



***NISHTAR MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
MD / MS / MDS
LEVEL - IV
REGULATIONS - 2026***

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Nishtar Medical University, Multan
MD/ MS/ MDS Level – IV Regulation 2026

1. SHORT TITLE, COMMENCEMENT, AND APPLICATION:

These regulations may be called the Supra-Specialty MS/MD/MDS Regulations 2026. These shall come into force at once and shall apply to all students/candidates who are registered with NMU for MS/MD/ MDS Level-IV courses.

2. DEFINITION:

In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expression shall have the meaning hereby respectively assigned to them that is to say:

- i. **Act** means Nishtar Medical University Act 2017
- ii. **Applicant** means a person who applies for admission into MS or MD or MDS Level-IV program.
- iii. **Assessment** means a formally defined process within the curriculum in which the candidates' progress in the training program is assessed and measured using a range of defined and validated and reliable assessment tools.
- iv. **Availed Attempt** means the candidate appeared in person in whole or part of the examination during the permissible attempts.
- v. **Syndicate** means the Syndicate of Nishtar Medical University, Multan
- vi. **Candidate** means a person who will be selected for training in MS or MD or MDS Level-IV Program.
- vii. **Candidates' Training Portfolio** means a professional development portfolio to track progress in the training program. It shall consist of a record of the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and attitudes.
- viii. **Continuous Internal Assessments (CIA)** means the candidate's training portfolio assessment and the supervisor's annual review report on these assessments.
- ix. **Curriculum** means the courses of study.
- x. **Examiner** means examiner of written and clinical examinations of MS/MD/MDS Level-IV Programs.
- xi. **Government** means the Government of Punjab.
- xii. **Institute** means the constituent medical and dental colleges and hospitals in which MS/MD/MDS Level-IV training is being done.

- xiii. **MD** means Doctor of Medicine (Level-IV)
- xiv. **MS** means Master of Surgery (Level-IV)
- xv. **MDS** means Master of Dental Surgery (Level-IV)
- xvi. **Program** means each and every component of training for the University of Health Sciences University's degrees of MS/MD/MDS Level-IV.
- xvii. **Program Format** means the whole plan of training and assessment for MS/MD/MDS Level-IV Degrees and this shall be referred to as Program Format.
- xviii. **PPGAC** mean Provincial Post Graduate Admission Committee
- xix. **SHC&MED** means Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department, Lahore
- xx. **Supervisor** means a person who supervises MS or MD or MDS Level-IV candidates during training.
- xxi. **Supra-specialty program** means post-MS/MD/MDS/FCPS/Equivalent foreign qualification acquired in any discipline where the candidate has already achieved Level-III specialization.
- xxii. **Trainee** means the candidate who has been selected in a program of study and registered with the relevant department.
- xxiii. **Training Program** means training of medical and dental graduates in achieving generic and specialty specific competencies of their chosen discipline, leading to Level-IV degree of MS or MD or MDS.
- xxiv. **University** means the Nishtar Medical University, Multan
- xxv. **Un-availed Attempt** means an attempt in which the candidate did not appear in person for any reason subsequent to becoming eligible for the same. The said attempt shall be counted towards the number of permissible attempts.
- xxvi. **Workplace Based Assessments** mean assessment of generic and specialty specific competencies at the workplace like multisource feedback evaluation and assessment of candidates' training portfolio.

3. NAMES & DURATION OF PROGRAMS

- i. Level-IV MS/MD/MDS courses shall not be less than of 2 years' duration but not more than of 3 years' duration.
- ii. Level-IV courses shall be offered in supra-specialties approved by the Syndicate NMU from time to time and being offered by SHC&MED through CIP.

4. ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

- i. **Eligibility:** The applicant on the last date of submission of applications for admission must possess the:
 - a. Eligibility criteria will be in accordance with the defined by Provincial Postgraduate Admission Committee for CIP.
 - b. MS/MD/MDS OR any other equivalent degree recognized by PMDC as a level-III qualification if the PGAC includes that to in eligibility criteria.
 - c. Two research papers published in Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)/Higher Education Commission (HEC)/Journal Citation Reports (JCR) recognized journals in the relevant specialty.
 - d. Valid certificate of permanent or provisional registration with Pakistan Medical & Dental Council/ Pakistan Medical Commission.
- ii. The admission process in public sector institutions shall be central and in accordance with the policies of the Government.
- iii. For institutes under Central Induction Policy (CIP), admissions shall be advertised by Government of Punjab through Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department/Authorized body in the print and electronic media in accordance with governing policies.
- iv. Provincial PGAC may time to time change the admission criteria
- v. The intake into any program shall not be inconsistent with the regulations of PMDC and policies of the Government as the case may be.
- vi. Allocation of the supervisor shall be done by the Program Faculty Committee.

5. REGISTRATION

- i. Each candidate should be registered at NMU within 30 working days after induction.
- ii. Failing in getting registered at NMU, will result in cancelation of admission.

6. PROGRAM FORMAT

- i. The course shall consist of 2 or 3 years' duration.

- ii. The Exit Examination shall be held only after completion of the prescribed training period of 2 or 3 years as the case may be.
- iii. MS/MD/MDS-Level IV degrees shall be research-intensive degrees. A candidate shall be awarded degree only after completion of research thesis and its successful defense.

7. MANDATORY WORKSHOPS

- i. All postgraduate trainees will be required to undergo Mandatory Workshops for Postgraduate Trainees Level IV/Supervisors to be conducted by Department of Medical Education (DME), NMU within two months of registration of the candidates.
- ii. The mandatory Workshops for the Level – IV trainees are given below;
 - a. Advanced Research Methodology and Biostatistics
 - b. Skills in Scientific Writing and Publication containing IT & Artificial Intelligence

8. MANDATORY CLINICAL ROTATIONS:

- i. All the trainees will have to attend the specialty specific mandatory rotations to become eligible for appearing in the examination.
- ii. The number and duration of clinical rotations shall be decided by the Departmental Program Faculty Committee.
- iii. The schedule of clinical rotations shall be submitted to the Registrar Office within one month of the induction of trainee.

9. SYNOPSIS:

- i. The candidate will submit synopsis for approval within the first 06 months' period of induction according to the prescribed framework under the prevailing institutional regulatory requirements for submission of synopsis.
- ii. In case of failure to submit the synopsis for approval within the first 06 months after induction in the program, an additional grace period of 07 days may be granted by the Vice Chancellor.
- iii. Any difficulty faced by the candidate to submit the synopsis should be brought to the notice of the Registrar for remediation before completion of 05 months from the time of induction. The Registrar would issue 02 fortnightly reminders to the appropriate person/ forum and in case of failure, shall bring it to the notice of VC and submit its report to the Academic Council.

- iv. In case of non – submission of synopsis within 6 months, the candidate shall not be allowed to continue in the training program. The stipend/ scholarship if any shall be stopped and the post shall fall vacant.
- v. The candidate will submit certificate of successful submission of synopsis to the Registrar office according to the schedule.

9. EXIT EXAMINATION

- i. Exit examination shall be conducted for the candidates getting training in all MD/MS/MDS Level-IV courses at the end of course.
- ii. To appear in Level-IV Exit Examination, a candidate shall be required to submit following through his/her program director:
 - a. Certificate of achieving 85% attendance in the training program.
 - b. Certificate of achieving 75% Internal Assessment score. The score once submitted can neither be revoked nor revised.
 - c. Candidate remained on institution roll during the period approved for appearing in examination.
 - d. Certificate of completion of mandatory workshops.
 - e. Certificate of completion of 2 or 3-year training programs signed by Supervisor, Head(s) of parent department and that department where rotations were done (if prescribed in the curriculum).
 - f. Evidence of payment of examination fees as prescribed by the University from time to time.
 - g. Certificates submitted through Program Director shall be accepted as valid towards the candidature of an applicant.
 - h. The examination fee once deposited cannot be refunded / carried over to the next examination under any circumstances.
 - i. Exit Examination will be held twice a year i.e. at least six months apart.
 - j. There will be a minimum period of 30 days between last date for submission of application for the examination and the conduct of examination.
 - k. The total marks of Exit Examination shall be 800.
 - l. The format of examination will be as below;

No	Assessment	Marks
1	Written Examination	300
2	Clinical Examination	300
3	Thesis	300
4	Continuous Internal Assessment	100
	TOTAL	1000

A. WRITTEN EXAMINATION: (300 Marks)

- i. Written examination shall be based on prescribed curriculum.
- ii. The written examination will consist of two papers of 100 marks each.
- iii. Paper – I shall contain 100 "single best answer" type Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), each carrying 1.5 mark.
- iv. Paper – II shall contain 15 "Short Answer Questions" (SAQs), each carrying 10 marks.
- v. The candidates scoring 60% marks in each paper separately shall be declared pass and shall be eligible to appear in the clinical examination.
- vi. Marks obtained in one paper shall not compensate the marks in the other paper.
- vii. Candidates who pass the written examination shall be allowed a maximum of Three (03) consecutive attempts whether availed or un-availed to pass the Clinical examination.
- viii. In case of failure to pass the Clinical examination within stipulated attempts the credit of passing the written examination shall stand withdrawn and the candidate shall have to take the entire examination including written examination, afresh.

B. CLINICAL EXAMINATION: (300 Marks)

- i. The Clinical Examination will evaluate patient care competencies in detail.
- ii. A panel of examiners will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor.
- iii. The examination will be based on
 - a. 10 Stations of TOACS Total = 100 Marks
 - b. One Long Case of 100 marks Total = 100 Marks
 - c. Four Short Cases of 25 marks each Total = 100 Marks
- iv. Each long case shall be examined by at least two examiners.
- v. The candidate shall have to score 60% marks in each component of Clinical Examination separately (TOACS, Long Case & Short Cases) to be declared pass in the clinical examination.

C. CONTINUOUS INTERNAL ASSESSMENT: (100 Marks)

- i. Continuous Internal Workplace Based Assessments will be done by the supervisors, that may be based on:
 - a. Log Book
 - b. Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) Proforma
 - c. Mini Clinical Evaluation Exercise (CEX) Proforma
 - d. Case based Discussion (CbD) Proforma
 - e. Attendance
- ii. The Supervisor will have to submit trainee's CIA after every 6 months.
- iii. The cumulative score of all training years will be added together to provide a final cumulative score of Continuous Internal Assessments of all the trainees by the Head of the department(s) to the Registrar office for forwarding it to the Examination Department.
- iv. An Internal assessment score of 75% shall be required to appear in Exit Examination.

D. THESIS: (300 MARKS)

- i. The Thesis shall be prepared according to the institute's approved guidelines for Thesis writing.
- ii. Submission of Thesis is a prerequisite for taking Final Theory Examination. A candidate will submit his thesis at least 06 months prior to completion of training.
- iii. The Thesis shall be submitted to the Controller of Examinations through Head of the Institute, duly signed by the Supervisor and Head of Department.
- iv. The Controller Examinations will ensure that Thesis is complete in every respect.
- v. Examiners shall be appointed by the Vice Chancellor on the recommendation of Controller of Examinations from a panel approved by Board of Advanced Studies and Research NMU for Thesis Evaluation.
- vi. The supervisor shall not act as an examiner of the candidate and will not take part in evaluation of thesis.
- vii. All MD/ MS/ MDS thesis shall be evaluated by two local examiners and an External/ Foreign examiner.
- viii. The Controller of Examination will make sure that the Thesis is submitted to examiners in appropriate fashion and a reminder is sent after every ten days.
- ix. The thesis will be evaluated by the examiners within a period of 06 weeks.

- x. In case the examiners fail to complete the task within 06 weeks with 02 fortnightly reminders by the Controller of Examinations, the Controller of Examinations will bring it to the notice of Vice Chancellor in person.
- xi. In case of difficulty in finding an internal examiner for thesis evaluation, the Vice Chancellor would, in consultation with the concerned Deans, appoint any relevant person as examiner.
- xii. There will be two internal and two external examiners. In case of difficulty in finding examiners, the Vice chancellor would, in consultation with the concerned Deans, appoint minimum of three, one internal and two external examiners.
- xiii. Thesis defense shall be held after approval of evaluation reports by Board of Advance Studies and Research (BASR).
- xiv. Thesis defense shall be held after approval of evaluation reports by BASR NMU.
- xv. Thesis defense shall be conducted by two local examiners who evaluated Thesis of the candidate.
- xvi. The candidate scoring 60% marks in Thesis defense examination will be declared as pass in the examination.

9. SUPERVISOR AND EXAMINER

- i. Only those faculty members shall be eligible to supervise a candidate who:
 - a. Hold Level IV Qualification i.e. FCPS, MS/MD/MDS or equivalent qualification as determined by PM&DC/Relevant Authority.
Or
Level III Qualification like MS/MD/MDS, FCPS or equivalent qualification as determined by PM&DC/Relevant Authority
- ii. For individuals holding a Level IV qualification, a minimum of three years of post-qualification teaching experience in the relevant specialty is required.
- iii. For individuals holding a Level III qualification, a minimum of five years of post-qualification teaching experience in the relevant specialty is required.
- iv. Have successfully attended the prescribed workshops as notified from time to time by the University
- v. Have submitted required number of quality evaluation items as notified from time to time by the University (currently 25 MCQs and 10 TOACS station)
- vi. A pool of examiners shall be developed and the preference shall be given to faculty members who are registered with University as Clinical Postgraduate Supervisor as per criteria mentioned above.
- vii. The retired faculty members, who fulfill the mentioned criteria, will also be included in the examiner's pool.

- viii. The pool of the examiners shall be a dynamic body and shall be revised as and when needed by Competent Authority/Controller Examinations based on feedbacks.
- ix. All the appointments of examiners shall be confidential, and examiners shall be bound to keep it confidential.
- x. In the case of discrepancy of more than 50% among the awards by two independent examiners, an additional / third examiner appointed by the Competent Authority will assess the candidate and the result shall be considered as mean of awards by all three examiners.
- xi. No examiner shall be allowed to examine the trainee who is working/have worked under his supervision. It includes but is not limited to Clinical examinations, Thesis examination, etc. In such cases, the examiner/supervisor shall immediately declare the matter in writing to Convener in order to have alternate assessors for his/her trainee(s).

10. MONITORING

- i. Academic and clinical domains of the training programs shall be monitored through QEC of NMU.
- ii. Logbook shall be mandatory and it should be maintained throughout the training as per academic roster (to be evaluated as part of Exit Examination).
- iii. Patients/Cases seen/examined/operated/managed in ER, OPD and IPD according to allocated module should be mentioned in logbook with hospital slip and registration number.
- iv. Rotation colander of every postgraduate trainee should be shared with the Registrar Office by the Program Director mentioning the elective and mandatory status of rotations.
- v. Skill set targets for each rotation should be defined, assessed, and mentioned in the above-mentioned report to be submitted to the Registrar office.

14. DECLARATION OF RESULT & AWARD OF DEGREE

- i. A candidate securing 60% marks independently in all the components of examination i.e. Written, Clinical and Thesis shall be declared successful.
- ii. Issuance of degree in prescribed manner is subjected to submission of evidence regarding acceptance of a research paper as first author in a PMDC/HEC recognized Journal of the specialty.

15. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

Any leave requests, disciplinary issues, grievances, or requests to freeze training shall be handled according to NMU regulations and prevailing Government Policy from time to time.

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