PG	Post Graduate
PH/PWD	Person with Disability
SGPA	Semester Grade Point Average

1.M.Tech. Degree Programmes

1.1. Post Graduate (M.Tech. Degree) programmes are offered in the following disciplines by respective departments:

- a. Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)
- b. Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE)
- c. Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)

1.2 The provisions of these regulations shall be applicable to any new discipline that may be introduced from time to time.

1.3 Except for the admission method and the Institute assistantship, the sponsored candidates will be governed by the following prescribed rules and regulations.

2. Admission

2.1 Admission to National Institute of Technology Sikkim (hereafter referred as NIT Sikkim) will be made in accordance with the instructions received from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India from time to time. Seats are reserved for candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Persons with Disability (PH/PWD) and other categories as per the guidelines issued by MHRD from time to time.

2.2 Admission to all courses will only be made in the odd semester (1st year, 1st semester) starting from July/August of each session at the first year level as per the guidelines issued by the MHRD, Government of India/ NIT Sikkim from time to time.

2.3 The selected/allotted candidates for M.Tech. programmes have to take admission to the Institute on the dates as per Academic Calendar of the Institute as notified.

2.4 If any time after admission, it is found that a candidate had not in fact fulfilled all the requirements stipulated in the offer of admission, in any form what so ever, including possible misinformation etc., legal action may be initiated in addition to cancellation of the admission. The matter shall be reported to the Senate.

2.5 All the students must have to register to the applicable semester within stipulated time period. If somebody fails to register due to some valid reason, he/she may apply to the Dean (AA) and/or authorized official for consideration. However, this process should be within the semester and before the end term examination.

2.6 In any case, if a student is unable to register during the semester, he/she is liable to discontinue the M.Tech. programme. The list of such students shall be conveyed to the IPGC committee for necessary review and recommendation. The recommendation of the IPGC shall be placed to the Senate by the Dean(AA) for final decision.

2.7 The Institute reserves the right to cancel the admission of any student and/or ask him/her to discontinue his/her studies at any stage of his/her course on the ground of indiscipline and/or misconduct as identified by appropriate authority/committee.

2.8 The decision of the Senate regarding sections 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 above is final and binding.

- 2.9 Candidates must fulfil the medical standards required for admission as prescribed in the Institute Information Brochure or the Prospectus.
- 2.10 Every M.Tech. student of the Institute shall be associated with the parent Department offering the degree programme that the student undergoes, throughout his/her study period.
- 2.11 Dean Academic or equivalent officer will assign faculty member(s) to the students to serve as Faculty Adviser (FA). He/she will serve as a counsellor and mentor to the students and shall proactively monitor their academic progress. He/she will contact with course teachers in matters of attendance and performance, recommend leave of the students to higher authorities, and communicate with their parents. His/her role is critical in case of academically weak or de-motivated students, who need to be guided out of their academic or social situations.
- 2.12 The eligibility and admission procedures for the sponsored candidates will be advertised by the Institute on website and/or appropriate medium.

3. Academic Calendar

- 3.1 Semester results are expected to be published after 2 weeks of end semester exam.
- 3.2 The Senate will approve the academic calendar consisting of schedule of activities for a session inclusive of dates for registration, mid-semester and end-semester examinations; inter-semester breaks etc. well in advance of the start of a semester.

4. Programme Structure

- 4.1. Every discipline of the M.Tech. programme shall have a curriculum and syllabi for the courses approved by the Senate. Curriculum may be revised for any department, as and when required.
- 4.2. The academic programmes of the Institute follow the credit system. The general pattern is:
- one credit for each lecture hour per week per semester for theory courses;
 - One credit for two hours laboratory classes per week per semester; and two credits for three hours laboratory classes.
 - The tutorial class may be given equal credit at par with the lecture class.
 - Seminar, thesis and project works with appropriate credits as recommended by the concerned department.
- 4.3. The curriculum of any discipline of the M.Tech. programme shall be of minimum 80 credits. Students shall earn the total credits of particular discipline and score CGPA of 6 or above for their successful completion of the programme to receive the Degree.
- 4.4. Number of elective courses and other courses will be offered by the departments by and large based on faculty expertise pertaining to the curriculum.

- 4.5. The medium of instruction at the Institute is English. All examinations, project/seminar reports, presentations and communications will be in English only.
- 4.6. To qualify in any subject minimum GPA required is 6.0 out of 10 (D grade) and minimum total CGPA required for the whole course work is 6.0 out of 10. If a student obtained less than D grade in any subject, he/she may be allowed to appear in the supplementary examination. If he/she fails again in the supplementary examination, he/she has to repeat the subject as per the provision.
- 4.7. Grade card may be issued from the academic office as and when appropriate.
- 4.8. Promotion Rules:
- a. A student will not be promoted to higher year, if he/she obtains either,
 - i. SGPA in the first semester lower than 6.00 with grade 'F' in one or more subject(s)
 - Or,
 - ii. CGPA at the end of the second semester lower than 6.00 with grade 'F' in one or more subject(s)
 - Or,
 - iii. Grade 'F' in more than two subjects in the first semester or the second semester, or the two semesters taken together.
 - b. A student having SGPA/CGPA 6.00 or higher but grade 'F' in not more than 2 subjects in the first or the second semester or both the semesters taken together may be allowed to continue in the programme and register for the subsequent semester.
 - c. The Institute assistantship of a student will be withheld in case a student fails in any subject. It will be restored only if SGPA/CGPA is at least 6.0 and there is no 'F' grade following the supplementary examination. The student may however, continue without assistantship after supplementary examination with 'F' grade(s), subject to the provisions as per 4.8.a.
 - d. Attendance in the failed subject(s) when registered for a semester is mandatory.
 - e. Maximum period for completing M.Tech. programme is 4 years including a maximum of two probation periods of one year each as per approval of the Senate.
- 4.9. The credit requirements mentioned above does not include audit courses, which are Pass/Fail courses and are not considered for CGPA calculations. For any supplementary examination, the achievable maximum grade will be one less than the scored grade allocation for the subject. Thus, supplementary exams will incur a penalty of one grade lower except in the case of temporary grade 'I' and scored grade "E" (see clause 9.1).
- 4.10. All M.Tech. students including sponsored students are required to perform academic duties as per prevailing norms and/or as prescribed by the Department/Institute from time to time.

5. Institute Assistantship/Fellowship

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- 5.1 Institute assistantships/fellowship will be available to eligible students as per prevailing norms.
- 5.2 Assistantships from external funding organizations will be available as per terms and conditions of the concerned funding organizations.
- 5.3 The first instalment of assistantship shall be released only after satisfactory scrutiny of necessary documents supporting the students' eligibility for the assistantship. The students will have to submit all documents latest by the time of registration for the second semester.
- 5.4 The assistantship for a student for the first month shall be payable on pro-rata basis depending on the date of joining of a student.
- 5.5 Students receiving assistantships/fellowships from the Institute or from any other funding agencies are required to perform academic duties as per prevailing norms and/or as prescribed by the Department/Institute from time to time.
- 5.6 The continuation of the assistantship/fellowship is subject to satisfactory performance of the assigned duties, satisfactory academic progress of the student in the M.Tech. programme along with the requirement of attendance, conduct and discipline.
- 5.7 The Institute assistantship of a student will be withheld in case a student fails in any subject. It will be restored only if SGPA/CGPA is at least 6.0 and there is no 'F' grade following the supplementary examination.
- 5.8 Unauthorized absence for more than one month leads to disciplinary action in the form of reduction of assistantship or even termination of studentship.
- 5.9 If a student discontinues studies before completing the program, the assistantship shall be payable up to the date he/she attends the classes or works in the Department/Institute.
- 5.10 A student can get one assistantship at a time. In case, the student becomes eligible for another scholarship from the Institute or any other source, the student will have the option to retain any of the awards according to the choice. In such a case, he/she will communicate the choice in writing to the Dean (AA) or equivalent officer.
- 5.11 Contingency grant of appropriate amount may be allowed as per the MHRD norms and/or as approved by the Institute.

6. Registration

- 6.1 Every student is required to be present and register at the commencement of each semester on the day(s) fixed for and notified in the Academic Calendar.
- 6.2 Percentage of attendance for all students will be calculated from the date of commencement of the semester, irrespective of his/her date of registration, unless supported by a valid reason for late-registration. However, in case of first semester, attendance will be counted from date of admission into the Institute or date of commencement of class work, whichever is later.

- 6.3 A student who does not register on the day(s) announced for the purpose may be permitted, in consideration of any compelling reason, for late registration within the next week on payment of additional late fee as prescribed by the Institute from time to time. Normally no late registration shall be permitted after one week from the scheduled date(s). The said rules may be waived, at the discretion of the competent authorities, in case extreme circumstances proven by proper documents.
- 6.4 After registration in each semester, each student should collect a suitable registration acknowledgement document, which indicates the courses registered by him/her in that semester, signed by the Dean Academic or equivalent officer/HOD/FIC.
- 6.5 If a student fails to get promoted to the next odd semester, he/she has to register for the backlog courses.
- 6.6 Only those students will be permitted to register who
- Can be promoted according to promotion rule 4.8.
 - Cleared all the Institute and Hostel dues of the previous semesters.
 - Paid all required fees for the current semester, and
 - Has not been debarred from registering for a specified period on disciplinary or any other ground.
- 6.7 A student can register for backlog subjects. The year back student needs to pay registration fees as prescribed by the Institute.

7. Residential Requirement

The Institute is residential and unless otherwise exempted/permitted or unless there is a shortage of accommodation, every student shall be required to reside in and be a boarder of one of the halls of residence and mess to which he/she is assigned. The student needs to abide by the rules and regulation of such accommodation. Any alteration to the arrangement will be subject to the discretion of the Dean (SA) /equivalent officer/committee.

8. Attendance and Leave

All M.Tech. students including sponsored categories shall be required to sign in attendance register in the department on every working day. For the registered courses, students are required to attend all the classes (e.g. lectures, practical etc). Following are the rules relating to attendance requirements:

- 8.1 Students not having the mandatory requirement of a minimum 75% attendance in any subject, shall not be permitted to appear for the end semester examination in that subject (except some extenuating circumstances on the discretion of HOD/FIC (e.g. on the grounds of medical/ severe unavoidable situation)) and is awarded "R" Grade in that subject [see 9.1]. Exemption up to 15% may be considered by the Dean (AA)/ equivalent officer on the recommendation of the department.

- 8.2 A resident student must take prior permission from the corresponding warden before proceeding on leave. Failing to do so will be construed as a breach of discipline and will be dealt with as per provisions.
- 8.3 Students representing the Institute in approved extra-curricular activities such as Sports, Games, Cultural Meets, Seminar, Workshop, Conference and/or Interview arranged through Training and Placement Cell, shall be considered as on-duty subject to a maximum of 8 days in a semester. Prior permissions from HOD/FIC and concerned faculty are required for availing on-duty permission. Special mid semester examination may be arranged for them if the student remains outstation and/or remain engaged in such activity during the examination time. However, there will not be special end-semester examination for such cases.
- 8.4 Subject teacher shall notify attendance to the students from time to time.
- 8.5 A M.Tech. student is eligible for a number of leaves per year as prescribed by the IPGC/Dean (AA). On various grounds, leaves per academic year may be permitted by the HOD/FIC/IPGC/Dean (AA) as follows:
- a. Medical leave: A student may be permitted by the Dean (AA) to discontinue temporarily from the programme for a semester or for a longer period for reasons of ill health or other medical reasons, based on the recommendation from HOD/FIC/IPGC and with the approval of the Senate.
 - b. In case of ill health or other medical reasons, a student must produce a medical certificate from a Registered Medical Practitioner stating that he/she is not in a position to continue with the studies temporarily specifying the period, and the same should be duly endorsed by the parent/guardian of the student and also by the Institute medical officer.
 - c. Normally, a student shall be permitted to semester leave from the programme only for a maximum duration of two semesters.
 - d. Penalty may be imposed on the student producing false medical documents or unauthorized leaves, which will be sanctioned by the competent authority.
 - e. Family calamity: IPGC/HOD/FIC of concerned Department and Dean (AA)/equivalent officer may sanction leave up to 20 working days in a semester on ground of a family calamity. Death of a parent or sibling, a serious illness (e.g. involving a serious heart, brain or kidney disease, any kind of cancer, or a major operation of a parent) will normally satisfy requirement for sanction of such leave.
 - f. Family functions (social or religious), illness of family members, participation in student activities such as organizing functions or raising money, preparing for other examinations or searching for jobs are not adequate grounds for leave of absence from classes including project/dissertation work. Under exceptional cases, such leaves may be considered.
 - g. Ordinarily leave must be sanctioned before the student leaves the campus. In case of an emergency, a student may leave campus without prior approval, but must

inform FIC/HOD/IPGC/Dean (AA) over telephone/email at the first available opportunity.

- h. If the period of absence is for a short duration (not more than two weeks), application for leave shall have to be submitted to the HOD/FIC concerned stating fully the reasons for the leave requested along with supporting document(s). The HOD/FIC may grant such leave.
- i. Absence for a period not exceeding two weeks in a semester due to sickness or any other unavoidable reason for which prior application could not be made, may be condoned by the HOD/FIC provided he/she is satisfied with the explanation (in writing with documents).
- j. If the period of continuous absence exceeds two weeks, a prior application for grant of leave will have to be submitted through the HOD/FIC to the Dean (AA) /equivalent officer, with supporting documents. The decision to grant or condone such leave shall be taken by the Dean (AA) /equivalent officer.
- k. The total leave sanctioned shall not exceed 25 working days in a semester, under any circumstances.
- l. Attendance exemption may not be considered for the students during their suspension period.
- m. However, for all leave situations as stated should conform to the leave admissible for aM.Tech. student (including sponsored student) along with provision to get continued Institute assistantship/fellowship as per the Institute assistantship/fellowship status of the student.

9. Evaluation - Grading System

9.1As a measure of a student's performance, a 7-point grading system using the following letter grades and corresponding grade points per credit shall be followed:

Range of Scored Marks	Grade Awarded	Grade Point Per Credit Unit
90 and above	S	10
Between 80 and 89	A	9
Between 70 and 79	B	8
Between 60 and 69	C	7
Between 50 and 59	D	6
Between 40 and 49	E	5
Below 40	F	0

Pass marks for Laboratory/Sessional is 50, and there is no E grade for it. Score less than 40 in theory course is awarded fail (F).

In special cases, the concerned faculty member may be allowed to use relative grading (using standard statistical procedures) after discussion with the concerned departmental committee who is empowered to discuss and advice on such issue. In addition, there shall be three transitional symbols, which can be used by the examiners to indicate the special position of a student in the subject.

“I” is for “Incomplete Assessment”, when a student misses the End Semester Examination (fully/partially) on Medical/ family calamity grounds. “I” will not be penalized for one grade point lower than the secured grade under the grading system.

“R” is for “Insufficient Attendance” in the course and the student will not be allowed in the end semester examination for that subject. However, he/she will be allowed in first supplementary examination and will be penalized for one grade point lower than the secured grade under the grading system except the secured grade E.

“X” is for “Debarred” on grounds of indiscipline/malpractices during examinations. The student will be allowed in the first supplementary examination or as advised by the authorized committee. He/she will be penalized for one grade point lower than the secured grade under the grading system except if the secured grade is “E”.

9.2 A Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA) will be computed for each semester. The SGPA will be calculated as follows:

$$SGPA = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i GP_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i}$$

where, C_i = Credits for the course i

GP_i = Grade point obtained for the course i

n = Number of subjects registered for the semester for that year.

9.3 Starting from first year second semester a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) will be computed for every student at the end of every semester. The CGPA would give the cumulative performance of the student from the first semester up to the last semester to which it refers and is calculated as follows:

$$CGPA = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N S_{Ti} C_{Ti}}{\sum_{i=1}^N C_{Ti}}$$

where, N = Total number of semesters under consideration

C_{Ti} = credits of the i^{th} semester

S_{Ti} = SGPA of the i^{th} semester.

9.4 The CGPA, SGPA and the grades obtained in all the subjects in a semester will be communicated to every student at the end of every semester. In its place, a consolidated grade sheet (with total credits) will be issued at the end of all four semesters/ end of the programme for the student as the case may be.

9.5 Both SGPA and CGPA will be rounded off to the second place of decimal and recorded as such. Whenever these grade point averages are to be used for the purpose of determining the inter-semester merit ranking of a group of students, only the rounded off values will be used.

9.6 A student with a CGPA of 8.0 and above is considered eligible for the award of First Class with Distinction.

A student with a CGPA of 6.5 and above but less than 8.0 is considered eligible for the award of First Class.

A student with a CGPA of 6 and above but less than 6.5 is considered eligible for the award of Second Class.

10. Assessment of Academic Performance

10.1 There will be continuous assessment of a student's performance throughout the semester and grades will be awarded by the subject teacher.

10.2 Each theory subject in a semester is evaluated on 100 marks, with the following weightages:

Examination	Mid Semester Examination	Continuous Assessment (assignment, attendance, students-teachers interaction)	End Semester
Marks	30	20 [10(Assignment**) + 5(students-teacher interaction**) + 5(attendance)]	50
Time	1 hour 30 minutes	NA	2 hours 30 minutes

** Assignment marks of any subject may vary from 10 to 15. Students-teacher interaction may vary from 0 to 5. Total marks in assignment and students-teacher interaction will be 15.

Number of examinations and weightages may be revised from time to time in accordance with the decision of the Senate.

10.3 Each internal examination will be conducted as notified in the academic calendar.

10.4 The mode and nature of the evaluation and the corresponding weightages, for the subcomponent may be intimated to the students at the beginning of the semester along with the lecture schedule.

10.5 Each laboratory course in a semester is evaluated for 100 marks, with the following weightages:

Sub-component	Weightage
Attendance	10 marks
Continuous evaluation (e.g. Viva, quiz, Lab reports)	20 marks
Laboratory performance	30 marks
End semester examination	40 marks (viva-voce – 20 marks, experiment – 20 marks)

10.6 Project/thesis work in the curriculum can be done individually or by a group of students as decided by the Department. This will be assessed by a panel formed by the Department. Method of assessment/evaluation will be decided by the panel/Department.

10.7 A student can get an answer-script scrutinised upon the payment of a specified amount as prescribed by the Institute within a prescribed time-period as notified from time-to-time. In this regard, scrutiny may be done by two faculty-members of the concerned department as proposed by the Dean (AA) /equivalent officer.

10.8A student of the M.Tech.degree programme must complete the programme with a minimum requirement of 80 credits within a maximum period of four years.

10.9 Evaluation method for M.Tech. final year students involved in approved Industrial Training/ Dissertation for a part of/whole semester:

- i. Attending classes are not mandatory. However, attendance in the industry (as per approval) is mandatory and will be taken into account.
- ii. The student has to appear in midterm and end term examination as per the case in accordance with the academic calendar of the Institute.
- iii. For continuous assessment part (20 marks), the student may be given the assignment by the respective subject teacher.
- iv. After completing the industrial training, he/she will have to submit a report duly signed by the concerned person from the industry and give a presentation on the same at the Institute.
- v. He/she needs to complete other academic formalities e.g. dissertation and/or seminar at this Institute.
- vi. Students availing Institute assistantship must apply to continue with such assistantship during the period. However, the Institute may consider such requests based on circumstances (e.g, support from the host industry/institute) and merit of such interaction.

11. Supplementary Examination

Students appearing in Supplementary Examination shall be governed by the following rules:

- 11.1 Students with “F”, “I”, “R” and “X” grade are eligible to write supplementary examination which is offered only once in a semester.
- 11.2 “I” symbol is given when the student misses the end semester examination (fully/partially) due to a compelling reason like serious illness of himself/herself which necessitates hospitalization or a genuine calamity in the family. He/she may appeal to the Dean (AA) /equivalent officer through his/her HOD/FIC within two days of his/her return to the campus. The application must be submitted before fifteen days of commencement of the supplementary examination. Final decision will be taken in the Senate and/or appropriate committee considering the genuineness of the reason.
- 11.3 Supplementary exams will incur a penalty of one grade except in the case of temporary grade “I” on Medical/family calamity grounds. For any supplementary examination, the achievable maximum grade will be one grade less than the scored grade allocation for the subject except for the grade “E”.

12. Temporary Withdrawal from the Institute

- 12.1 A student who has been admitted to the M.Tech. degree programme of the Institute may be permitted to withdraw temporarily for a period of one semester or more from the Institute on grounds of prolonged illness or acute problem of self or immediate family member, which compelled him/her to stay away from the Institute, provided that
 - a. He/she applies stating fully the reasons for such withdrawal together with supporting documents and endorsement of the parent/guardian.
 - b. There are no outstanding dues against him/her or demands from him/her in the Institute/Hostel/Department/Library/NCC etc.
- 12.2 A student, who has been granted temporary withdrawal from the Institute, under the aforesaid provision, will be regarded as absent. He/she will be required to pay a nominal fee per semester during absence as decided in the Senate.
- 12.3 The Institute assistantship/fellowship if any will be cancelled under this circumstance.

13. Malpractices

Students will not be permitted to enter the examination hall after 30 minutes of commencement of the examination and to leave the examination within first hour of the commencement of the end semester examination and within 30 minutes of commencement of mid semester examination.

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Further, any kind of malpractice is punishable. Example of various malpractices or breaking of rules are given below:

Sl. No.	Nature of the Malpractice	Punishment
1	Taking out, used or unused answer booklets outside the examination room.	Examination may be cancelled
2	Possession of any incriminating material inside the examination hall (whether used or not). For Example: written or printed materials, bits, writings on scale, calculator, hand kerchief, dress, part of the body and hall ticket, possession of mobile phones, programmable calculator without permission, recording equipment or any unauthorized electronic equipment.	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copying from neighbouring students.• Exchange of question papers and other materials with some answers.• Possession of answer book of another candidate.• Giving answer book to another candidate.	
4	Verbal or oral communication with neighbouring students after one warning.	Copy may be withdrawn at the discretion of the invigilator(s)

The examination cell and/or authorized committee will take appropriate decisions for these.

14. Relaxation

Notwithstanding all that has been stated above, the Senate has the right to modify any of the above rules and regulations from time to time. Under exceptional circumstances, the Senate may consider any case of a student with a minor deficiency in respect of any of the requirements stated in these regulations. The Senate may relax the relevant provisions of these regulations based on the circumstances and merit of the case. The grounds on which such relaxation is granted shall be recorded and however that cannot be cited as precedence.