

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE – 13 (DSE-13): Research Methodology for Chemists

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Research Methodology for Chemists (DSE-13)	04	03	--	01	Class 12 th with Physics, Chemistry	

Learning objectives

The objectives of this course are as follows:

- To make the students aware of fundamental but mandatory ethical practices in chemistry.
- To introduce the concept of data analysis.
- To learn to perform literature survey in different modes.
- To make the students aware of safety handling and safe storage of chemicals.
- To make students aware about plagiarism and how to avoid it.
- To teach the use of different e-resources.

Learning outcomes

By studying this course, students will be able to:

- Follow ethical practices in chemistry
- Do Data analysis
- Literature survey in different modes
- Use e-resources.
- Avoid plagiarism, understand the consequences and how to avoid

SYLLABUS OF DSE-13

UNIT – 1: Scope of Research

(Hours: 3)

Introduction, overview of research process: define research problem, review literature, formulate hypothesis, design research/experiment, collect and analyse data, interpret and report, scope and importance.

UNIT – 2: Literature Survey, Databases and Research metrics

(Hours: 15)

Print: Sources of information: Primary, secondary, tertiary sources; Journals: Journal abbreviations, Digital: Databases and their responsible use: Google Scholar, Web of science, Scopus, UGC INFONET, SciFinder, PubMed, ResearchGate, E-consortium, e-books; Search techniques: Phrase, Field, Boolean, Proximity, Concept, Limiting/Refining Search Results. Research metrics: Impact factor of Journal, h-index, i10 index, Altmetrics, Citation index. Author identifiers/or profiles: ORCID, Publons, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, VIDWAN

UNIT – 3: Communication in Science

(Hours: 12)

Types of technical documents: Full length research paper, book chapters, reviews, short communication, project proposal, Letters to editor, and thesis.

Thesis writing – different steps and software tools (Word processing, LaTeX, Chemdraw, Chems sketch etc) in the design and preparation of thesis, layout, structure (chapter plan) and language of typical reports, Illustrations and tables, bibliography, referencing: Styles (APA, Oxford etc), annotated bibliography, Citation management tools: Mendeley, Zotero and Endnote; footnotes. Oral presentation/posters – planning, software tools, creating and making effective presentation, use of visual aids, importance of effective communication, electronic manuscript submission, effective oral scientific communication and presentation skills.

UNIT – 4: Research and Publication ethics

(Hours: 9)

Scientific Conduct: Ethics with respect to science and research, Scientific Misconducts: falsification, fabrication and plagiarism, similarity index, software tools for finding plagiarism (Turnitin, Urkund etc), redundant duplications

Publication Ethics: Introduction, COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) guidelines; conflicts of interest, publication misconduct: problems that lead to unethical behaviour and vice versa, types, violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship, predatory publishers and journals

IPR - Intellectual property rights and patent law, commercialization, copy right, royalty, trade related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS)

UNIT – 5: Statistical analysis for chemists

(Hours: 6)

Types of data, data collection-Methods and tools, data processing, hypothesis testing, Normal and Binomial distribution, tests of significance: t-test, F-test, chi-square test, ANOVA, multiple range test, regression and correlation.

Features of data analysis with computers and softwares -Microsoft Excel, Origin, SPSS

Practical component

Credits: 01

(Laboratory periods:15 classes of 2 hours each)

1. Collection of journal articles on a particular topic using Google Scholar and creating a database.
2. Collection of journal articles on a particular topic using Science Direct and creating a database.
3. Collection of journal articles on a particular topic using Scopus and creating a database.
4. Drawing chemical structure, reactions and mechanisms using Chemsketch or ISIS draw or any other software.
5. Collection of chemical structure using ChemSpider and creating a database.
6. Curve fitting using freely available softwares/apps (any one)
7. Making of power point presentation
8. Experimental learning of safe storage hazardous chemicals
9. Experimental learning of handling of hazardous chemicals
10. Technical writing on topics assigned.
11. Demonstration for checking of plagiarism using recommended software

Essential/recommended readings:

1. Dean, J. R., Jones, A. M., Holmes, D., Reed, R., Weyers, J. & Jones, A. (2011) Practical skills in chemistry. 2nd Ed. Prentice-Hall, Harlow.
2. Hibbert, D. B. & Gooding, J. J. (2006) Data analysis for chemistry. Oxford University Press.
3. Topping, J. (1984) Errors of observation and their treatment. Fourth Ed., Chapman Hall, London.
4. Harris, D. C. Quantitative chemical analysis. 6th Ed., Freeman (2007) Chapters 3-5.
5. Levie, R. de, how to use Excel in analytical chemistry and in general scientific data analysis. Cambridge Univ. Press (2001) 487 pages.
6. Chemical safety matters – IUPAC – IPCS, Cambridge University Press, 1992. OSU safety manual 1.01

Note:

- Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.
- The students are required to opt one paper each from DSEs 1-3 in Semester 3, DSEs 4-6 in Semester 4, DSEs 7-9 in Semester 5 and DSEs 10-13 in Semester 6.
- Research Methodology (DSE 13) shall be offered as one of the DSE courses in semester VI or VII. If a student wishes to pursue four years Honours Degree with Research, he/she shall compulsorily opt for a Research Methodology course in either Semester VI or VII.