

# **Bhakti-Śāstrī Guidelines**

## **Bhaktivedānta Vedic Academy**

### **Goals of the Bhakti-Śāstrī Course**

1. Create interest and habit in the students to regularly read Srila Prabhupada's books
2. Gain knowledge and understanding of the basic philosophy
3. Development of good character  
Study of the Vedas is not meant for the recreation of armchair speculators, but for the formation of character - (Purport, Srimad Bhagavad Gita 8.28)
4. Deepen faith in Krishna and practice of Bhakti through Knowledge
5. Inculcate service attitude.

### **Program Co-ordinators**

Devadarsana Dasa  
Nrtya Kisori Devi Dasi

### **Instructors**

Devadarsana Dasa  
Nrtya Kisori Devi Dasi  
Rasaraj Dasa  
Srinatha Krsna Dasa

### **Student Eligibility**

In order to get a Bhakti Sastri certificate, apart from passing all the modules, the candidate must certify that s/he chants 16 rounds of japa daily and follows the four regulative principles at the end of the program.

However, it does not stop a candidate from registering for the course. Module completion certificates will be issued to everyone who registers and passes the module. They will not be awarded the Bhakti Sastri certificate unless they satisfy the 16 rounds/4 regulative principles criteria.

Preference will be given to candidates who are already on the path of chanting the Mahamantra and following the regulative principles.

### **Course Completion Requirements**

The course is split into 6 modules of approximately 3 months each

1. Module 1 – Nectar of Instruction

2. Module 2 – Sri Isopanisad
3. Module 3 – Bhagavad Gita Chapters 1-6 (Includes Setting the scene, preface and introduction)
4. Module 4 - Bhagavad Gita Chapters 7-12
5. Module 5 - Bhagavad Gita Chapters 13-18
6. Module 6 – Nectar of Devotion Chapter 1-19

The student can start the Bhakti Sastri course from any module.

### Course Load

There will be instructor led classes every week for 1.5-2 hours.

The student is expected to read at least 15 minutes every day which totals to 1.5 hrs

The assignments will take on an average 30 minutes a week

The student is expected to do service for at least 30 minutes a week

If the student puts in 4.5 hours of study/classes every week, s/he should be able to comfortably pass the course.

1. 40% for open book questions assessing student’s depth of understanding, application and values in respect to the themes and content of the four Bhakti Sastri books. Required answers shall either be in the form of essays or else compositions of at least several paragraphs each. The sum of the minimum required words for the answers should be at least 7,500. At least 50-60% of these open book questions will be higher order cognitive questions on the application of the philosophy. They will test personal integrity, evaluation skills, preaching application, and personal acceptance. No more than 20% of submitted answers can be cut and paste from elsewhere.
2. 50% for closed book tests requiring:
  - 60% - The answering of at least seventy-five short-answer questions, 45 on Bhagavad gita, 15 on Nectar of Devotion, 10 on Nectar of Instruction, and 10 on Sri Isopanisad.
  - 40% - Being able to recite from memory, the original Sanskrit text and approximate meaning of at least 45 verses found in the four Bhakti Sastri books.
3. 10% for personal Vaisnava behaviour, punctuality, sadhana, extra-curricular service, co-operative mood, and ability to function as part of a team.

Assessment Area	Minimum Passing Level	Remedy for Failure
Open book assessment	60% in each unit (see also Note 1 below)	Failed papers may be resubmitted
Closed book assessment	65% in each unit (“)	The student can again sit for a (different) test. However, where student’s scores are less than 50% or where the answers represent a serious

		lack of clarity in the subject matter, they should retake the classes and closed book assessments for the unit.
Sloka assessment	65% in each unit (“	The student may apply for a time extension of up to 18 months from the date of initial assessment for achieving a passing level, which may be granted at the discretion of the Lead Instructor.
Personal Behavior	Adequate	None
Attendance	75% for each unit (see also Note 2 below)	Retake the unit

Note 1: The following are the “units” for Bhakti Sastri:

Sri Isopanisad

Nectar of Instruction

Nectar of Devotion

Bhagavad-gita broken into three units. Chapters 1-6, 7-12, and 13-18.

Note 2: This attendance requirement may be waived for senior devotees with the permission of the Board of Examinations.

Please contact [bva.dallas@gmail.com](mailto:bva.dallas@gmail.com) for further questions.