

Branch Change

Rules and Regulations

Ver 2.0

Version History

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1. Introduction

Students admitted to undergraduate programs at the Indian Institute of Technology Goa (IIT Goa) are allowed to change their branch after completing their first two semesters of the academic program.

This manual outlines the policy of branch change at the Institute.

2. Seats Available for Branch Change

Three types of seats are available to students for branch change, namely

2.1. **Additional seats** – *Additional seats* are the seats additionally created in a branch to effect the branch change. These are limited to a maximum of 10% of the sanctioned strength of each branch, more precisely $\lfloor S \cdot 10/100 \rfloor$, where S is the sanctioned strength of the branch. These seats are of category Open (cf 3.1).

2.2. **Vacant seats** – *Vacant seats* are

(i) The seats that remain vacant after the completion of the admission procedures at the beginning of the academic program.

(ii) The seats vacated by the students who have withdrawn from programs during the first semester and whose withdrawals have been approved by the Senate of IIT Goa.

The seats vacated by the students in the preparatory program are not considered as Vacant seats for the purpose of branch change.

2.3. **Vacant seats for re-allocation** – A *Vacant seat for re-allocation* is a seat vacated by a student in a branch when the student is allocated a branch change to a different branch.

3. Categories of Seats

3.1. Both the vacant seats (2.2) and vacant seats for re-allocation (2.3) preserve the categories assigned to them in the seat matrix. These categories are,

- i. Open¹
- ii. Open-PwD
- iii. Gen-EWS
- iv. Gen-EWS-PwD
- v. SC
- vi. SC-PwD
- vii. ST
- viii. ST-PwD
- ix. OBC-NCL
- x. OBC-NCL-PwD

¹ The seats for which all candidates are eligible.

- 3.2. A Vacant seat (2.2) of a reserved category is allotted only to students of the respective category.
- 3.3. When a student in Branch A vacates a seat of category X on account of branch change, it creates a Vacant seat for re-allocation (2.3) in Branch A of category X.
- 3.4. A Vacant seat for re-allocation (2.3) in a reserved category is available only to students of the respective category.

4. Eligibility Requirements

- 4.1. To be eligible for branch change, a student must satisfy the following criteria.
 - 4.1.1. The student must have completed all the prescribed course credits of the first two semesters.
 - 4.1.2. The student shall not have any backlog at the end of the first year.
 - 4.1.3. The students of Open, Gen-EWS and OBC-NCL categories should possess an SPI (Semester Performance Index) of at least 8.00 in the second-semester². Students of SC, ST and PwD (Divyang) should have an SPI of at least 7.00 in the second semester.
 - 4.1.4. The student should not have been found guilty of any academic misconduct.
- 4.2. Mere fulfillment of eligibility criteria does not guarantee a branch change.

5. Guidelines

- 5.1. The branch change will be performed before the start of the third semester of the undergraduate program.
- 5.2. The allocation list will be prepared in the order of SPI of the second semester.
- 5.3. Any tie in the allocation list will be broken using the first semester SPI.
- 5.4. A student's request for a change to Branch B will be considered if the following criteria are met.
 - 5.4.1. The student meets the criteria outlined in (4.1).
 - 5.4.2. There is a seat available in Branch B that the student is eligible for.
 - 5.4.3. The strength in Branch A, from which a change is being sought, does not fall below its sanctioned strength by more than 30%.
 - 5.4.4. If a student is not allocated an available seat of category C in Branch B on account of (5.4.3), then no other eligible student from any branch lower in the allocation list is allotted that seat.

Illustrations

- a. Assume S_1 is an OBC-NCL student in ME with SPI 8.90 who is ineligible for a branch change to CSE on account of violation of (5.4.3). Then S_2 who is an Open category student in EE with SPI 8.80 is still eligible for a branch change to MnC but not to CSE.

² As per the *No-Fail Policy* of the Institute, the performance in the first semester is not used in computing the Cumulative Performance Index (CPI) of the academic program.

- b. Assume S_1 is an Open category student in ME with SPI 8.90 who is ineligible for a branch change to EE on account of (5.4.2). Then S_2 who is an SC category student with SPI 8.80, is still eligible for a branch change to an available seat of category SC in EE.
- c. Assume S_1 , S_2 and S_3 are Open category students in ME, EE and MnC, respectively, with an identical second-semester SPI of 8.90. In this case, their first-semester SPI will be considered to break the tie based on rule (5.3). Assume their first semester SPI is in the order $S_1 < S_2 < S_3$, then
 - i. Only S_3 will be allotted the branch change to CSE if only one eligible student is allowed for branch change if only one seat is available in CSE.
 - ii. If S_2 cannot move on account of (5.4.3), then S_1 will not be able to move on account of (5.4.4).

5.5. The allotment, once made, will be final and not subject to review.

6. FAQs

- 6.1. What if a student failed in their preparatory program or did not wish to pursue their studies after completing the preparatory program, will that seat be available for branch change?

Since the seats vacated by students of the preparatory program are not considered for branch change, there will be no effect even if the student fails the preparatory program or does not wish to pursue their studies after the preparatory program for any of the purposes of change of branch.

- 6.2. If the decision of the disciplinary case is pending at the time of the release of notification of Branch change, am I eligible to apply for branch change?

You are eligible to apply for branch change. However, your application will be considered at the time of allotment by the branch change committee based on the recommendations of Chair SSAC.

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