

# UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, LAHORE



## REGULATIONS

### LEVEL-IV MS/MD/MDS COURSES (Regulations 2024, Updated 2026)

**1. SHORT TITLE, COMMENCEMENT, AND APPLICATION:**

These regulations may be called the Supra-Specialty MS/MD/MDS Regulations (Regulations 2024 updated 2026). These shall come into force at once and shall apply to all students/candidates who are registered with UHS 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:

- A. **Applicant** means a person who applies for admission into MS or MD or MDS Level-IV program.
- B. **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.
- C. **Availed Attempt** means the candidate appeared in person in whole or part of the examination during the permissible attempts.
- D. **Board of Governors** means Board of Governors of the University.
- E. **Candidate** means a person who will be selected for training in MS or MD or MDS Level-IV Program.
- F. **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.
- G. **Continuous Internal Assessments (CIA)** mean the candidate's training portfolio assessment and the supervisor's annual review report on these assessments.
- H. **Curriculum** means the courses of study.
- I. **Examiner** means examiner of written and clinical examinations of MS/MD/MDS Level-IV Programs.
- J. **Government** means the Government of Punjab.
- K. **Institute** means the constituent and affiliated medical and dental colleges and hospitals in which MS/MD/MDS Level-IV training is being done.
- L. **MD** means Doctor of Medicine (Level-IV)

- M. **MS** means Master of Surgery (Level-IV)
- N. **MDS** means Master of Dental Surgery (Level-IV)
- O. **Ordinance** means University of Health Sciences ordinance, 2002.
- P. **Program** means each and every component of training for the University of Health Sciences University's degrees of MS/MD/MDS Level-IV.
- Q. **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.
- R. **Supervisor** means a person who supervises MS or MD or MDS Level-IV candidates during training.
- S. **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.
- T. **Trainee** means the candidate who has been selected in a program of study and registered with the relevant department.
- U. **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.
- V. **University** means the University of Health Sciences, Lahore.
- W. **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.
- X. **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 Board of Governors from time to time.

### 4. ADMISSIONS

- i. **Eligibility:** The applicant on the last date of submission of applications for admission must possess the:

- a) MS/MD/MDS/FCPS/MRCP/FRCS/American Board/ OR any other equivalent degree recognized by PMC as a level III qualification.
  - b) 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 or as prescribed by Central Induction Policy.
  - c) Valid certificate of permanent or provisional registration with Pakistan Medical & Dental Council/ Pakistan Medical Commission.
- ii. Following pre-requisites shall be strictly followed before admission of any candidate through any induction program/policy:
- a) Recognition of relevant training program and site by Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC)
  - b) Affiliation of the institute with University of Health Sciences (UHS) in relevant specialty/program
  - c) Payment of substantial stipend to postgraduate trainees (As per Part-IV, para 11c of Postgraduate Medical/Dental Education Standards and Regulations 2023 of PM&DC)
- iii. The admission process in public sector institutions shall be central and in accordance with the policies of the Government. 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. The institutes other than those under Central Induction Policy (CIP) shall advertise the admission notice through Major Urdu and English dailies along with number of seats and stipend mentioned against each specialty. Policy/criteria of admission shall also be given wide publicity. UHS shall have the right to acquire audit of admission process at any moment. University shall regulate the admission of private sector institutions in accordance with the regulations of PM&DC.
- v. The intake into any program shall not be inconsistent with the regulations of PM&DC and policies of the Government as the case may be.
- vi. Admission process shall be completed within 45 days of publishing the advertisement.

- vii. The institute shall forward list of admitted students to Directorate of Postgraduate Studies (DPS), UHS within 15 days of induction with documentary evidence of fulfillment of pre-requisites along with proposed supervisors.
- viii. The institute shall forward list of available supervisors having UHS supervisory certificate and number of their presently enrolled/registered trainees in each specialty within 15 days of induction as per format attached as annexure "I".
- ix. Allocation of the supervisor shall be done through the University Supervisory Allocation Committee (USAC), UHS. The combined workflow for allocation of supervisor and synopsis approval, to be followed is attached as annexure "II". The list of proposed supervisors as per format attached as annexure "III" shall be presented by DPS, UHS to University Supervisory Allocation Committee (USAC) for recommendation of allocation. Final approval of allocation shall be granted by Competent Authority.
- x. Any change in the institute of already registered candidates shall be dealt as per migration regulations of UHS (available on website) and prevailing policy of Government of the Punjab.

**5. REGISTRATION**

- i. Registration returns shall only be accepted via online registration portal from the institutes who remained compliant to the prescribed admission/induction criteria.
- ii. Registration returns shall be submitted to the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies, UHS within 30 days of admission.
- iii. Institute shall be responsible for forwarding the registration returns. No returns shall be accepted after due date.
- iv. Each candidate should be registered within 30 working days after due date of registration. Allowed time duration for removing objections (s) (if any) shall be 15 days from the date on which objection (s) is/are raised. Candidates are hereby advised to review their eligibility (renewal of documents, validity of entrance exam, etc.) well-before time in their own interest (Workflow for registration of postgraduate students is annexed as IV).

**6. PROGRAM FORMAT**

- i. In terms of section 3 of the regulations, 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 one research publication in a PMDC/ HEC recognized journal apart from undergoing prescribed clinical training.

**7. MANDATORY WORKSHOPS**

- i. All postgraduate trainees will be required to undergo Mandatory Workshops for Postgraduate trainees Level IV/Supervisors. All trainees shall register for workshops within two months of induction.
- ii. Mandatory Workshops will be conducted by Directorate of Postgraduate Studies.

**8. CONTINUOUS INTERNAL ASSESSMENT**

- a. The cumulative score of all quarters of 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 Principal/HOI for forwarding it to the University.
- b. Internal Assessment shall be conducted throughout the duration of training to evaluate the candidate’s procedural competence, clinical skills, academic participation, professional conduct, and attendance.
- c. The total marks for Internal Assessment shall be **100 marks**, distributed as follows:

Sr. No.	Component	Marks
i	DOPS / Mini-CEX/CBD	60
ii	Attendance	10
iii	Journal Club / Seminar Presentations/Quiz	20
iv	Supervisor Assessment	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

- d. **DOPS / Mini-CEX/CBD**  
 There shall be at least one (01) Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) or one (01) Mini Clinical Evaluation Exercise (Mini-CEX) or Case Based Discussion (CBD) after every three months during the training period.  
 The minimum number of assessments shall be as follows:

<b>Program Duration</b>	<b>Number of Assessments</b>
Two-Year Program	8
Three-Year Program	12

The cumulative marks obtained under this component shall be converted proportionately to **60 marks** at the end of training.  
 Failure to complete the prescribed number of assessments may render the candidate deficient in Internal Assessment unless otherwise condoned by the University.

e. **Attendance**

Attendance shall be determined on the basis of departmental duty rosters, academic sessions, and other official training activities.

Marks for attendance shall be awarded as follows:

<b>Attendance Percentage</b>	<b>Marks</b>
86% – 90%	5
91% – 95%	8
Above 95%	10

f. **Journal Club / Seminar Presentations/Quiz**

Every candidate shall deliver at least three (03) Journal Club and/or Seminar presentations and/or Quiz during the quarter year.

Each presentation/Quiz shall carry 05 marks, to be awarded by the Supervisor / Head of Department.

The cumulative total marks obtained by the candidate in Journal Club, Seminar presentations and/or Quiz during each quarter of the four-year or five-year training programme shall be proportionately converted to 20 marks.

g. **Professional Attributes and Workplace Conduct**

The Supervisor / Head of Department shall award **10 marks** on the basis of:

- Professional conduct
- Discipline and punctuality
- Communication skills

Ethical behavior

Teamwork

**h. Submission of Internal Assessment**

The Supervisor shall submit Internal Assessment of each candidate to the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies of the University **after every three (03) months** in the prescribed format through Principal/Head of Institute.

Each quarterly submission shall be treated as final for the relevant assessment period.

**Marks once submitted shall not be altered, revised, or withdrawn.**

**i. Passing Criteria**

A candidate must secure **not less than 75 marks out of 100** in Internal Assessment.

Internal Assessment shall form part of eligibility for appearing in the final examination, subject to fulfillment of other requirements prescribed by the University.

**j. Record and Submission**

The concerned department shall maintain complete record of Internal Assessment in the prescribed format.

**9. Final /Exit Examination**

Final /Exit examination would be conducted for the candidates completing training in all MD/MS/MDS programs. Final/Exit examination will be held twice a year

**i. Eligibility for Final/Exit Examination**

To appear in Level IV Exit Examination, a candidate shall be required to submit following through his/her head of institution:

- a. Certificate of achieving 85% attendance in the training program.
- b. Certificate of achieving 75% Internal Assessment score.
- 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. App prescribed documents shall be submitted through Principal/Dean/Head of academic institution.
- ii. The examination fee once deposited cannot be refunded / carried over to the next examination under any circumstances.
  - iii. Exit Examination will be held twice a year i.e. at least six months apart.

#### 10. FORMAT OF THE FINAL/EXIT EXAMINATION:

The total marks of Exit Examination shall be 600.

S#	Examination	Maximum Marks
1	Written Examination	200
2	Clinical Examination	300
3	Internal Assessment	100
	<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>

#### 11. WRITTEN EXAMINATION (200 Marks)

Written examination shall be based on prescribed curriculum

- i. The written examination will consist of 200 "single best answer" type Multiple Choice Questions, each carrying 01 mark. It shall consist of 100 MCQs in Paper I and 100 MCQs in Paper II.
- ii. A candidate shall be declared pass and eligible to appear in the clinical examination upon securing at least 75% marks in aggregate and not less than 70% marks in each individual paper.
- iii. Candidates who pass the written examination shall be allowed a maximum of four consecutive attempts whether availed or unavailed to pass the Clinical examination. However, 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.

## 12. TOACS/ OSCE AND CLINICAL EXAMINATION (200 Marks)

After Passing theory examination candidate shall be eligible for TOACS. TOACS shall consist of 10 observed/interactive stations of 10 marks each. Candidates shall be eligible for Clinical Examination after passing the TOACS with 65% marks. A candidate who has successfully passed the TOACS examination but was unsuccessful in the Clinical Examination (Long Case/Short Cases/Table Viva) shall not be required to reappear in the TOACS to regain eligibility for the Clinical Examination,

The Clinical Examination will evaluate patient care competencies in detail. A panel of examiners will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor. The examination will be based on

- a. One Long Case of 100 marks Total = 100 Marks
- b. Two/Four Short Cases of 50/25 marks each respectively Total = 100 Marks
- ii. The candidates scoring 60% marks in aggregate of Long Case / Short Case will be declared pass in the clinical examination.
- iii. Each long case shall be examined by at least two examiners.

## 13. Eligibility Criteria for Supervisor

Only those faculty members shall be eligible to supervise a candidate who:

- i. Hold Level IV Qualification i.e. FCPS, MS/MD/MDS or equivalent qualification as determined by PM&DC/Relevant Authority.  
Or
- ii. Level III Qualification like MS/MD/MDS, FCPS or equivalent qualification as determined by PM&DC/Relevant Authority
- iii. For individuals holding a Level IV qualification, a minimum of three years of post-qualification teaching experience in the relevant specialty is required. 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)

#### **14. Examiners for Intermediate and Final/Exit Examination**

- a. To be eligible for appointment as an Examiner, the faculty member shall fulfil the criteria prescribed under Section 13.
- b. A pool of examiners shall be developed on recommendation of Specialty Advisory Committee of each specialty as specified in TORs of the Sepcialty Advisory Committee issued vide Section I(iii), UHS/DPS-24/SAC/2227. For each exam, a panel of examiners shall be appointed from the respective pool by the Competent Authority.
- c. The pool of the examiners shall be a dynamic body and shall be revised as and when needed by Competent Authority/Relevant Statutory Authority based on feedback of Controller of Examination, Chief Examiner/Convener, examiners and examinees.
- d. All the appointments of examiners shall be confidential and examiners shall be bound to keep it confidential.
- e. No examiner shall be allowed to examine a trainee in any component, with which he/she bears a conflict of interest as prescribed in UHS regulations of examination. . In such cases, the examiner/supervisor shall immediately declare the conflict in writing to the Controller of Examination in order to allow the Examination department in appointing alternate examiners well in time.

#### **15. Monitoring**

- a. Academic and clinical domains of the training programs shall be monitored through DPS, UHS.
- b. Logbook/E-Logbook/Postgraduate Training Management System shall be mandatory and it should be maintained throughout the training (to be evaluated as part of Exit Examination). It should be made as per academic roster according to para 3 (Section-VI). 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.
- c. Rotation schedule of every postgraduate trainee should be made on an annual basis and shared with DPS, UHS till 31<sup>st</sup> January of each year for approval. Status of elective and mandatory rotations should be notified to DPS, UHS by Head of Department through Head of Institute at the end of three months.

- d. Skill set targets for each rotation should be defined, assessed, and mentioned in the above-mentioned report to be submitted to the DPS, UHS.
- e. Any leave requests, disciplinary issues, grievances, or requests to freeze training shall be handled according to UHS regulations and prevailing Government Policy from time to time.

**16. DECLARATION OF RESULT & AWARD OF DEGREE**

- a. A candidate passing all the components of examination i.e. Written, and Clinical shall be declared successful.
- b. 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.

**17. IMPLEMENTATION**

- a. These regulations shall come into force with immediate effect. All examinations announced after 2025 shall be conducted in accordance with the Regulations of 2024. However, in accordance with the notification No. UHS/REG-25/1440, the revised passing criteria shall be applicable only to candidates inducted after December 2025.
- b. All the regulations notified/adopted previously shall stand repealed and the students registered under the said schemes shall be dealt under MD/MS/MDS Level-IV Regulations 2024 (Updated 2026).