



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

COMMISSION CIRCULAR NO. 03/2025

No. 20, Ward Place

Colombo 07

21st May 2025

Vice Chancellors of Universities

Rectors of Campuses

Directors of Institutes

Common Criteria for Lateral Entry to Allied Health Sciences from State Sector

Your attention is drawn to the Commission Circular No. 04/2022 issued on 08.02.2022 on the above matter.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) at its 1136th meeting held on 19.12.2024 taking in to consideration of the recommendation made by the Standing Committee on Health Sciences of the UGC and the Management Committee granted approval to issue a new Circular. Accordingly, Commission Circular No. 04/2022 dated 08.02.2022 is repealed and replaced with this Circular with effect from 21st May 2025.

1. LATERAL ENTRY CRITERIA TO THE STATE UNIVERSITIES EXCEPT TO OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

1.1 COMMON CRITERIA TO ALL THE ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES COURSES

- a. Qualifications in A/L for different Allied Health Sciences Courses are included in the respective section.
- b. A minimum 03 years of service in the State Sector at the time of closure of application.
- c. Should be below 45 years of age up to 2024 and below 40 years of age from 2025 onwards at the time of closure of application.
- d. At least a pass (S) in English for GCE (O/L) Examination.
- e. Achieved the required pass mark for the aptitude examination and an optional interview as per the requirements of individual universities.
- f. Registered with the Ceylon Medical College Council/Sri Lanka Medical Council/Sri Lanka Nursing Council.

Note:

- i. For a particular Study Programme universities are allowed to decide the number of lateral entry students; however, the number should not exceed

30% to be allocated by the UGC to the respective study program.

- ii. The year of placement shall be decided based on the NVQ level attained by the candidate at the closure of application. For instance those who have attained NVQ level 5 (30 credits) shall be considered to have fulfilled SLQF level 3 and those who have attained NVQ level 6 (60 credits) should be considered to have fulfilled SLQF level 4.
- iii. Accordingly, a 2 year diploma will be considered as a Diploma as per SLQF classification and a 3 year Diploma shall be considered as a Higher Diploma as per SLQF classification for the purpose to place lateral entrants in an Allied Health Sciences study programme.

1.2 Lateral Entry criteria for different Allied Health Science Study Programmes

a. Nursing

- i. A simple pass each (or its equivalent) in Biology (Zoology & Botany), Chemistry, Physics in/at GCE (A/L) in one sitting.
- ii. Registered with the Sri Lanka Nursing Council.

b. Pharmacy

- i. A simple pass each (or its equivalent) in Biology (Zoology & Botany) and Physics and a credit pass (or its equivalent) in Chemistry in/at GCE (A/L) in one sitting.
- ii. Registered with the Ceylon Medical College Council/ Sri Lanka Medical Council

c. Medical Laboratory Science

- i. A simple pass each (or its equivalent) in Biology (Zoology & Botany) and Physics and a credit pass (or its equivalent) in Chemistry in/at GCE (A/L) in one sitting.
- ii. Registered with the Ceylon Medical College/Sri Lanka Medical Council.

d. Radiography

- i. A simple pass each (or its equivalent) in Biology (Zoology & Botany) or Mathematics (Combined Mathematics or equivalent) and Chemistry and Physics in/at GCE (A/L) in one sitting.
- ii. A minimum 03 years of service in the State Sector as a diagnostic/therapeutic Radiographer at the time of application.

e. Speech and Language Therapy

- i. A simple pass each (or its equivalent) in any relevant subject, including languages (e.g. Sinhala, Tamil or English) or in Biology (Zoology & Botany), Chemistry, Physics in/at GCE (A/L) in one sitting.

- ii. A minimum 03 years of service post-qualification as a teacher at the time of closure of application. The work experience could include the candidate's work as a teacher at a state institution and should be presently a teacher.
- iii. Registered in the Ceylon Medical College Council/Sri Lanka Medical Council/ or has credentials to show is a teacher at present.
- iv. Successfully completed an undergraduate degree in education or special education from a recognized university or a pre-service professional course in teacher education/national diploma in education from a National College of Education (*Vidya Peeta*)
or
a two-year Diploma in Speech Therapy from a recognized university.
and
- v. A service letter clearly stating the number of years and scope of work undertaken.
- vi. In addition, successful completion of a Diploma in Special Education or a related-field such as Sign Language from a recognized institution would be considered favourably.
- vii. Additional requirement:
 - o Candidates would join the course from the first semester of the first year, having completed any pre-requisite courses prior to entry, as determined by the university. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may be offered exemptions from specific course modules following judicious review by the university.
 - o Candidates who have completed a two-year Diploma in Speech Therapy from a recognized university could join the course from the second year of study. Candidates may be offered exemptions from specific course modules following judicious review by the university.

f. Audiology

- i. A simple pass each (or its equivalent) in Biology (Zoology & Botany), Chemistry, Physics in/at GCE (A/L) in one sitting.
- ii. Diploma awarded by the Ministry of Health for audiology technicians.
- iii. Registered with the Ceylon Medical College Council/Sri Lanka Medical Council.

g. Optometry

The common lateral entry criteria will be adapted to the field of Optometry.

h. Physiotherapy

- i. A simple pass each (or its equivalent) in Physics and Chemistry and the third subject from the following subjects at the G.C.E. (Advanced Level)

Examination in one sitting,

- Biology
- Mathematics
- Higher Mathematics
- Combined Mathematics

- ii. Registered with the Sri Lanka Medical College Council or Sri Lanka Medical Council

2. **LATERAL ENTRY CRITERIA TO THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**

Many of the above criteria will not apply for the Open University of Sri Lanka as their mandate differs from that of other state universities. Therefore the **lateral entry criteria for entry to the Allied Health Sciences programme in Open University of Sri Lanka** shall be as follows:

a. **Nursing**

- i. Three simple passes (or its equivalent) in one sitting in the science stream at the GCE (A/L) examination.
- ii. A simple pass (or its equivalent) in English at the GCE (O/L) examination
- iii. General Certificate in Nursing/Diploma in Nursing awarded by the Ministry of Health **or**
- iv. Diploma in Nursing awarded by the Open University
- or**
- v. Three year Nursing Diploma awarded by any other institution recognized by the Ministry of Health or any other government regulatory body in Sri Lanka or any other country with minimum of two years working experience
- vi. Obtained the required pass mark in the selection examination test and be eligible for admission based on the merit list

b. **Pharmacy**

- i. Three simple passes (or its equivalent) in one sitting in the science stream with a Credit pass (or its equivalent) in Chemistry at the GCE (A/L) examination.
- ii. A simple pass (or its equivalent) in English at the GCE (O/L) examination.
- iii. Certificate of proficiency in Pharmacy of the Ministry of Health or Diploma in Pharmacy awarded by University of Colombo.
- iv. Obtained the required pass mark for the selection examination test and be eligible for admission based on the merit list.

c. **Medical Laboratory Sciences**

- i. Three simple passes (or its equivalent) in one sitting in the science stream with Chemistry at the GCE (A/L) examination.

- ii. A simple pass (or its equivalent) at the GCE (O/L) examination.
- iii. Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology of the Ministry of Health.
- iv. Obtained the required pass mark for the selection examination test and be eligible for admission based on the merit list.



Senior Prof. Kapila Seneviratne

Chairman

- Copies:
1. Secretary/ Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education
 2. Vice-Chairperson/UGC
 3. Members of the UGC
 4. Secretary/UGC
 5. Registrars of Universities
 6. Deans of Faculties
 7. Accountant/UGC
 8. Bursars of Universities
 9. Librarians/SAL/AL of the Higher Educational Institutions /Institutes
 10. Deputy Registrars/ Snr. Asst. Registrars/Asst. Registrars of Campuses/Institutes
 11. Deputy Bursars/Snr. Asst. Bursars/ Asst. Bursars of Campuses/Institutes
 12. Internal Auditor/UGC
 13. Chairman's Office/UGC
 14. Govt. Audit Superintendents of Universities
 15. Snr. Asst. Int. Auditors of HEIs
 16. Secretaries of trade Unions
 17. Auditor –General

File No: UGC/AC/HS/GEN/2025