

Cross-Cutting Issues in the Zoology Curriculum

1. Professional Ethics

Relevance in Curriculum:

- Courses such as **Research Methodology (MJC-14)** and **Dissertation/Project Work (RP-1)** in Semester VII & VIII foster awareness about scientific integrity, plagiarism, proper citation, data authenticity, and responsible research practices.
- **Animal Behaviour (MJC-12)** and **Physiology (MJC-4)** include ethical aspects of animal experimentation and humane treatment of organisms.
- Emphasis on lab safety, biosafety, and ethical handling of biological materials throughout practicals.

Embedded Learning:

- Understanding ethical dilemmas in fieldwork and lab work.
- Promoting honesty, integrity, and respect in peer collaborations and data reporting.

2. Gender Sensitization

Relevance in Curriculum:

- **Developmental Biology (MJC-10)** and **Endocrinology (MJC-6)** cover human reproduction, hormonal regulation, and gender-related physiological aspects, fostering scientific and inclusive understanding of sex and gender.
- Opportunities to address **gender disparities in science** through discussions, seminars, and group projects.
- Equal participation and collaborative learning are promoted in practical and group-based coursework.

Embedded Learning:

- Encourages respect for all genders in academic and professional contexts.
- Sensitizes students to gender-based physiological and behavioral diversity in the animal kingdom and human society.

3. Human Values

Relevance in Curriculum:

- **Comparative Anatomy (MJC-3)** and **Evolution (MJC-11)** provide insight into the unity and diversity of life, promoting respect for all forms of life.
- Activities such as group discussions, field studies, and collaborative projects develop values like cooperation, empathy, accountability, and leadership.
- **Disaster Risk Management (AEC-3)** and **NSS/NGO/Social Service (AEC-4)** involve community service components that cultivate civic responsibility and compassion.

Embedded Learning:

- Cultivates ethical reasoning and humane perspectives through biological understanding.
- Reinforces responsibility toward peers, subjects of study (animals), and society.

4. Environmental Awareness and Sustainability

Relevance in Curriculum:

- **Ecology (MJC-7)** and **Environmental Science (AEC-2)** directly address environmental problems, ecosystem management, conservation biology, biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change.
- **Animal Behaviour (MJC-12)** and **Zoological Fieldwork** link animal adaptation to environmental contexts.
- Practical sessions in **Ecology, Environmental Science, and Biostatistics** promote sustainable resource use and environmental monitoring.

Embedded Learning:

- Encourages critical thinking on sustainable practices, waste reduction, and biodiversity conservation.
- Develops environmental stewardship through field visits, biodiversity documentation, and conservation-focused projects.

5. Integration Across Curriculum

Issue	Integrated Through
Professional Ethics	Research, lab work, project writing, plagiarism policy, animal handling guidelines
Gender	Reproductive biology, endocrinology, inclusive language and examples, student interactions
Human Values	Collaborative learning, social outreach (AEC/NSS), comparative biology, ethics modules
Environment & Sustainability	Ecology, field studies, biodiversity projects, sustainable lab practices

Conclusion:

The Zoology curriculum not only imparts core disciplinary knowledge but also encourages holistic development through its integration of cross-cutting themes. This promotes the creation of responsible, ethical, and environmentally aware graduates who are sensitive to gender and social diversity.