

Chemistry Department's Comments and Observations on the ARC Report

Credits

Chemistry Department supports the proposed 'CREDIT' based credit system. The graduation requirement of 400-420 credits appears reasonable.

Graduation Requirements

The CPI 4.0 was felt to be sufficient to graduate by most department colleagues. However, concerns were raised that lowering CPI requirement could erode academic values of IITK system.

Degrees

Chemistry department strongly supports the recommendation that B.Tech. (Engg.) and B.S. (Sciences/Economics) will be of 4 years duration.

Although the concept of 'MINOR' in a second branch was received well, it was felt that modalities should be chalked out carefully. It should be prudent to start with a fixed set of minors having clearly defined requirements and preset time table.

Along the same line, the department, in principle, supports the option for a second degree at the end of III year. As noted before, the details must be worked out very carefully so that it fits well with the course structure and the time table. Students should be able to exercise these choices offered without much difficulties. A well-meaning initiative must not get blocked because of flawed implementation procedures.

Regarding the Chemistry 'MINOR', discussions indicated that there should be at least 5 courses of about 40-45 credits. A departmental committee has been constituted to discuss the Chemistry minor. It was felt that the minor, if offered, will be a General Chemistry minor without any specializations. For a second BS degree in Chemistry, the department felt that at least 100 department credits should be credited by a student.

Academic Programme

The proposed break-up (HSS/Science/ESC/TA/Electives etc) of the academic program seems appropriate and chemistry department supports it.

The chemistry department, in general, agrees with essential features of the proposed core program.

With respect to the choices of certain courses particularly about ESO/TA the Department needs more time to deliberate which ESO courses are needed and whether both TA courses are needed for a Chemistry graduate.

With respect to the Chemistry core course, the department felt that offering two courses is fine. Students will have the choice to decide which course to opt for. The other course may be taken by the students as an elective if they so decide. It was noted that the course content of these courses have not been defined, and the department would like to actively participate in that process.

Modular courses

Chemistry department felt that the 'Modular Course' is an excellent idea and reflect the flexibility and originality introduce in the core program

Exit Option

Chemistry department felt that an EXIT option should be offered for a student who consistently underperforms. (Can be a diploma).

Communication Skills

It was felt that communication skills can be imparted by having a written/oral presentation of some of the lab experiments. Secondly by insisting original lab reports written communication skills can be improved.

Examination Pattern

The Department had a divided opinion on having one mid-sem vs two mid-sem exams.

Tutorials

The Department supported one tutorial per week for the core course and scrapping of the discussion hour.

Attendance

No clear opinion emerged on this issue.