



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

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विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

F. No. 1-11/2025(DEB-NER)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Precautions to be taken by the students before enrolling in Programmes offered under Open & Distance Learning (ODL) and/or Online Learning (OL) mode

UGC has notified the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 on 4th September, 2020 in the Gazette of India. Subsequently, amendments to the Principal regulations have been notified on 1st July, 2021, 18th July, 2022 and 2nd May, 2024.

These regulations lay down the minimum standards of instruction for the grant of degrees at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and the grant of postgraduate diploma of duration of two years in Open and Distance Learning and/or Online mode.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) advises all prospective learners to must confirm the recognition status of HEI for offering ODL and Online programmes for the session opted for admission on UGC DEB website, check the details on the HEIs' website, take note of prohibited programmes and prohibition of franchising arrangement and ensure that all activities are being conducted within Territorial Jurisdiction for ODL Programmes. The details are as under:

1. Verification of Recognition and Entitlement Status of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs):

- Recognition status of HEIs:** The year-wise, academic session-wise status of HEIs recognized to offer Programmes through Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode is available on UGC website at <https://deb.ugc.ac.in/>.
- Entitlement Status of HEIs:** The list of HEIs entitled to offer Programmes in ODL mode and/or online mode with names of Programmes is available on the UGC website at <https://deb.ugc.ac.in/>.
- Please read the notifications at the Notice Board before taking admission at the following link: <https://www.ugc.gov.in/Notices> or <https://deb.ugc.ac.in/notices/NewNotices>.

Note: The last date of admissions for all HEIs for offering ODL and/or Online Programmes for the academic session beginning July-August, 2025 shall be **15th October, 2025**.

2. Mandatory creation of DEB-ID for enrolling students in ODL/Online Programmes

As per UGC's decision in its 581st meeting dated 25th June 2024, a standardised admission system has been adopted to safeguard learner's academic future and career opportunities. Accordingly:

- Students must register on the UGC-DEB portal using their Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) ID to generate a unique DEB-ID.

- This DEB-ID will be mandatory for enrolling in ODL/Online programmes and will remain valid for students across a life cycle of ODL/OL mode.

Refer to public notice F. No. 1-6/2024(DEB-II) dated 19th August 2024 for detailed enrolment procedures.

3. Checking the details on the HEIs' website:

All HEIs that are recognized/entitled to offer ODL and/or Online programmes are required to display the following details on their websites:

- a) Applications submitted to UGC
- b) Affidavits and approvals from statutory bodies
- c) Regulatory authority approvals (if applicable)
- d) Additional information on their website as per regulation 9 i.e., Self-regulation through disclosures, declarations and reports of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

4. HEIs debarred/put under 'no admission category':

The details of HEIs debarred from offering ODL and/or Online programmes and put under 'no admission category' are as under:-

- a. Suresh Gyan Vihar University, Rajasthan - Debarred/banned from offering Online programmes for the next five academic sessions beginning from July-August, 2024, and no application shall be considered for the academic year 2024-25 and 2025-26 to offer programmes in Online mode, even under "Entitled Category".
- b. Periyar University, Tamil Nadu - Debarred/banned from offering Online Programmes for two academic years 2024-25 and 2025-26 starting from academic session beginning July-August 2024, even under "Entitled Category".

Further, public notices in respect of HEIs are also available on the UGC-DEB website at <https://deb.ugc.ac.in/>. All stakeholders are requested to check UGC/UGC-DEB website on regular basis for future updates.

5. Adherence to UGC notification on Specification of Degrees, 2014 and its subsequent amendments:

Please ensure that the minimum duration, nomenclature and entry level qualification for ODL and Online Programmes for which enrolment is being sought are strictly as per UGC notification on Specification of Degrees, 2014 and its amendments (available at <https://www.ugc.gov.in>).

6. Caution against admission in prohibited programmes:

- a) Programmes in the following disciplines (including their allied domains) are not permitted to be offered under ODL and Online mode:

- (i) Engineering
- (ii) Medical
- (iii) Physiotherapy
- (iv) Occupational Therapy and other Para-Medical disciplines
- (v) Pharmacy
- (vi) Nursing
- (vii) Dental
- (viii) Architecture
- (ix) Law
- (x) Agriculture
- (xi) Horticulture
- (xii) Hotel Management
- (xiii) Catering Technology
- (xiv) Culinary Sciences
- (xv) Aircraft Maintenance
- (xvi) Visual Arts and Sports
- (xvii) Aviation
- (xviii) any other programme not permitted to be offered through Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode by any concerned statutory or regulatory body or council.

Further, Yoga and Tourism & Hospitality Management programmes at UG and PG level are not permitted in Online mode.

Apart from the above, M.Phil and Ph.D. programmes in all disciplines through Open and Distance Learning and Online mode are also not permitted.

- b) Commission in its 592nd meeting held on 23.07.2025 deliberated on the feasibility of offering programmes in the specialisation of healthcare and allied disciplines falling under the NCAHP Act, 2021, in ODL and Online mode. Accordingly, the Commission decided that *no HEI shall be permitted to offer any allied and healthcare programmes covered in NCAHP Act, 2021, including Psychology as specialisation under ODL/Online mode, from the academic session July-August, 2025 and onwards.*

7. Ensuring all activities within Territorial Jurisdiction for ODL Programmes only:

Students are requested to ensure that all activities of the HEI including admission, counselling sessions, contact programmes, programme delivery and examinations are conducted by the HEI strictly within the Territorial Jurisdiction of the HEI for ODL programmes, as indicated below:-

Type of University	Territorial Jurisdiction
Central University	Allotted to HEI under its Act.
State University	Allotted to HEI under its Act and in no case beyond the territory of the state of its location.

Private University (established under a State Act)	• Allotted to HEI under its Act and in no case beyond the territory of the state of its location. • Offer Programmes only through Head Quarters and recognized off-campus centres. • Programmes not to be offered from Learner Support Centre (LSC).
Deemed to be University	Within its Head Quarters or from those off-campus centres, which are approved by the Government of India.

The policy on territorial jurisdiction is defined under Annexure III of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and can be accessed at <https://deb.ugc.ac.in>.

8. Prohibition of franchising arrangement for offering ODL and OL Programmes:

- (i) No University, whether Central, State, Private or Deemed to be University, can offer its programmes through a franchising arrangement for admitting learners and conducting courses through ODL and Online mode. Please ensure that the complete admission process is carried out through the headquarters of the HEI in a transparent manner.
- (ii) The Learner Support Centers (LSCs) shall be established and managed directly by the HEI and not through any franchisee or outsourced arrangement.
- (iii) The ownership of offering ODL and Online programmes including all required components and learning platform (in case of Online programmes) shall be that of Higher Educational Institution only.
- (iv) Franchisee arrangement with a private service provider for offering ODL and OL Programmes is not permissible as per University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

9. Equivalence of qualification acquired through Conventional or Open and Distance Learning and Online modes:

Degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate level in conformity with UGC notification on Specification of Degrees, 2014 and post graduate diplomas awarded through ODL mode and/or Online mode by Higher Educational Institutions, recognised by the Commission under these regulations, shall be treated as equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate level and post graduate diplomas offered through conventional mode.

10. Important Learner Centre provisions of the Regulations

- (i) **Learner's mobility:** A learner enrolled for a programme under Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode in a Higher Educational Institution recognised by the Commission under these regulations shall be eligible for mobility from one mode of learning to another mode of learning within the Higher Educational Institution as per the provisions stipulated under its Act and with the approval of statutory authorities of the Higher Educational Institution;

Provided that in case a programme is under the domain of a regulatory authority/statutory council, the Higher Educational Institution shall take permission

from the concerned regulatory authority/statutory council for mobility of learners in such programmes.

- (ii) **Admission taken during recognition period:** Admission taken in a recognized programme under Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode during the recognition period stands recognised till the completion of programme, even if the Higher Educational Institution does not have recognition for further years, provided the programme is offered as per the UGC norms of territorial jurisdiction and in conformity with the extant guidelines and/or UGC regulations and regulations of respective regulatory bodies.
- (iii) **Learner's enrolment (for Open and Distance Learning mode):** A Learner residing in any part of the Country may enroll in any programme being offered by a Higher Educational Institution recognised by the Commission for offering programme under Open and Distance Learning mode, provided that the Higher Educational Institution shall conduct all activities such as admissions, contact programmes, examinations etc. for learner strictly within the territorial jurisdiction of the Higher Educational Institution as specified in UGC regulations.
- (iv) **Learner's enrolment (for Online mode):** A Learner residing within or outside India may enroll in any programme being offered by a Higher Educational Institution recognised by the Commission for offering programme under Online mode.

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