



**FAQ on Professional Skills
Courses**

Q1 What are Professional Skills courses?

Professional Skills courses, shortly PS courses, are those courses that are offered with the objective of enabling the students of the college imbibe all those skills that are needed to be successful in their professional and personal life. These courses are offered for developing the behavioral competencies of students.

Q2 How are these courses different from the regular courses that student undergo in the college?

The regular courses are technical oriented. Those courses help acquire knowledge and skill on technical subjects. They develop technical expertise that is much needed for becoming a proficient engineer in the career - either as an employee in a company or as an entrepreneur.

Whereas, the PS courses bring in the appropriate mental awakening among the students in understanding, assimilating and demonstrating lifelong all those skills and virtues that bolster their strength and spirit to perform their duties to the highest level excellence, fairness and satisfaction to self and all concerned at all times.

If technical skills are the trunk, leaves and fruits of the tree that one see outside in action, it is those professional skills that are the deep running roots of the tree that keep the tree of life standing steadfast in all weathers of fortune or austerity.

Q3 What is intended in the above analogy of tree and PS courses?

It is clear. If the roots are shaky, not deep running, malnourished the tree for sure is to fall. The roots are invisible; however they hold the tree. And so are the professional skills - these skills have to run deep and make the positive impact on the behaviour and attitude of the person so that he/she stands tall both in the professional and personal life.

Q4 Why suddenly the PS courses are offered now?

It is commonly observed by everyone that technical expertise will help a person settle in dream jobs. But what matters is how one is going to perform as such in the job and lead the future life in general.

In this information era, students easily get lost into myriad of matters – both required and not required – that easily set the stage to thwart their focus and make them distracted.

Also the job market has become competitive and apart from technical expertise companies also look for soft skills. And the access to work in mutli-cultural and multi-continental environment requires skills for adapting to new situations. Above all, maintaining overall health is becoming a great concern.

Hence PS courses are thought to be the need of the hour. And experts from industries also positively confirm this need. The Graduate Attributes of NBA also specifically mention about such professional accomplishments of fresh graduates entering into career.

Q5 How does PS courses help realize these requirements?

Success here is determined by lots of competencies like communicative ability, forming and getting things done through teams, having clear goals and applying systematic techniques to achieve them, managing time and people (the first resource is fixed – time lost can never be retained; and the other is very complex to manage) effectively. A high level of emotional maturity is called for.

Also one has to be responsible to one's duty, show undivided interest in the growth of the concern working for, be committed to contribute to social development and environmental upkeep.

Above all one has to be healthy lifelong – physically, mentally and socially - for leading a peaceful life.

PS courses aim at turning out students who are well informed about all these behavioral and attitudinal requirements and practice them systematically

Q6 What outcomes are expected out of the PS courses?

From a thorough analysis of feedback from experts from industry, alumni and aspirations of students and parents a list of outcomes has been framed that are to be demonstrated by the student upon completion of the graduation. These outcomes are called as Program Outcomes (POs). There are six outcomes on the technical side and nine outcomes on the professional skills side. The POs for Professional Skills are listed below:

1. Articulate and engage in pursuit of career and life goals
2. Practice Ethical responsibility
3. Develop and maintain positive health - physical, mental and social wellbeing
4. Communicate effectively through oral, non-verbal and written means.
5. Learn continuously
6. Plan and work to time
7. Face challenges with rigor and emotional stability
8. Work effectively in teams and build/manage interpersonal relationships
9. Develop adaptability to change

Q7 Do PS courses form part of curriculum?

All PS courses are part of curriculum. They are considered as practical courses each with one credit. One course per each semester offered up to sixth semester.

Q8 Are there regular syllabi for PS courses?

Yes. Each PS course has a syllabus that details the course outcomes for the course, detailed content for coverage, method of assessment and evaluation. The syllabus for each professional course has been designed with inputs from the subject matter experts and industry personnel.

Q9 Can you mention the details of the associating experts / organizations for PS courses?

- TVS Motor Company – OBE initiatives
- English and Foreign Language University (EFLU), Hyderabad
- Arivuthirukkoil, Aliyar, Pollachi
- Vethathiri Educational Training and Research Institute, Bangalore
- Swamy Vivekananda Yogasana Anusandhana Samsthana (sVYASA) University, Bangalore
- Maruti College of Physical Education, Coimbatore
- Bharathiar University, Coimbatore
- Tamilnadu Physical Education and Sports University, Chennai
- Mr.Naveen, CEO of Bisykle Learning Systems, Bangalore
- ...and other consultants and experts.

Q10 In what aspects do they collaborate with you?

In fact PS courses have been initiated since the college has started to put into practice the Outcome Based Education (OBE). OBE is the main theme based on which NBA assesses colleges for accreditation.

Dr.Kovai chelvan, Senior Vice President/HR of TVS Motor Company (presently the Director, Institute for Quality and Leadership, TVSM) has been the chief mentor for the OBE activities of the college and he is the driving force for continuously evolving the PS courses to offer all the benefits to the students.

For Communication skills, professors from the English and Foreign language University (EFLU), Hyderabad have given valuable suggestions while forming the course syllabus and evaluation methods

For Yoga and meditation SKY meditation method has been introduced and the syllabus has been framed as per the guidance from experts from Arivuthirukkoil, Aliyar; Vethathiri Educational Training and Research Institute (VETRI), Bangalore. Along with them, measurements methods and tools for physical

and mental wellness have been suggested by experts from Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (sVYASA).

For course on Sports experts from Maruthi College of Physical Education, a unit of Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore have guided in framing the syllabus and assessment methodology. Physical Education directors from Bharathiar University, Tamilnadu Physical Education and Sports University regularly visit the college as resource persons for orientation programmes.

Mr.Naveen, CEO of Bisykle Learning Systems, (presently working with TVSM) has been the collaborator for the design of other PS courses. The course design itself is an iterative process, being checked, redrafted and finally rolled out for offering. The college Secretary, the Directors, Principal, Vice-Principal and Senior Professors contribute vitally for making the courses effective starting from design to implementation.

Q11 How many PS courses have been designed and offered?

Six PS courses have been designed and offered, one per semester.

Q12 Please enlist the PS courses and each course's focus of learning

PS1: Promotion of students wellness – yoga, meditation for wellness

PS2: Sports for wellness – fitness and wellness development through physical exercises and food habits

PS3: Personal Effectiveness – goal setting and action orientation, time management, self analysis on SWOT, assertiveness

PS4: Ethical and moral responsibility – fundamentals of ethics and morality, demonstrating ethics and morality in life

PS5: Teamness and Interpersonal Skills - understanding self and others, team dynamics, conflict management

PS6: Campus to Corporate –Understanding work culture of companies and preparing for transition

Q13 Are PS courses offered to all departments

Initially the PS courses were started for the students of Mechanical and Automobile Engineering (2014-15 batch) on a pilot mode.

From the batch 2015-16 PS courses are being offered to students of all departments.

Q14 How are PS courses delivered?

Actually each professional course starts with an orientation program (learning workshop) followed by weekly classes. The orientation program will be conducted by trained internal faculty members.

The faculty who are going to handle the orientation program will undergo a pre-workshop conducted by external experts along with lead students.

Students' journal is the unique dossier in which students will keep record of their routines that will provide valuable inputs about their behavioral change.

Methodology involves participatory learning - case studies, debates, class responses etc. and an honest attempt is being made to break away from the conventional class room lecture mode to make the course learning more interactive and experiential.

Q15 What specifically is the students' role in making the courses effective?

The PS courses are unique courses. To the best of the knowledge no other college offers such courses systematically as a part of curriculum. The courses are nothing but a basket of information for timely practice for better career and life.

Of course, the students must take the courses seriously, ownership for learning, put whatever being learnt into continuous practice and derive the best out of the courses. Further they have to be highly active and participative and make the learning enjoyable and at the same time reflective to realize the expected transformation.