

Frequently Asked Questions – TCS SASTRA MCA Program (Under Online (OL) mode) – JANUARY 2026 – Batch – 11



This FAQ document aims to address queries related to eligibility, admission and overall provisions related to TCS - SASTRA University MCA Program for the TCS employees recruited through TCS iGnite Division.

TCS FAQ

1. What is SASTRA MCA OL program for TCS iGnite?

The TCS–SASTRA collaborative programs are a suite of Online Learning (OL) opportunities offered by SASTRA University, Thanjavur, in partnership with TCS. These include the **MCA**, and programs, specifically designed for TCS Ignite associates.

These programs allow associates to pursue higher academic qualifications while continuing their professional roles at TCS. Structured to build and deepen domain expertise, each program spans **two years**, with an additional **two-year grace period**, giving associates **up to four years** to complete the course. Please note that failure to complete the program within this timeframe will result in admission cancellation.

All programs are **UGC-approved**, ensuring academic rigor and national accreditation.

2. Is this course applicable for associates of TCS in any Location?

This course is applicable to all TCS associates who joined TCS through Ignite (hired by Ignite). This OL program is offered without any restrictions on territorial jurisdiction as per the UGC DEB regulations.

3. What are the eligibility criteria?

The eligibility criteria for enrolling in the TCS–SASTRA collaborative Online Learning programs are as follows:

- The applicant must have been hired as part of the **TCS Ignite** program and should either be:
 - Currently undergoing Ignite training, or
 - An **Ignite alumnus** currently employed with TCS.
- The applicant must possess an **undergraduate degree from a recognized university** under the **10+2+3 pattern**, or hold a qualification deemed equivalent by a competent authority accepted by SASTRA University.

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Course/Programme	Eligibility Criteria
MCA	10+2+3 as per AICTE norms

Please ensure all educational qualifications are from recognized institutions to maintain eligibility.

4. What is the selection process?

The eligible TCS associates can register for the program using the Admission Survey link and SASTRA University will select the students based on the eligibility criteria.

5. If I complete the program successfully, will I have any advantage in the annual appraisal?

Yes, successful completion of the program entitles you to a salary refitment as a separate consideration. This recognizes your achievement and enhanced capabilities through the course.

6. Will I get any financial assistance from TCS for the program?

No. All the costs pertaining to the program is to be borne by the associate only.

7. Will I be able to cope with both the TCS job and the SASTRA University MCA program?

The MCA program is thoughtfully designed with a self-paced learning model to support working professionals like you. With up to 40% of the curriculum delivered and evaluated by TCS, a significant portion of your learning is already integrated into your work environment—making it easier to balance both professional and academic responsibilities. While personal commitment and time management are essential, the program is structured to help you succeed without overwhelming your schedule.

8. Does my current location or allocation affect my eligibility for this online program?

No, your current location or allocation does not affect your eligibility. Since this is an online program, you can enroll and participate from anywhere, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria.

9. I am interested to register for this MCA program, but I am not from the Ignite Alumni. Can I apply for this program?

No. The program is applicable for associates who joined TCS under Ignite program only.

10. If I resign from TCS during the program, can I still continue the MCA program?

No. Once you resign from TCS, you will automatically be disqualified from the program.

11. How does the 4-year duration of this online program benefit me if I get transferred to another TCS location, including opportunities abroad?

The 4-year span of this online program provides you with the flexibility to pursue your degree while exploring diverse project opportunities within TCS, including potential transfers or onsite

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assignments abroad. This extended timeline supports both your professional mobility and academic progress simultaneously.

12. Is this degree recognized outside TCS?

Yes. As per the New Education Policy, 2020, online degree programs like this one are recognized as equivalent to regular on-campus degree programs. An equivalence certificate provided by the UGC, ensures that the MCA degree earned through this online program holds the same academic value and recognition outside TCS as a traditional MCA degree.

13. I am part of the Ignite Alumni list and I am keen to register for this course. What should I do?

You should contact the Ignite SPOC or express your interest through the microsite: <https://dde.sastra.edu/apjan24/TCSIGNITE/>

14. Will I get re-fitment, compensation revision and promotion upon completion of the course?

Yes, you are eligible. Associate should contact their HR for the applicability and the relevant process.

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SASTRA FAQ

15. How often the admission process for SASTRA MCA OL is going to happen annually?

Two times annually. January Session and July Session.

16. What is the program duration?

The program duration is 2 years, consisting of 4 semesters.

17. What is the maximum duration to complete the course?

Though the duration of the program is two years, the courses must be completed successfully within four years from the date of first registration.

18. What if I am unable to complete the program within four years?

You will not be awarded the MCA degree by SASTRA University and your admission becomes void. No document / certificate will be provided for the partial completion.

19. How is the course / study material made available for the candidates?

SASTRA University will provide e-access to Self-Learning Material, lecture notes and presentation slides for all the courses that are handled by SASTRA. Classes will be conducted Online.

20. How and when are classes conducted?

Online classes will be conducted during weekdays and weekends depending on the schedule. Class schedule will be notified well in advance by SASTRA University to the admitted candidates.

21. What is the assessment mode?

Courses for which SASTRA University is the credit awardee:

SASTRA University conducts the exams as per the University norms and does the evaluation for all the courses for which SASTRA University is the credit awardee.

Courses for which TCS is the credit awardee:

Since it is a collaborative program, the course content of Ignite Training is aligned with the Curriculum of SASTRA – TCS MCA OL and associates should have completed the courses that are handled by TCS during the training. The real time application of their gained knowledge during their project execution / work performance will be assessed by TCS for which TCS is the Credit Awardee.

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TCS SPOC will collect the (assessment scores from Ignite training team for the respective TCS subjects associates have completed the courses and the assessments) periodically (as per the evaluation request received from SASTRA University), (and) evaluation results (will be provided) to SASTRA University every semester.

Results Declaration:

SASTRA University will share the results of both TCS, and SASTRA University evaluated courses to the respective registrants.

22. What is the minimum passing mark in each subject?

40% in each course and overall CGPA of 4 is required to successfully complete the MCA program.

23. What if I do not clear one or more subjects in the written examination? Do I have to pay any fees for the arrears in the following semester? Can I choose to write the end of semester exams for current semester subjects without appearing for the arrears I incurred in the previous semester?

If you have not cleared one or more subjects in the written examination, it will be considered as an arrear (backlog) and you need to pay the re-examination fee for each arrear course in the subsequent semester, failing which the candidate will be treated as a DISCONTINUED STUDENT.

24. What happens if I miss the examinations?

If you miss the examinations, you can take them in the next semester as backlog courses as per SASTRA University examinations schedule.

25. What happens if I miss a semester?

If you miss a semester, then you can re-start the degree with the missed semester along with the next batch with approval from SASTRA University. This will be treated as a Readmission and the student has to pay the readmission fee.

26. Is it an off-campus program? If so, will it be considered a part-time degree?

This is a full-time degree program offered in Online Learning (OL) mode and is **approved by the UGC**. A sample degree certificate is attached for your reference.

27. Is it similar to other MCA programs?

Yes, this MCA program is academically comparable to other recognized MCA programs. However, it is uniquely structured for working professionals, offering a flexible, online learning format. Additionally, 40% of the program is delivered and supported by TCS, reducing the academic load on the student and making it easier to balance both work and study commitments.

28. Is the MCA degree from this program equivalent to a regular MCA degree?

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Yes. As per the New Education Policy, online degree programs like this one are recognized as equivalent to regular degree programs. An equivalence certificate is provided, ensuring the MCA degree earned through this program holds the same academic value as a traditional on-campus MCA degree.

29. How do I receive the Provisional Degree and Consolidated Grade Sheet?

Provisional Degree (PD) and Consolidated Grade Sheet (CGS) are issued exclusively to candidates who successfully complete the program. Semester-wise grade sheets will not be provided separately.

Upon successful completion of the program, candidates can receive their Consolidated Grade Sheet and Provisional Degree either from the University campus or via postal delivery within India, subject to a nominal postal fee. It is the sole responsibility of the student to ensure receipt of these documents by post. SASTRA University will not be liable for any loss or damage to certificates during postal transit.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to coordinate with the University and collect the documents.

30. How do I receive my final degree?

Candidate must coordinate with SASTRA University and acquire the final degree directly from SASTRA University either in person or by post within India. The final degree will be conferred just once a year, following the university's convocation. SASTRA University will not be held liable if certificate is lost during the transit through post.

31. I am from Ignite Alumni and I already possess an MCA degree. Am I eligible to apply for this program?

Yes, you can apply for the MCA program again, as well as for other programs.

Can I withdraw from the program mid-way?

Yes, but you will not be awarded the MCA degree. No certificates will be issued for the partial completion.

32. Is this degree acceptable for further higher education and PhD admission in other Indian Institutes, in the light of any AICTE / UGC guidelines?

SASTRA MCA OL is AICTE and UGC DEB approved program.

33. Whom do I contact for getting my personal details like Name, Sex, Date of Birth, etc. corrected in the course documents?

It is expected that all candidates enter their personal information correctly at the time of registration. Once the DEB ID (Distance Education Bureau ID) is generated, changes to personal details are not permitted, as the data is locked into official records.

However, SASTRA University provides a limited window for personal detail corrections after the final semester and before the release of the Provisional Degree and Consolidated Grade Sheet. During this time, the candidate must directly contact the University to request changes. No changes will be entertained after the degree is issued.

34. If I face any issues with course evaluations, whom should I contact?

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- For courses where **SASTRA University** is the credit awardee, please contact the University directly by emailing **academicsol@dde.sastra.ac.in** or **helpdeskol@dde.sastra.ac.in**.
- For courses where **TCS** is the credit awardee, reach out to the **TCS–SASTRA MCA SPOC** at **aip.highereducation@tcs.com** for clarification.

35. When the classes for the upcoming batch starts?

The classes for the upcoming batch are expected to start tentatively by the second week of April, 2026. However, SASTRA University will finalize the exact date of the commencement of the classes once the admissions are over and will communicate the same to all the candidates who are admitted into the batch.

The last date for Registration is March 17, 2026 & The Last Date for Final Payment is March 28, 2026

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ANNEXURE I : COURSE STRUCTURE

MCA

The table below provides the courses and their respective credits, semester wise.

I Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Periods of Instruction			Credits	Credits Awardee	
		L	T	P			
MATOL307R01	Statistical Methods	4	0	0	4	SASTRA	
CSEOL103	Data Structures (Semi Theory & Semi Practical)	4	0	0	4	SASTRA	
CSEOL101	Problem Solving & Programming in C	3	0	2	4	SASTRA	
INTOL205	Database Management Systems	3	0	2	4	TCS	4
TNPOL101R01	Soft skills-I	0	0	2	1	TCS	1
	Total	14	0	6	17		

II Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Periods of Instruction			Credits	Credits Awardee	
		L	T	P			
CSEOL305	Design & Analysis of Algorithms (Semi Theory & Semi Practical)	3	0	2	4	SASTRA	
CSEOL338	Operating System Concepts & Principles (Semi Theory & Semi Practical)	3	0	2	4	SASTRA	
CSEOL208	Java Programming	3	0	2	4	TCS/SASTRA*	4
CSEOL302	Computer Networks (Semi Theory & Semi Practical)	4	0	0	4	SASTRA	
TNPOL102R01	Soft skills-II	0	0	2	1	TCS	1
	Total	13	0	8	17		

* When the Stream specific course is happening with TCS Ignite Alumini, then this will be taken care by TCS / Sastra

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III Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Periods of Instruction			Credits	Credits Awardee	
		L	T	P			
CSEOL215	Software Engineering (Semi Theory & Semi Practical)	3	0	2	4	TCS	4
CSEOL304	Python Programming with Web Frameworks	3	0	2	4	TCS/SASTRA*	4
CAPOL442R01	Web Technology (Semi Theory & Semi Practical)	3	0	2	4	TCS	4
XXX	Stream Course-Paper I	4	0	0	4	SASTRA	
XXX	Stream Course-Paper II	4	0	0	4	SASTRA	
	Total	17	0	6	20		

*When the Stream specific course is happening with TCS Ignite Alumina, then this will be taken care by TCS / Sastra

IV Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Periods of Instruction			Credits	Credits Awardee	
		L	T	P			
CAPOL530R01	Natural Language Processing	4	0	0	4	TCS	4
CAPOL509R02	Cloud Computing	4	0	0	4	SASTRA	4
XXX	Stream Course-Paper III	4	0	0	4	SASTRA	
XXX	Stream Course-Paper IV	4	0	0	4	SASTRA	
CSEOL400	Project & Viva voce	0	0	20	10	TCS	10
	Total	16	0	20	26		
							40

TCS OWNS	28	
SASTRA		
TCS JAVA/Python	4	
		32

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One of Three streams should be chosen by the student

(Courses are offered in the same order given)

Stream I : Full Stack Development

Course Code	Course Title	Periods of Instruction			Credits
		L	T	P	
INTOL327	Low Code Programming with Oracle Apex	4	0	0	4
CAPOL524R01	Software Design & Testing	4	0	0	4
CAPOL536	Design Thinking	4	0	0	4
INTOL436	Full Stack Web Application Development	4	0	0	4

Stream II : Artificial Intelligence & Data Science

Course Code	Course Title	Periods of Instruction			Credits
		L	T	P	
CSEOL324	Fundamentals of AI & Data science	4	0	0	4
INTOL405	Machine Learning Techniques	4	0	0	4
CSEOL326	Predictive Analytics & Data Visualization	4	0	0	4
CSEOL334	Data Analytics for Health Care Applications	4	0	0	4

Stream III : Cyber Security

Course Code	Course Title	Periods of Instruction			Credits
		L	T	P	
CSEOL313	Cryptography & Network Security	4	0	0	4
INTOL320	Cyber Security & Ethical Hacking	4	0	0	4
INTOL420	Machine Learning for Cyber Security	4	0	0	4
INTOL439	Enterprise Block Chain Framework	4	0	0	4

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ANNEXURE III: FEE STRUCTURE

MCA

FEE STRUCTURE	PROPOSED FEE STRUCTURE			
	TUTION FEES	EXAM FEES	CONVOCATION FEES	TOTAL
SEMESTER I	22000	3000		25000
SEMESTER II	22000	3000		25000
SEMESTER III	22000	3000		25000
SEMESTER IV	20500	3000	1500	25000
TOTAL	86500	12000	1500	100000

ANNEXURE IV : SAMPLE DEGREE CERTIFICATE

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	SASTRA ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT LAW SCIENCES HUMANITIES EDUCATION DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY (U75 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)	
Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy		
School of Management		
<i>Upon the recommendation of the Faculty and by the Authority of the Board of Management acting under the powers vested by the Government of India, the University confers on</i>		
Student Name		
<i>the degree of</i>		
Master of Business Administration		
<i>and has placed her in First Class with Distinction in the Examination held in July 2022.</i>		
<i>In witness whereof, we have hereunto affixed our signatures and the Seal of the University, this day, the Eighteenth of September, 2022 at the University Campus, Thanjavur, India.</i>		
Dean	Registrar	Vice-Chancellor
<input type="text" value="SI. No. P01"/>	<input type="text" value="Reg. No. 2234567899"/>	

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ANNEXURE V : EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATE

www.ugc.ac.in/deb



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
DISTANCE EDUCATION BUREAU
35-FEROZE SHAH ROAD
NEW DELHI-110 001

F. No. 1-9/2018 (DEB-I)

23rd February, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government of India has envisaged a greater role for the Open and the Distance Education System. The envisioned role may be fulfilled by recognizing and treating the Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates awarded through distance mode at par with the corresponding awards of Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates obtained through the formal system of education. Open and Distance Education System in the country is contributing a lot in expansion of Higher Education and for achieving target of Gross Enrolment Ratio, without compromising on quality. Non recognition/non equivalence of degrees of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) institutions for the purpose of promotion/employment and pursuing higher education may prove a deterrent to many aspiring students and will ultimately defeat the purpose of Open and Distance Education.

Accordingly, the Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates awarded for programmes conducted by the ODL institutions, recognized by the erstwhile DEC/UGC, in conformity with UGC Notification on Specification of Degrees should be treated as equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Degree/Diploma/Certificate of the traditional Universities/Institutions in the country.

UGC has notified [UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017] in the official Gazette on **23/06/2017**. As per UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 under Part-I (2)(p), the programmes in engineering, medicine, dental, pharmacy, nursing, architecture, physiotherapy and such other programmes which require hands-on training are not permitted to be offered under Open and Distance Learning mode.


(Prof. Rajnish Jain)
Secretary