

Can't offer **MBA, PGDM** from same building, says AICTE

IN 2020-21 Change in rule as colleges propose same fees for both the courses

Shreya Bhandary

shreya.bhandary@htlive.com

MUMBAI: Management institutes that also offer postgraduate diplomas in management (PGDM) will now have to run the two courses from separate institutes, according to the All India Council for Technical Education's (AICTE) recently-released Approval Handbook 2020-21. The new rules will be applicable from the next academic year (2020-21).

AICTE said the new rule requiring separate infrastructure and resources for diplomas and PG degrees is in response to complaints from local inquiry committees (LICs), which inspect institutes when the latter apply for affiliation. Students have complained that they were confused and even misled on occasion about the demarcation of faculty, fees and infrastructure between PGDM and Masters in business administration (MBA) courses in some colleges.

"While MBA institutes are affiliated to a particular university, PGDM courses need no affiliation but need AICTE approval to run classes. We have increasingly noticed how the LICs are fooled by the institutes about infrastructure and faculty which might be registered for an MBA

NEW RULE TO PLUG OLD GAPS

Students complained of confusion over faculty, fees and infrastructure in the two courses

Local inquiry committees (LICs) are often fooled by the institutes about infrastructure and faculty, which might be registered for an MBA school but is highlighted as that of the PGDM course

Colleges that run both the PGDM and MBA courses have often proposed same fees for both courses to respective state Fee Regulating Authorities (FRAs)



ON OPEN, DISTANCE LEARNING APPROVALS

As part of the newly-introduced Approval Handbook 2020-21, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also introduced a new regulation where any post-graduate diploma in management (PGDM)

institute, which also runs an MBA programme and has earned 700 points or above in country-wide evaluation index, can conduct open and distance learning courses provided they register with AICTE as a stand-alone institute.

With the help of this regulation, PGDM institutes who feel they will face financial instability if they break away from their MBA section will have the chance to earn through distance learning courses

An AICTE official

school, but are highlighted as that of a PGDM course," said Anil Sahasrabudhe, chairman, AICTE.

Senior council officials said the process of affiliation regularly gets delayed due to such problems, and the new rules are meant to prevent such delays.

In some cases, colleges that run both PGDM and MBA courses have also proposed the same fees for both courses to the

respective state fee regulating authorities.

"Despite sharing the infrastructure as well as the faculty in some cases, many of these institutes claim that their professors for both courses are equally qualified and deserve the same salary. Therefore, they demand the same fees for both courses," said a senior AICTE official.

However, among business schools, there is concern that the

changes may force many to stop PGDM courses.

"Separating the courses into two different institutes means starting one of the courses from scratch, which is a challenge most institutes will not be open to," said the spokesperson of a city-based management institute, on condition of anonymity.

Representatives of the institutes plan to discuss their concerns with AICTE.