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Director (Curriculum)

Academics Division

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SUBJECT: REVISED CURRICULUM FOR DEGREE PROGRAMS IN PAKISTAN STUDIES

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, as mandated by its law, provides guidance to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on curricula for tertiary education levels in alignment with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). To address evolving academic trends and market demands, HEC has revised the curricular standards for Pakistan Studies degree programs at NQF levels 5, 6 and 7. These updated standards are intricately aligned with HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 (2023) and Graduate Education Policy (2023), ensuring coherence with national priorities and adherence to international benchmarks.

02. The revised curricula for Pakistan Studies degree programs (attached), incorporating the option of various specializations with advanced electives, are hereby notified. Universities offering these programs are advised to align their Pakistan Studies curricula with these updated standards at the earliest. The finalized course content should be developed according to the curriculum framework provided and be submitted electronically to this office. An electronic copy of this document can be found on HEC's official website.

03. Through effective implementation of these standards, HEC aims to equip Pakistan Studies graduates with a deep understanding of the nation's history, politics, society, and culture, enabling them to excel in public service, research, and advocacy, promote Pakistan's interests, and drive positive change locally and globally.

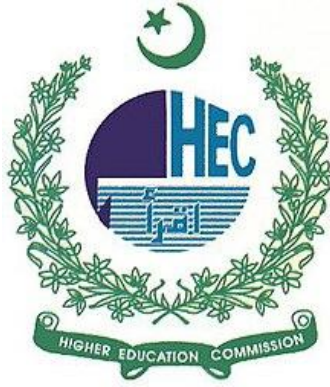
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**CURRICULUM
FOR
PAKISTAN STUDIES DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Associate Degree
Bachelor of Science
Master of Philosophy / Master of Science

2025

Academics Division
Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
Government of Pakistan

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PREFACE

The curriculum serves as a comprehensive blueprint for the teaching-learning process that students must navigate to achieve specific academic objectives. This encompasses clearly defined prior learning requirements, program objectives, scheme of studies, and course learning outcomes. As knowledge rapidly evolves and new fields emerge, it is crucial to continually develop and revise curricula to ensure they remain current, relevant, and impactful.

As mandated by its law through Clause 10-1 (a), (l), (s), and (v), the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has been developing and periodically updating curricula through its National Curriculum Revision Committees (NCRCs). These committees are generally composed of subject matter experts, researchers, and representatives from accreditation bodies, professional councils, and industry. In response to the evolving needs, HEC has undertaken the task to develop robust standards for the curricula of degree programs in Pakistan Studies at levels 5-7 of the National Qualifications Framework. These standards are meticulously structured in accordance with the HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 (2023) and Graduate Education Policy (2023), ensuring alignment with both national priorities and international educational standards.

The degree programs in Pakistan Studies are designed to develop students' critical understanding of Pakistan's history, politics, society, culture, and geography. These programs offer a comprehensive foundation in Pakistan's historical, social, and cultural contexts, equipping graduates with analytical, interpretive, and research skills essential for academic inquiry, civic engagement, and informed citizenship. The curricular standards, developed by academic experts and practitioners from across the country, aim to elevate the quality and relevance of Pakistan Studies education by promoting scholarly excellence, critical thinking, and ethical academic practice. Through these programs, graduates will be prepared for diverse career pathways in education, research, public service, policy, media, cultural heritage, and other sectors where knowledge of Pakistan's history, society, and culture is essential.

With the support of universities in implementing these standards, HEC envisions a future where Pakistan Studies graduates contribute meaningfully to national development, informed citizenship, and global understanding through critical engagement with Pakistan's history, politics, society, and culture, and its relevance to contemporary challenges.

Dr. Amjad Hussain

Director General

Academics Division

Higher Education Commission

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Minimum Standards

The curricular standards and guidelines prescribed under this policy are mandatory at minimum level. Universities or the concerned departments may however set higher standards provided that the standards prescribed herein are not reduced or compromised.

Course Sequence, Titles and Credits

For Bachelor of Science and Master of Philosophy / Master of Science, the sequence of courses prescribed under this policy document is logically arranged and is suggestive only. The offering department may rearrange the sequence and alter the course titles and credits provided that the essence of the courses prescribed in policy remains intact. The department may add more courses as and when required subject to approval of university's relevant statutory body.

Course Syllabus

This document serves as a comprehensive guideline delineating the course learning outcomes (CLOs) for each course offered in the Bachelor of Science and Master of Philosophy / Master of Science in Pakistan Studies as minimum standards. The offering department is mandated to meticulously prepare, modify, and tailor the syllabus of each course, ensuring alignment with the stipulated learning outcomes. It is in this regard imperative that the department utilizes instructional, reference, and reading materials that it deems appropriate to effectively meet the CLOs.

General Education

For Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies, the courses prescribed for General Education component must mandatorily be offered with the same titles and credits as prescribed under HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. The concerned departments may adopt and follow the learning outcomes and study contents developed by HEC for these courses as available on its website.

Requirement of Internship

It is a mandatory degree award requirement of three (03) credit hours for Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies relations. Internship of six (06) to eight (08) weeks (preferably undertaken during semester or summer break) must be graded by a faculty member in collaboration with the supervisor in the field. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional course work, capstone or project work.

Requirement of Capstone Project

It is a mandatory degree award requirement of three (03) credit hours for Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies. A capstone project is multifaceted body of work that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. The capstone project must be supervised and graded by a faculty member as per the protocols prescribed by the concerned department. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional course work or internship.

Associate Degree

The eligibility criteria and the first-four semesters of the Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies as prescribed in this policy document guide the admission requirement and the structure of Associate Degree in Pakistan Studies. Field experience / internship is not a mandatory requirement for the Associate Degree in Pakistan Studies.

Electives

- a) In accordance with the National Qualifications Framework, the department is required to offer at least 7 electives comprised of 21 credit hours i.e., minimum of 25% of the major i.e., Pakistan Studies comprised of 83 credit hours, to meet the criteria of nomenclature with specialization. Where the department increases the range of major beyond 83, the number of electives will accordingly be adjusted.
- b) Where the electives are opted from the general pool, the degree will be awarded as BS Pakistan Studies in its generic form and without any specialization. Example: Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies.
- c) Where the electives are opted from within a single specialization domain, the degree will be offered as Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies (with name of specialization) in accordance with the National

Qualifications Framework (2015). Example: Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies (Society and Culture), Bachelor of Studies Pakistan Studies (Economy and Development) etc.

- d) Subject to approval of the relevant statutory body, the department may develop additional specializations other than those prescribed in this document. It should however be noted that offering of the degree program with specialization is prescribed in this document as an option only and not as a mandatory requirement or a binding on the offering department. In view of this, the department concerned may consider offering the degree program with specialization or not, in accordance with its available academic, human and infrastructural resources

Entry and Exit Provisions at Undergraduate Level

a. Pathway for Graduates with Associate Degree

- a) Students having completed Associate Degree in Pakistan Studies are allowed admission in the fifth semester of the Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies with or without any deficiency course up-to a maximum of 6 credit hours as determined by the admitting university / department.
- b) Students having completed Associate Degree in any discipline related to the field of Pakistan Studies shall be required to complete deficiency courses up-to a maximum of 18 credit hours as determined by the admitting university / department.
- c) In case where the deficiency courses are more than 18 credit hours, the concerned university may decide not to offer admission in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.
- d) The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in above cases is 2.00/4.00 CGPA in the prior qualification i.e., Associate Degree. The admitting university may, however, set higher eligibility criteria for admission in the fifth semester of Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies.

b. Pathway for Graduates with Conventional BSc/Equivalent Degree Programs

- a) Students having completed two-year conventional BSc/equivalent degree programs are allowed admission in the fifth semester of Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies in which case, such students shall be required to complete deficiency courses up-to a maximum of 21 credit hours as determined by the admitting university.
- b) In case where the deficiency courses are more than 21 credit hours, the concerned university may decide to not offer admission, in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.
- c) The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in this case is 45% cumulative score in the prior qualification i.e., two-year conventional BSc/equivalent degree programs. The admitting university may however set higher eligibility criteria for admission in the fifth semester of Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies.

Exiting from Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies with the Associate Degree

Students enrolled in Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies are allowed to exit the program with the Associate Degree provided that the requirements specified in this policy document for the Associate Degree in Pakistan Studies are met.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PAKISTAN STUDIES

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies program is designed in accordance with the Higher Education Commission's (HEC) Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 (2023), to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of Pakistan's history, culture, politics, and economy. The program covers a wide range of topics, including the country's struggle for independence, its constitutional and political development, and its relations with other countries. Students will also explore Pakistan's social, economic, and cultural landscape, gaining insights into the country's challenges and opportunities. Through coursework, research, and critical analysis, students will develop a nuanced understanding of Pakistan's past, present, and future, preparing them for careers in the various fields of Pakistan Studies.

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE

To ensure uniformity, the standard nomenclature of four-year undergraduate degree programs in Pakistan Studies must be **“Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies”** with its short form as **“BS Pakistan Studies”**.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the completion of Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies, the graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of Pakistan's history, culture, and society, and be able to analyze the country's development and challenges.
- Critically evaluate Pakistan's political & constitutional, economic, and social systems, environment & climate change and assess the country's role in regional and global affairs.
- Develop strong research and analytical skills, enabling them to investigate and address complex issues related to Pakistan's development and governance.
- Acquire the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to pursue careers in the fields of Pakistan Studies.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Higher Secondary School Certificate (involving 12 years of schooling) or an IBCC equivalent qualification is the basic eligibility requirement for admission in the Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies. The admitting university may set minimum eligibility scores and may conduct entry / admission test through its own testing body or an external testing services provider of repute as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies is structured in accordance with the provisions of the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. and comprises of minimum 135 credit hours spread over eight (08) regular semesters as elaborated below. Universities may offer courses up-to maximum of 148 credit hours provided that the total number of credit hours are reasonably set to achieve the Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) without putting undue burden on students.

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Minimum Credit Hours | | 135 |
| General Education Courses | | 34 credit hours (15 courses) |
| Discipline Related Courses / Major | a. Compulsory | 62 credit hours (21 courses) |
| | b. Mandatory Electives | Mandatory courses as reflected in the scheme of study, irrespective of the area of specialization (where applicable). |
| | Total Major Requirement | 21 credit hours (7 courses) (to be opted from either general pool of electives or from a particular specialization) |
| Interdisciplinary / Allied Courses | | 83 credit hours (28 courses) |
| Internship | | 12 credit hours (4 courses) |
| Capstone Project | | 3 credit hours |
| Program Duration | | 3 credit hours |
| | | Minimum: 4 Years Maximum: 6 Years |

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | (further extendable to another year subject to approval of university's statutory body) |
| Semester Duration | 16-18 weeks for regular semesters (1-2 weeks for examination) 8-9 weeks for summer semesters (1 week for examination) |
| Course Load (per semester) | 15-18 credit hours for regular semesters. The upper range may be extended up-to 21 credit hours where required and subject to approval of the offering department. Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters (for remedial/deficiency/failure/repetition courses only) |
| 3 Credit Hours (Theory) | 3 classes (1 hour each) OR 2 classes (1.5 hour each) OR 1 class (3 hours) per week throughout the semester |
| 1 Credit Hour (Lab / Field Work) | 1 credit hour in laboratory or practical work would require lab / field contact of three hours per week throughout the semester. |

SCHEME OF STUDIES

The standard scheme of studies for Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies is given below:

| SEMESTER I | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | Pakistan Studies * | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| 2. | Geography of Pakistan | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3. | Muslim Nationalism in Subcontinent (1857-1947) | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 4. | Indus Civilization | 2 (2-0) | Major |
| 5. | Functional English * | 3 (3-0) | General Education |
| 6. | Quantitative Reasoning – I * | 3 (3-0) | General Education |
| 7. | Understanding of Holy Quran – I * | 1 (0-1) | General Education |
| Total Credits (17) | | | |

| SEMESTER II | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | History and Politics of Pakistan (1947-1969) - I | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2. | Applications of Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) * | 3 (2-1) | General Education |
| 3. | Quantitative Reasoning – II* | 3 (3-0) | General Education |
| 4. | Social Sciences ** | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| 5. | Expository Writing * | 3 (3-0) | General Education |
| 6. | Understanding of Holy Quran – II * | 1 (0-1) | General Education |
| Total Credits (15) | | | |

| SEMESTER III | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | Economic Development in Pakistan | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2. | Foreign Policy of Pakistan (1947-1990) - I | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3. | History and Politics of Pakistan (1970-todate) -II | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 4. | Arts & Humanities *** | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| 5. | Islamic Studies * (Ethics for non-Muslim students) | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| 6. | Ideology & Constitution of Pakistan * | 2 (2-0) | General Education |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------|
| 7. | Natural Science **** | 3 (2-1) | General Education |
| Total Credits (18) | | | |

| SEMESTER IV | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | Foreign Policy of Pakistan (1991-todate) - II | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2. | Public Policy and Governance in Pakistan | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3. | Research Methodology | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 4. | Civics & Community Engagement * | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| 5. | Entrepreneurship * | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| 6. | Leadership and Vision of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| Total Credits (16) | | | |

| SEMESTER V | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | Human Rights in Pakistan | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2. | Constitutional Development in Pakistan – (1947-1969) – I | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3. | Political Parties and Elections in Pakistan | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 4. | Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 5. | Interdisciplinary / IDS Course – I ***** | 3 (3-0) | Interdisciplinary |
| Total Credits (15) | | | |

| SEMESTER VI | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | Pakistan in Regional and Global Organizations | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2. | Constitutional Development in Pakistan – (1970-todate) – II | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3. | Women Empowerment in Pakistan | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 4. | Interdisciplinary / IDS Course – II ***** | 3 (3-0) | Interdisciplinary |
| 5. | Interdisciplinary / IDS Course – III ***** | 3 (3-0) | Interdisciplinary |
| Total Credits (15) | | | |

| SEMESTER VII | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | Local Government System in Pakistan | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2. | Research Methods in Social Sciences | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3. | Elective – I ***** | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 4. | Elective – II***** | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 5. | Elective – III ***** | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 6. | Interdisciplinary / IDS Course – IV ***** | 3 (3-0) | Interdisciplinary |
| Total Credits (18) | | | |

| SEMESTER VIII | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | Society and Culture of Pakistan | 3 (3-0) | Major |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|
| 2. | Elective – IV ***** | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3. | Elective – V ***** | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 4. | Elective – VI ***** | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 5. | Elective – VII ***** | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 6. | Capstone Project | 3 | Capstone |
| Total Credits (18) | | | |

- * HEC designed model courses for general education may be used by the university.
- ** HEC designed model course may be used by the university, OR the university / offering department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Social Sciences”** including but not limited to a course of Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology etc.
- *** HEC designed model course may be used by the university, OR the university / offering department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Arts & Humanities”** including but not limited to a course of regional or international language such as Chinese, Arabic, French, Spanish etc. or any other course such as Philosophy, History etc.
- **** HEC designed model course may be used by the university, OR the university / offering department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Natural Sciences”** which should have relevance to the purpose of the degree program.
- ***** The university / concerned department must offer at least 4 interdisciplinary courses from the recommended list provided in this document, or any other such course to enhance the interdisciplinary understanding of the students, keeping in view the available academic, human and infrastructural resources of the department.
- ***** Read in conjunction with guidance given on “Standard Nomenclature” in this document, the university / concerned department may offer any 7 advanced courses from either the general pool or from any one of the specializations as electives keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.

RECOMMENDED LIST OF INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

Student may opt interdisciplinary courses from the following list where required in the scheme of studies for Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies, or may opt from other departments to complement their holistic understanding of the major, provided that the same is allowed by the admitting department. The list provided here is a recommended one only, and the offering department may add more courses as and when needed, provided that the same is approved by the university’s relevant statutory body.

1. Media and Communication Studies
2. Bureaucracy in Pakistan
3. Introduction to Archaeology
4. Introduction to Philosophy
5. Introduction to Gender Studies
6. Policy Making and Decision Making in Pakistan
7. Introduction to Art and Architecture
8. Introduction to Sociology
9. A Study of Comparative Political Institutions in Pakistan
10. Parliamentary Studies
11. Introduction to Psychology
12. Muslim Political Thought in South Asia
13. Introduction to Economics
14. Political Economy of Pakistan
15. Demographic Profile of Pakistan
16. Federalism in Pakistan
17. Regional History of Pakistan
18. Introduction to Political Science
19. Introduction to International Relations

RECOMMENDED GENERAL POOL OF ELECTIVES

Students may opt for any 7 courses as electives from the following recommended general pool where required in the scheme of studies for Pakistan Studies, provided that the same is offered and allowed by the department concerned. Where all 7 courses are opted from this pool, the degree will be titled “Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies” in its generic form and without any specialization. The list provided here is a recommended one only and the department concerned may add more courses as and when needed.

1. Pakistan's Security Challenges
2. Judicial System of Pakistan
3. Social Change and Dynamics in Pakistan
4. Pakistan's Development Challenges
5. Muslim Reformist Movement in Subcontinent
6. Pakistan Relations with Muslim World
7. Language Planning and Language Problems of Pakistan
8. Introduction to Social Theories
9. Strategic Problems and Défense Policy of Pakistan
10. Federalism in Pakistan
11. Political Thought in Pakistan
12. Economic Problems of Pakistan
13. Agricultural Problems of Pakistan
14. Cultural and Social Anthropology
15. Rural Life in Pakistan
16. Urban Planning in Pakistan
17. Folklore, Arts and Crafts of Pakistan
18. Continuity and Change in Pakistani Culture
19. Islam in South Asia
20. Sufiism in Pakistan
21. Languages and Dialects of Pakistan
22. Environmental Issues of Pakistan
23. Climate Change in Pakistan
24. Balochistan: History and Politics
25. Punjab: History and Politics
26. Sindh: History and Politics
27. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: History and Politics
28. Gilgit Baltistan: History and Politics
29. Kashmir: History and Politics
30. Demographic Dynamics of Pakistan
31. Water Resources and Irrigation System in Pakistan
32. Issues of Pakistan's Economy
33. Introduction to Art and Architecture
34. Historiography in Pakistan
35. A Specialized Study of Allama Mohammad Iqbal
36. History of Art & Architecture of South Asia.
37. Political Leadership in Pakistan.
38. Role of Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in the Struggle for Pakistan
39. Political Geography of the World
40. Radicalization and Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) in Pakistan
41. Ethnicity and Politics in Pakistan
42. Museum and Historical Sites in Pakistan
43. History of Film and Performing Arts
44. Nuclear Politics in South Asia
45. Pak-China Relations

46. Pak-US Relations
47. Energy Crisis in Pakistan
48. Defense Policy of Pakistan
49. Regional and Global Challenges in Pakistan
50. Peace Studies

DEGREE AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for award of Bachelor of Science Pakistan Studies:

- a) All courses in the General Education category with titles and credit hours as prescribed in HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. must be completed.
- b) Minimum of 135 credit hours (including internship and capstone project) as prescribed in this policy document must be completed.
- c) Capstone / research project of 3 credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework or internship.
- d) Internship of 3 credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework, capstone, research or project work.
- e) CGPA must not be below 2.00/4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may, however, set higher standard in this regard.
- f) The minimum duration to complete the degree is 8 regular semesters (4 Years) and the maximum duration is 12 regular semesters (6 Years). The maximum duration may be extended to 2 more semesters (1 Year) in extraordinary circumstances subject to approval of the university's relevant statutory body. Summer semester is not considered as a regular semester.

MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS FOR PAKISTAN STUDIES

The following are a few example specialization streams in case the BS Pakistan Studies is offered with specialization (7 courses from any stream). Subject to approval of the relevant statutory body, the department may develop additional specializations other than those prescribed below or add more courses or edit the list in the given specializations. The department concerned may consider offering the degree program with specialization or otherwise, keeping in view availability of its academic, human and infrastructural resources.

1. Political History and Constitutional Development

- i. Evolution of Pakistan's Constitution
- ii. Pakistan's Political History, 1947-1971
- iii. Constitutional Development in Pakistan
- iv. Pakistan's Political System and Governance
- v. History of Pakistan's Political Parties
- vi. Pakistan's Constitutional Crises
- vii. The Making of Pakistan's Constitution, 1947-1956
- viii. Pakistan's Political Economy, 1947-Present
- ix. The Role of Military in Pakistan's Politics
- x. Pakistan's Federalism and Provincial Autonomy

2. Geography and Geo-politics

- i. Geography of Pakistan
- ii. Geo-politics of Pakistan
- iii. Pakistan's Strategic Location
- iv. Regional Geo-politics of South Asia
- v. Pakistan's Border Issues
- vi. Water Resources and Geo-politics in Pakistan
- vii. Pakistan's Energy Geo-politics
- viii. Geo-politics of Afghanistan and Pakistan
- ix. India-Pakistan Geo-political Relations
- x. China-Pakistan Geo-political Relations

3. Society and Culture

- i. Culture and Society in Pakistan
- ii. Pakistani Social Structure
- iii. Ethnicity and Identity in Pakistan
- iv. Women and Gender in Pakistan
- v. Islam and Society in Pakistan
- vi. Pakistani Literature and Culture
- vii. Media and Communication in Pakistan
- viii. Urbanization and Social Change in Pakistan
- ix. Rural Society and Development in Pakistan
- x. Cultural Heritage of Pakistan

4. Economy and Development

- i. Economy of Pakistan
- ii. Pakistan's Economic Development
- iii. Industrialization and Economic Growth in Pakistan
- iv. Agriculture and Rural Development in Pakistan
- v. Pakistan's Trade and Commerce
- vi. Fiscal and Monetary Policy in Pakistan
- vii. Human Development in Pakistan
- viii. Poverty and Inequality in Pakistan
- ix. Energy and Infrastructure Development in Pakistan
- x. Globalization and Pakistan's Economy

5. International Relations and Foreign Policy

- i. Pakistan's Foreign Policy
- ii. International Relations of Pakistan
- iii. Pakistan's Relations with Neighboring Countries
- iv. Pakistan-US Relations
- v. Pakistan-China Relations
- vi. Pakistan-India Relations
- vii. Pakistan's Role in Regional Organizations
- viii. Global Governance and Pakistan
- ix. Pakistan's National Security
- x. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy Making in Pakistan

6. Ideology and Muslim Political Thought

- i. Ideology of Pakistan
- ii. Muslim Political Thought in Pakistan
- iii. Islam and Politics in Pakistan
- iv. Pakistan's Islamic Identity
- v. Islamic Modernism and Pakistan
- vi. Islamic Revivalism and Pakistan
- vii. The Role of Islam in Pakistan's Politics
- viii. Pakistan's Islamic Institutions
- ix. Muslim Nationalism and Pakistan
- x. Islam and Democracy in Pakistan

7. Language and Literature of Pakistan

- i. Urdu Language and Literature
- ii. Pakistani Literature in English
- iii. Regional Languages of Pakistan
- iv. Classical Urdu Poetry
- v. Modern Urdu Fiction
- vi. Pakistani Poetry in English Translation
- vii. Folk Literature of Pakistan
- viii. Language Policy in Pakistan
- ix. Comparative Literature: Pakistan and the World
- x. Women's Writing in Pakistan

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY PAKISTAN STUDIES / MASTER OF SCIENCE PAKISTAN STUDIES

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Philosophy Pakistan Studies / Master of Science Pakistan Studies program is designed in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy 2023 to provide students with an advanced, research-oriented understanding of Pakistan's political, social, economic, cultural, and geopolitical dimensions, as well as the historiographical debates and methodological approaches relevant to the field. The curriculum promotes critical inquiry, intellectual independence, and scholarly engagement with both regional and comparative perspectives. Through a blend of core courses and advanced electives, students acquire in-depth knowledge of classical and contemporary issues in Pakistan Studies while developing skills in source evaluation, analytical reasoning, academic writing, and ethical research practices. Core modules in research methods and the philosophy of area studies lay the foundation for rigorous inquiry, while electives enable learners to focus on a specific theme, region, or disciplinary tradition within Pakistan Studies. Graduates are well-prepared for careers in academia, policy research, cultural institutions, civil services, heritage management, or for further doctoral studies in Pakistan Studies or related disciplines.

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE

To ensure uniformity, the standard nomenclature for all NQF level 7 qualifications in the field of Pakistan Studies will be either “**Master of Philosophy Pakistan Studies**” or “**Master of Science Pakistan Studies**” subject to approval by relevant statutory bodies of the university.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the completion of Master of Philosophy Pakistan Studies / Master of Science Pakistan Studies, the graduates will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate advanced knowledge and critical understanding of Pakistan's political, social, economic, cultural, and geopolitical dimensions.
- b) Apply research methods and analytical reasoning to evaluate sources, analyze complex issues, and develop well-informed arguments in Pakistan Studies.
- c) Engage in scholarly inquiry and intellectual discourse on Pakistan's contemporary and historical issues, demonstrating intellectual independence and critical thinking.
- d) Develop professional skills and competencies for careers in academia, policy research, cultural institutions, civil services, heritage management etc.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- a) An undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification involving 16 years of education in Pakistan Studies is the basic eligibility requirement for admission in the Master of Philosophy Pakistan Studies / Master of Science Pakistan Studies.
- b) Candidates having undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification involving 16 years of education in any discipline relevant to Pakistan Studies are also eligible for admission in the Master of Philosophy Pakistan Studies / Master of Science Pakistan Studies subject to completion of deficiency courses up-to 12 credit hours to be determined by the admitting university / department. Relevance of the prior qualification in this regard will also be determined by the admitting university / department.
- c) In addition to the basic eligibility, the admitting university is further required to conduct a rigorous admission test as an eligibility condition for admission to the program, with a passing score of 50% (OR) accept the GRE/HAT General/equivalent tests, with a passing score of 50%. The admitting university may also set minimum eligibility scores (above 50%) as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Master of Philosophy Pakistan Studies / Master of Science Pakistan Studies is structured in accordance with the provisions of the HEC Graduate Education Policy (GEP) 2023. Standard structure of the program is as under:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Credit Hours | Minimum 32 |
| Course Work | Minimum 26 credit hours (10 courses) |
| Research Work / Thesis | Minimum 6 credit hours |
| Program Duration | Minimum: 1.5 Years (3 regular semesters) Maximum: 4 Years (8 regular semesters) Note: In case a student is unable to secure an M.Phil/MS within the prescribed timeframe and claims for extension in duration, the university may constitute appropriate authority and determine the causes of delay. In the event of force majeure (i.e., delay on account of circumstance beyond the control of student), the university may grant an extension in the period of award of M.Phil/MS degree in accordance with the duration limiting factor(s) and shall also take corrective measures in case the delay is caused by process or administrative reasons. |
| Semester Duration | 16-18 weeks for regular semesters (1-2 weeks for examination) 8-9 weeks for summer semesters (1 week for examination) |
| Course Load (per semester) | 09-12 credit hours for regular semesters Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters (for remedial/deficiency/failure/repetition courses only) |
| 3 Credit Hours (Theory) | 3 classes (1 hour each) OR 2 classes (1.5 hour each) OR 1 class (3 hours) |

SCHEME OF STUDIES

The standard scheme of studies for Master of Philosophy Pakistan Studies / Master of Science Pakistan Studies is given below:

| SEMESTER I | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | Study of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal* | 3 (3-0) | Core |
| 2. | Philosophy of Social Science* | 3 (3-0) | Core |
| 3. | Elective – I ** | 3 (3-0) | Elective |
| 4. | Elective – II ** | 3 (3-0) | Elective |
| Total Credits (12) | | | |

| SEMESTER II | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | Research Methods in Social Science * | 3 (3-0) | Core |
| 2. | Government and Politics in Pakistan* | 3 (3-0) | Core |
| 3. | Elective –III ** | 3 (3-0) | Elective |
| 4. | Elective – IV ** | 3 (3-0) | Elective |
| Total Credit Hours (12) | | | |

| SEMESTER III | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1. | Understanding of Holy Quran – I *** | 1 (0-1) | General Education |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| 2. | Understanding of Holy Quran – II *** | 1 (0-1) | General Education |
| 3. | Thesis **** | 6 **** | Research |
| Total Credit Hours (08) | | | |

| SEMESTER IV | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N. | COURSE | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| | Thesis **** | Continued | Research |

- * These are the mandatory courses for the program, irrespective of the area of specialization.
- ** The university / concerned department may offer any advanced course in the field of Pakistan Studies as an elective, as per its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.
- *** These are prescribed for all NQF level 5-8 qualifications as mandated vide HEC letter No.10-01/2022/Coord(Acad)/HEC/235 dated March 28, 2025.
- **** Research work for thesis must be conducted by students individually in accordance with the university's policy as approved through its statutory bodies provided that the same is in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).

DEGREE AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for award of Master of Philosophy Pakistan Studies / Master of Science Pakistan Studies:

- a) A minimum of 26 credit hours of course work including 12 credit hours for core courses, 12 credit hours for general or specialization-oriented electives and 2 credit hours for Quranic courses as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- b) In addition, research thesis of 6 credit hours or course work of 2 courses of 6 credit hours must also be completed individually as partial fulfilment of the degree program.
- c) CGPA must not be below 2.50 / 4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may, however, set a higher standard in this regard.
- d) The minimum duration required to complete the degree is 3 regular semesters which may be extended up to a maximum of 8 regular semesters. Summer semester is not considered as a regular semester.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

(Bachelor of Science)

Geography of Pakistan

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand Pakistan's physical geography and its implications.
- b) Evaluate the impact of geography on Pakistan's economy and security.
- c) Analyse Pakistan's geo-strategic location and its regional significance.

Muslim Nationalism in Subcontinent (1857-1947)

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the growth of Muslim nationalism in the Indian Subcontinent.
- b) Evaluate key events and figures shaping Muslim identity and politics.
- c) Analyse the role of Muslim nationalism in Pakistan's creation.

Indus Civilizations

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the origins and development of Indus Valley Civilization.
- b) Evaluate the significance of Indus Civilization's culture and achievements.
- c) Analyse the legacy of Indus Civilization in Pakistan's cultural heritage.

History and Politics of Pakistan (1947-1969) – I

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand major political developments in Pakistan from 1947 to 1969.
- b) Evaluate the role of key leaders and institutions in shaping Pakistan's early years.
- c) Analyse the challenges and opportunities in Pakistan's post-independence period.

Economic Development in Pakistan

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the trends and patterns of Pakistan's economic development since independence
- b) Evaluate the impact of economic policies and planning on Pakistan's growth and development.
- c) Analyse the challenges and opportunities facing Pakistan's economy in the context of globalization and regional cooperation.

Foreign Policy of Pakistan (1947-1990) - I

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand Pakistan's foreign policy priorities and alliances from 1947 to 1990.
- b) Evaluate the impact of global and regional dynamics on Pakistan's foreign policy.
- c) Analyze the evolution of Pakistan's relationships with major powers and neighbors.

History and Politics of Pakistan (1970-todate) -II

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand major political developments in Pakistan from 1970 to present.
- b) Evaluate the impact of key events on Pakistan's politics and governance.
- c) Analyse challenges and trends shaping Pakistan's contemporary politics

Foreign Policy of Pakistan (1991-todate) - II

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand Pakistan's role in regional and global affairs since 1991.
- b) Evaluate the impact of contemporary issues on Pakistan's foreign policy
- c) Analyze Pakistan's post-Cold War foreign policy shifts and challenges.

Public Policy and Governance in Pakistan

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the public policy process in Pakistan.
- b) Evaluate the impact of governance challenges on Pakistan's development.
- c) Analyze the role of institutions in shaping public policy and governance.

Research Methodology

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand research tools and techniques in Pakistan Studies.
- b) Apply research skills to analyze and interpret data on Pakistan-related topics.

- c) Develop critical thinking and analytical skills for research in Pakistan Studies.

Leadership and Vision of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Describe Quaid-i-Azam's leadership and vision for Pakistan.
- b) Discuss the role of Quaid in the creation of Pakistan and early development.
- c) Identify the relevance of Quaid's principles and values in contemporary Pakistan.

Human Rights in Pakistan

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand key human rights concepts and frameworks in Pakistan.
- b) Evaluate Pakistan's human rights situation and challenges faced by minorities/marginalized communities.
- c) Critical analysis of the role of state and society in promoting and protecting human rights in Pakistan.

Constitutional Development in Pakistan – (1947-1969) - I

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the challenges and implications of constitutional development in Pakistan's early years.
- b) Analyze the constitutional evolution of Pakistan.
- c) Evaluate key constitutional documents and their impacts.

Political Parties and Elections in Pakistan

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Analyze the role of political parties in Pakistan's democratic process.
- b) Evaluate the impact of elections on Pakistan's political landscape.
- c) Understand the challenges and opportunities for democracy in Pakistan.

Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the evolution of civil-military relations in Pakistan.
- b) Evaluate the impact of military interventions on Pakistan's politics and governance.
- c) Analyze the challenges faced by parliamentary democracy in Pakistan.

Pakistan in Regional and Global Organizations

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand Pakistan's membership and role in regional organizations like SAARC, ECO, and SCO etc.
- b) Evaluate Pakistan's participation in global organizations like UN, WTO, and OIC etc.
- c) Analysis of the Pakistan's foreign policy priorities and challenges in regional and global contexts.

Constitutional Development in Pakistan – (1970-todate) - II

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the constitutional developments in Pakistan from 1970 to present.
- b) Evaluate the impact of constitutional amendments on Pakistan's governance and politics.
- c) Analyze the challenges and prospects of constitutionalism in Pakistan.

Women Empowerment in Pakistan

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the role of women in Pakistan's social, economic, and political development.
- b) Analyze the status and challenges of women empowerment in Pakistan.
- c) Evaluate policies and initiatives for promoting women's rights and empowerment.

Local Government System in Pakistan

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the evolution and structure of local government systems in Pakistan.
- b) Evaluate the impact of local government systems on decentralization and governance.
- c) Analyse challenges and opportunities for effective local governance in Pakistan.

Research Methods in Social Sciences

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand research tools and techniques in Social Sciences.
- b) Apply research skills to analyze and interpret data on Pakistan-related topics.
- c) Develop critical thinking and analytical skills for research in Social Sciences.

Society and Culture of Pakistan

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the diversity and complexity of Pakistan's society and culture.

- b) Evaluate the role of culture, ethnicity, and religion in shaping Pakistani identity.
- c) Analyze social issues and challenges facing Pakistani society today.

(Master of Philosophy / Master of Science)

Study of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Understand the lives, thoughts, and contributions of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal.
- b) Describe their roles in shaping Pakistan's intellectual and political landscape.
- c) Analyse the relevance of their ideas to contemporary issues in Pakistan and beyond.

Philosophy of Social Science

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Understand major philosophical perspectives on the nature, methods, and goals of social science inquiry.
- b) Evaluate key debates about hermeneutics, positivism, post-positivism, structuralism, post-structuralism, functionalism etc. in social science.
- c) Analyse the theoretical practices of philosophical foundations and their relevance to Pakistan Studies.

Research Methods in Social Science

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand research methods, tools and techniques in Social Science.
- b) Apply research skills to evaluate and analyze data.
- c) Develop critical thinking and analytical skills for research in Social Science.

Government and Politics in Pakistan

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Understand the major institutions and processes that shape government and politics.
- b) Evaluate the effectiveness and legitimacy of different political systems/governments and policy decisions.
- c) Analyse contemporary governance, political issues, and SDGs relevance to Pakistan.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF NCRC PAKISTAN STUDIES

- Pakistan Studies department needs to be separated from History department, where there are programs of Pakistan Studies being operationalized at the level of BS, MPhil/MS and PhD.
- Consider the course of “Ideology and Constitution of Pakistan” under the domain of Pakistan Studies.
- Departments, Centers and Institutes of Pakistan Studies should be under the faculty of Social Science.
- The compulsory course of “Pakistan Studies” should be of 3 credit hours.