



MINOR TRACK COURSES

INFORMATION BOOKLET

**A roadmap for MINOR TRACK COURSES at
Vishwakarma University, Pune**

July 2021



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PREFACE

Dear Students,

Minor track administration and offering is a separate department at Vishwakarma University, Pune. The mission of Vishwakarma University and this established department is to provide a multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary learning opportunity to the student fraternity. As a vertical of VU, it is our desire to bring you the right kind of academic resources and provide you with an elaborately researched array of minor track curricula that prevail in the University. Minor Track Course Information Booklet, a product of the same ideology, shall open doors in the field of academics for you and help you make a choice beyond your core curriculum.

This booklet includes information about various courses of minor tracks offered by varied Faculty of VU, which you can choose from. We believe that since learning is a vital part of a student's life, it is imperative that you opt for courses that will make the whole process of learning more cordial and meaningful. This booklet, therefore, strives to give you the exposure that you need before deciding on the minor track course to be chosen.

To survive and sustain in the competitive advantage, one expertise is not enough, we believe that this booklet is a complete guide to unearthing the minor track courses in the varied interdisciplinary field and following a passion you couldn't otherwise. We are open to suggestions and ideas from your side to improve this booklet.



CONCEPT NOTE ON MINOR TRACK COURSES

VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY is offering more than 20 MINOR TRACK COURSES.

MINOR TRACK COURSES enable the students to satisfy their scholastic needs and aspirations as the system provides enhanced learning opportunities through an interdisciplinary curriculum. The initiative of MINOR Track Courses at VU is with a goal to nurture the passion of students along with the provision of acquiring a specialized skillset. The state-of-art skillset which is the need of the hour has been provided by varied faculty of VU. It enables a student to obtain a degree by accumulating the required number of credits prescribed for that degree as per the model framework for programme structure of the programme of study. It offers flexibility, as the student, apart from the core courses, has a choice in selecting courses (as electives, relevant to the Faculty/ Department of study). The aim is also to provide students with an opportunity to undertake inter-disciplinary courses.

The interdisciplinary approach enables the integration of concepts, theories, techniques, and perspectives from two or more disciplines to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline, thereby making them holistic as well as Industry ready. The Interdisciplinary knowledge has become evident in most of the universities worldwide which helps the student to develop not only academically, but also holistically.

Minor Track Courses are interdisciplinary programmes that transcend barriers of disciplines to provide a holistic learning experience through development of mental flexibility that prepares students to be lifelong learners. They Promote intellectual rigour by providing a holistic approach to the study of complex issues and ideas at a national and international platform. Nurturing of passion can be availed by enrolling into MINOR TRACK COURSE. Most of the Ivy league and other Universities worldwide is offering MINOR TRACK COURSES in interdisciplinary subjects to name a few are Northwestern, Harvard, MIT etc which depicts the importance of MINOR for todays educational scenario.



SIGNIFICANCE OF MINOR TRACK COURSES AT VISWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

Minor track courses allow students to officially explore a department other than students' own, while at the same time getting credit for it. It adds value to students' major degree and can be a gateway to get opportunities in the field students have completed a minor track course in. Students' minor track courses can give sufficient knowledge to enable them to take part in interdisciplinary research and even pursue higher studies in such fields. Though a minor track course can be pursued simply out of genuine and deep interest in a particular department without any specific end goal in view, for the general majority, students should select it in such a way that it either suits students' major degree in a research-oriented interdisciplinary manner or in a generic way to any engineer or scientist. Basically, a Minor track course is an additional credential, a student will earn if he/ she does minimum 18-20 credits worth of additional learning in a discipline other than his/ her major discipline from the varied departments of Vishwakarma University. For example, if a major discipline is, say Psychology, students can take a minor track course in Design Thinking and Innovation.

Before students select a minor track course, one needs to find out his or her self interest towards the minor track courses offered. It is surely not easy for everyone to be crystal clear about this, but even a vague idea will help students enjoy the minor track courses and truly enrich the experience. Students can always sample courses from various departments to find their interest, but students lose the benefit of certification of excellence in doing so. They can select any minor track course from any faculty of VU but to draw the complete benefit out of it, students should look for overlap between them and the discipline so that it supplements their learning. Students should also look at how all the minor track courses fit in with each other for a more holistic approach; some departments draw up a suggested schedule of when each minor track course must be taken to reap the full benefits of the curriculum. Minor track courses allow you to officially explore a department other than your own while at the same time getting credits for it. It helps multidisciplinary learning opportunity to develop cross-functional knowledge and skills. It adds value to your major degree and can be a gateway to get opportunities in the field you have completed your minor track course in.

Pursuing a minor track course allows you to enhance your major studies and develop a side passion. It gives you an edge intellectually by introducing you to new ideas and, depending on what you choose, it can give you a professional edge, too. That extra line on your resume shows potential employers a few things. If your minor track course is related to your field, it can show potential employers that you have a depth of knowledge that sets you apart from other recent graduates in your intended industry. A minor track course unrelated to your field may show employers that you are curious and multi-faceted. Either way, a minor track course indicates that you are willing to pursue a rigorous workload and commit to finishing what you start.

Minor track courses don't count in students CPI, so students should select a minor track course based on their interest. Listed on the next page is a suggested set of minor track courses which may suit each branch. This matching is done by looking at how much overlap each discipline has with respect to other fields, so that the minor track courses can support interdisciplinary learning of each student depending on his/her career plans. Use it only as a guide and not a binding set of rules; don't let it dissuade students from pursuing what really interests students. For B.Tech students it will earn them the Honors degree by attaining more credits in the transcript but will have no effect on CPI. Minor track course will not get added in CPI but will reflect the credits in Transcript. After the completion of credits under the stipulated time period, a certificate of excellence is awarded to the student. The fact will also be reflected in the transcript for all students along with the list of courses taken, but will not have any effect on CPI.

PROCESS & TIME OF MINOR TRACK COURSES AT VU

Minor track courses are allocated to students through a pre-registration process before the start of every semester and the allocation for every minor track course is done on the basis of CPI (Cumulative Performance Index) of the student as the seats are limited in every minor course. Each student has to provide three choices for the Minor Track courses. 1 is top priority and 3 is lowest. For each Minor Track Course there should be minimum 15 students offering the course or else that particular Minor will not be available to be offered and student will be given the next choice of preferences from his/her list of minor track course choice preference. After the completion of credits under the stipulated time period, a certificate of excellence will be awarded to the student. The fact will also be reflected in the transcript for all students along with the list of courses taken but will not have any effect on CPI. The course is not self paced and to attain the certificate 75% attendance will be mandatory.

All Minor track course sessions will be commenced after regular academic sessions. This will not have any conflicting session with Minor track course and regular sessions. The time for the Minor Courses will be after the Major courses class hours. The courses will mostly be at 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the evening slot. The courses are offered by most of the Faculty of Vishwakarma University which has been enlisted below. No extra Fee will be charged for the Minor track course offered. It's completely free of cost. Only the material cost incurred, if any, will be borne by the students.



MINOR TRACK COURSE & IT'S COMPOSITE COURSES AT DIFFERENT FACULTY OF VU

This section gives a comprehensive description of the minor tracks, and the course contents covered in various faculty.

Faculty	Departments of VU	Minor Track Courses Offered	Total Credits
Faculty of Science & Technology	Department of Computer Sciences	Web and Mobile Application Development	18
	Department of Computer Engineering	Cyber Security	18
		Internet of Things (IoT)	18
		Virtual and Augmented Reality	18
		Data Science	18
Department of Mechanical Engineering	Robotics Electric Vehicles	18 18	
Department of Statistics	Data Analytics	18	
Faculty of Travel & Tourism		Tourism Management	18
Faculty of Pharmacy		Pharmaceutical Sciences	20
Faculty of Commerce & Management	MBA	Fintech	18
		Public Policy & Administration	18
		Healthcare Management	18
		Leadership Strategy	18
		Agri Business Management	18
		Customer Relationship Management	18
		Digital Marketing	18
		Project Management	18
	Services Management	18	
	BBA	Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development	18
Family Business		18	
School of Art & Design		Design Thinking & Innovations	20
Faculty of Communication Studies		Media Omnibus	20

HONORS PROGRAM AT VU

Honors/ Honour is an additional credential a student will earn if he/ she opts for the extra credits needed for this in his/ her own discipline from their respective department who are offering. The concerned department specifies the course requirements for earning the Honors. An Honors is like a specialisation in student's own discipline. Honors courses are either advanced level courses in a student's discipline or are courses designed to give students more exposure to different areas of their discipline. On successful accumulation of credits at the end of the programme, this will be mentioned in the Degree Certificate "Bachelor of Technology in xxx, with honours." The fact will also be reflected in the transcript, along with the list of courses, etc. taken. Students can register for an Honor and minortrack course both together if students have a CPI>8 with no backlogs. The respective Honors are offered within the framework prescribed by the regulatory authorities such as University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and others, as applicable.

ADVANTAGE OF HONORS AT VISWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

Honor courses are either advanced level courses in a department or are courses designed to give students more exposure to different areas in the respective department. They help students get deeper knowledge in the respective discipline to better prepare students for higher studies or to take a job in a certain specialized area, so that students can compete. Students are likely to develop strong subject skills by completing an honors successfully and sincerely. Undergraduate classes will introduce students to a wide breadth of topics and challenges, and an Honors project enables students to explore one in much greater depth. Honors research topics are varied and negotiable – if students are really interested in a topic and want to learn more about it, students will be encouraged and supported. From a potential employer's perspective, whatever a student's discipline, it appears laudable to have demonstrated ability in achieving a complex and demanding goal and having in-depth knowledge in the respective discipline. Honor courses also will help students if they want to pursue further studies or research in the future. The deeper understanding and chance to explore sub-domains assists in making an informed choice about the topic of future exploration. Also if students have deeper knowledge in their specialization, there are higher chances that students profile will get noticed by universities for their MS/PhD programs. To complete the honors, 18-20 credits must be completed by tagging courses in the department as honor electives and they count in CPI.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Minor Track Course at VU?

A Minor track course is an additional credential, a student will earn if he/ she does minimum 18-20 credits worth of additional learning in a discipline other than his/ her major discipline from the varied departments of Vishwakarma University. For example, if a major discipline is say Psychology, student can take a minor track courses in Design Thinking and Innovation.

2. Why should I take up Minor Track Course?

Minor track courses allow you to officially explore a department other than your own while at the same time getting credit for it. It helps multidisciplinary learning opportunity to develop cross-functional knowledge and skills. It adds value to your major degree and can be a gateway to get opportunities in the field you have completed your minor track course in. Your minor track courses can give you sufficient knowledge to enable you to take part in interdisciplinary research and even pursue your higher studies in such fields. Though a minor track courses can be pursued simply out of genuine and deep interest in a particular department without any specific end goal in view, for the general majority, you should select it in such a way that it either suits your major degree in a research-oriented interdisciplinary manner or in a generic way.

3. What benefits will a Minor Track Course bring to my Career?

Pursuing a minor track course allows you to enhance your major studies and develop a side passion. It gives you an edge intellectually by introducing you to new ideas and, depending on what you choose, it can give you a professional edge, too. That extra line on your resume shows potential employers a few things. If your minor track course is related to your field, it can show potential employers that you have a depth of knowledge that sets you apart from other recent graduates in your intended industry. A minor track course unrelated to your field may show employers that you are curious and multi-faceted. Either way, a minor track course indicates that you are willing to pursue a rigorous workload and commit to finishing what you start.

4. What is the Process of taking up a Minor Track Course?

Minor track courses are allocated to students through a pre-registration process before the start of every semester and the allocation for every minor track course is done on the basis of CPI (Cumulative Performance Index) of the student as the seats are limited in every minor course. Each student has to provide three choices for the Minor Track courses. 1 is top priority and 3 is lowest.

5. How many minimum students will be there for a Minor Track Course?

For each Minor Track Course there should be minimum 15 students for offering the course or else that particular Minor will not be available to be offered and student will be given the next choice preferences from his/her list of minor track course choice preference .

6. Will I get a certificate for a Minor track course I take?

After the completion of credits under the stipulated time period, a certificate of excellence is awarded to the student. The fact will also be reflected in the transcript for all students along with the list of courses taken but will not have any effect on CPI.

7. Will taking minor track course get added to CPI ?

No the Minor track course will not get added in CPI but the credits will get reflected in the transcript.

8. Will taking a Minor track course affect my regular Courses?

All Minor track course sessions will be commenced after regular academic sessions. This will not have any conflicting session with Minor track course and regular sessions.

9. Do I have to pay extra for the Minor Track Courses I pursue?

No extra Fee will be charged for the Minor track course offered. Its completely free of cost.

10. What are the minimum and maximum credits for the Minor track course I opt for?

Each department offering Minor track course will have credits ranging from 18- 20 as prescribed by AICTE.

11. What should be my road map for choosing a Minor track course?

Ask yourself exactly why you wish to take minor track course in a subject. Is this a subject you love but couldn't pursue as a major for whatever reason? Will this minor track course make you more competitive in your field? What benefits could this minor track course bring to your career in the short and long-term? For example, do you want to improve upon your foreign language skills to broaden your post-grad horizon? Or, do you want to learn how to code, run a small business, or obtain some other skillset you cannot learn from your major? Your minor track course can help you achieve your goals, but you must know what those goals are.

Do your research, talk to the faculty advisor, and take at least one sample class in your minor to help you make this important decision.

Disclaimer

The information provided in this booklet is only a guideline to the students to help them design their own course combinations with their choices in the minor track courses they take in the various departments of Vishwakarma University. This is the unique and important feature of the Vishwakarma University academic system Involving the Minor track courses. This document is likely to be amended from time to time in accordance with the decisions of the Academic Council.

MINOR TRACK COURSE TEAM

Dr. Kailas Patil

Mr. Sandeep R Kapse

Dr. Pooja Kulkarni

Mr. Divyanshu Priyadarshi

Mrs. Bindurani Ram

Mrs Shraddha Jadhav

Dr. Archana Singh

Contact us on minors@vupune.ac.in

Vishwakarma University, Pune

Survey No. 2, 3, 4 Laxmi Nagar, Kondhwa (Bk.) Pune - 411048. Maharashtra, India.

Email: admissions@vupune.ac.in | connect@vupune.ac.in | **Contact Us :** +91 90670 022 23 / 24 / 25

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