[6] Education and Research (ED)

[6.14] Number of university program(s) to improve teaching and learning

	List of Planned Activities under CTL
Online Learning Management System (http://lms.mnsuam.edu.pk/)	Established Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)
Helpdesk group for blended learning	Designated Focal Person for Online Classes
Students Participation in Education Expo	Open Day (Strengthing Academia-Industry Linkages)

Annual DICE Innovation Mega Event Organised at the University	Hybrid Seminar on "How to achieve success in examinations" conducted by CTL

Library and e-brary Facilities on campus	Free Coursera Licenses for Students and Faculty through DLSEI program
Implementation of Module-based Teaching System (Block Teaching Model)	Paid internships of enrolled students in final year of degree program at provate sector firms and industries

Description:

Online Learning Management System (LMS)

At MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan we have acquired the **Blended Learning Approach** for teaching and learning that refers to the use of both online and in-person learning experiences when teaching students. In a blended-learning course, students attend a class taught by a teacher in a traditional classroom setting, while also independently completing online components of the course outside of the classroom. To support blended learning, we have launched an online learning management system (lms.mnsuam.edu.pk) that offers all resources to the enrolled students online. The students may submit their assignments, discuss issues, and deliver quizzes online.

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), has been established at MNS University of Agriculture Multan, to support evidence-based and inclusive learning and teaching practices.

Vision: The key vision of the CTL-MNSUAM is to incorporate innovative methods in teaching for creating a conducive learning environment for students.

Mission: The CTL will engage and support university students and faculty in effective teaching and learning. The CTL will be committed to the following practices:

1. Developing resources for building a relationship between the teaching and learning community
2. Providing professional development opportunities to the faculty to ensure engaged learning environments.
3. Helping undergraduate and postgraduate students to transform into self-directed learners who aim to achieve educational goals
4. Recognizing and endorsing faculty leaders to promote excellence in teaching
5. Development of campuswide initiatives to transform traditional and online learning

Roles of CTL-MNSUAM

1. Events/Workshops (engaging faculty and students in training programs)
2. Resources (course design, inclusive learning, remote teaching, etc.)
3. Writing section (to improve the written communication for academic success)
4. Teaching feedback section (providing effective feedback and tracking the progress)
5. Teaching Recognition (acknowledging the best teaching leaders)

Planned activities for CTL: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sVG4s6O0m7uATnwVbw1uc4PTuMAuV3kPwZ8fpxO9BeA/edit?usp=sharing

Helpdesk group for blended learning

A group of students have been engaged and trained to provide support for blended learning. These students are hired on daily wages and allocated to different departments/offices to provide LMS support and other IT related services to students and faculty. These students also facilitate conduct of online admission test and LMS management.

Focal Person for Online Classes

A focal person has been designated to provide support to faculty and stduents for smooth conduct of online /blended classes. Her role include arranging workshops to train students and faculty on blended teaching and learning.

Students Participation in Education Expo

Our students are encouraged to participate in various exhibitions, workshops, and conferences as part of their co-curricular activities. Their participation helps them to learn emerging technologies and make new contacts at local and international level. Students partcipated in Education Expo

Open Day (Strengthing Academia-Industry Linkages

University organises Open Day to strengthen Academia-Industry linkages every year. Industry-academia linkages are important for skill development, adoption of knowledge, and promotion of entrepreneurship. Open day is an opportunity for students to exhibit their projects/ideas to other academics and representatives of well-known industries.

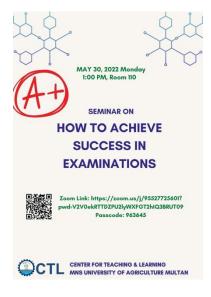## Annual DICE Innovation Mega Event Organised at the University

DICE Mega Event is a joint collaborative project of DICE Foundation (USA) and MNSUAM. This event is organised annually in the university where students, entrepreneurs, and industries join from all over the country. This event is a mega learning activity for students as it gives them a chance to present their ideas and projects to other universities, industries, and funding organisations. Cash prizes are distributed to all the outstanding ideas/projects and selected projects are granted with seed funding to continue building up their project.

Hybrid Seminar on "How to achieve success in examinations" conducted by CTL

Centre for Teaching and Learning organized a seminar to discuss strategies to manage time and stress to perform well in examination. The seminar was well-taken by students and helped them in better management.

Library and e-brary Facilities on campus

MNSUAM Library Collection connects the University community to more than 6000 books, and magazines and CDs on a wide range of topics related to Agriculture, Computer Science and English/Urdu/Islamic Literature. A wide variety of online full-text journals databases are available including HEC's Pakistan Educational Research Network (PERN) project. Materials are available for use to the entire community of the University for conducting independent research, enhancing curricular content, or simply broadening horizons.

You can access OPAC through: - library.mnsuam.edu.pk

HEC Digital Library Resource
http://www.digitallibrary.edu.pk/mnsuoa.html

Free Coursera Licenses for Students and Faculty through DLSEI program

DLSEI is an initiative of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in partnership with Coursera Inc. HEC acquired 24,000 licenses at discounted pricing. HEC through its initiative "Digital Learning and Skills Enrichment Initiative (DLSEI)", intends to provide an opportunity to students/alumni's and faculty members of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to secure Certifications from world-renowned universities, which will enhance their learning capabilities and skills for professional development. The university has gained 70 free licenses to share with faculty and students to enhance their learning.

Implementation of Module-based Teaching System (Block Teaching Model)

- **Policy for adoption of Block Teaching Model at MNSUAM**

Block Teaching refers to a 'block' of time devoted to a particular course with prescribed set of learning objectives/outcomes. It is a way of organizing long class periods (60-90 minutes) to incorporate more activities and materials to engage the students. It can be used to make time allocation more flexible to enhance activities such as project- and problem-based learning. Block teaching is shortening the life span of a given course, mainly to ensure that students focus their attention on that specific module or subject.

- 01 credit = 16 classroom hours = 4 days
- 02 credit = 32 classroom hours = 8 days
- 03 credit = 48 classroom hours = 12 days

Advantages:

- Improves teachers and students' time management skills
- Increased motivation, commitment, and engagement during programmes conducted in intensive formats.
- More time for practical's/farms/industry/Studentship/research activities
- Teachers have more time for practical's/research projects activities

Limitation:
- Might be stressful for students and teachers during the block course due to the short-term and intense format of the block courses.

Solutions to the limitations:
- Involvement of pedagogical team members from within or outside the university to share the module.
- Adoption of new teaching methods to keep students engaged and avoid boredom.
- Careful organisation, adequate preparation, and varied teaching approaches.

Policy for Adoption at MNSUAM

1. Block Teaching Model will be implemented initially at Postgraduate Programs (MS/PhD).
2. Any Course that is to be delivered under block system must be approved by Directorate of Graduate Studies (DGS) before adopting Block Teaching Model for a given course during a given semester.
3. The case for teaching a course through block system will be sent by the department Chairman to DGS before the start of semester explaining:
   - Why the block approach is being taken for that course?
   - How the course has been designed to allow the students to study using this approach, including periods of learning before (uploading reading material on LMS) and after the block of teaching (Reserving some time/week for interaction with the students?
   - The nature and timing of the assessment activities. Assessments should be at the end of the semester, even if the teaching activities are delivered as blocks during the semester. Assessment timings should be communicated to DGS.
   - The course should be shared among three or more teachers/resource persons.
4. DGS will review and evaluate each designed course and will guide the teachers accordingly for deficiency or improvement plan, if any.
5. Training Sessions for the teachers will be organized by DGS.
6. Different departments may opt one course or more courses in Block format in parallel to semester-based courses depending on their needs and limitations.

Paid internships of enrolled students in final year of degree program at private sector firms and industries

University facilitate students to get paid internships by arranging interviews with leading business groups and industries. Every year a large number of students get entrepreneurship skills through paid internships.