

Introduction to Associate Degree in Computing:

The associate degree (AD) program is a two-year degree that covers important aspects of the computing discipline. The duration of the associate degree is two years, with an option to upgrade it to a full-fledged bachelor's degree program.

Program Mission:

The mission of the AD program is to provide a high-quality education in computer science that prepares students for professional careers and lifelong learning in developing/managing computational processes and systems.

Eligibility Criteria:

For admission to AD, a minimum of 50% marks in Intermediate/12 years schooling/A-Level (HSSC) or an IBCC equivalent qualification with mathematics is required. However, students not studying mathematics at the intermediate level must pass the mathematics deficiency courses (06 credits) in the first year, **including zero semester**. Additionally, candidates may be required to pass an entry test conducted by the university or admission authority, along with fulfilling any other criteria set by the institution, such as interviews or aptitude assessments.

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Duration:

The minimum duration for completing AD is two years. However, the HEC allows a maximum of 3.5 years to complete the AD.

Credit Hours:

Minimum credit hours are 72.

Award of Degree:

A minimum 2.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA), on the scale of 4.0, is required for the award of an AD.

Policy for Probation in Semester:

1. The students acquiring less than 2.00/4.00 GPA in a semester but passing in all papers will be promoted with the condition to achieve more than 2.0 GPA in the next semester, and s/he will be put on probation for the next semester.
2. The students acquiring a GPA of 1.7 and above but failing in any paper(s) will be placed on probation and promoted to the next semester conditionally. They will have to be registered for the summer semester to improve their grade.
3. Students acquiring a GPA of less than 1.7 in two consecutive semesters and failing in any paper(s), even after attending the summer semester for one academic year, will be dropped from the university rolls.

Course Load (per semester):

15-21 credit hours for regular semesters. Credit hours to be offered in summer semesters, as per HEC guidelines (For remedial/deficiency/failure/repetition courses only).

Standard Nomenclature:

For the sake of standardization, it was decided by NCRC that the undergraduate degree program (NQF Level-05) shall have the title of “Associate Degree - Computing”.

Program Structure:

The degree program follows HEC Undergraduate Education Policy 2023 v1.1 and comprises a minimum of 04 regular semesters (02 years). Universities may offer courses consisting of a minimum of 72 credit hours, provided that the total number of credit hours is reasonably set to achieve the Program Learning Outcomes.

Structure of the AD - Computing

Areas	Credit Hours	Courses
General Education Courses	34	15
Computing Core Courses	26	07
Specialization Electives	12	04
Total	72	26

Pathway for Graduates with an Associate Degree:

- Only the students having a 14-year qualification in Computing are allowed admission in the fifth semester of the BS in Computer Science. However, as per the revised scheme, such students are also required to complete deficiency courses from 15-18 credits through a bridging semester prior to enrollment in the 5th Semester of the BS Computer Science Program. The deficiency is for the purpose to make prior learning before the 5th semester at par with the scheme of the BS Computer Science program.
- The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester through the above-mentioned pathway is 2.00/4.00 CGPA in the prior qualification, i.e., Associate Degree in Computing. The concerned university may, however, set higher eligibility and admission criteria for admission in the fifth semester of BS in Computer Science.