

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

XII Plan Guidelines:

Scheme of Autonomous Colleges.

FAQ

Introduction:

Highlighting the importance of autonomous colleges, the UGC document on the XII Plan profile of higher education in India clearly states that: “The only safe and better way to improve the quality of undergraduate education is to the link most of the colleges from the affiliating structure. Colleges with academic and operative freedom are doing better and have more credibility. The financial support to such colleges boosts the concept of autonomy.” It is proposed to increase the number of autonomous colleges to spread the culture of autonomy, and the target is to make 10 per cent of eligible colleges autonomous by the end of the XII Plan period.

1. What is autonomy?

Autonomy may be defined as a functional status given to the colleges, by the University Grants Commission by giving greater flexibility towards purely academic development for upliftment of academic standards and excellence.

- i) At present Government / University provides only Academic Autonomy.
- ii) Administration/Financial norms shall remain as per existinf University system.
- iii) The Service conditions of faculty shall remain same as per existing University/UGC rules.

2. What is the need for autonomy?

In existing Affiliating system the colleges do not have the freedom to modernize their curricula or make them locally relevant. The regulations of the university and its common system, governing all colleges alike, irrespective of their characteristic strengths, weaknesses and locations, have affected the academic development of individual colleges.

Therefore Autonomy shall enable colleges who have academic excellence potential to award degrees on behalf of the university by providing more academic and operative freedom to function better with credibility. Freedom to modernize and revise curricula ormake them more relevant for employability.

3. Who provides autonomous status to colleges?

The University Grants Commission (UGC) – an autonomous body of the Ministry of HRD, Govt of India is entrusted provide autonomous status for five years after two stages of verification by the UGC itself and the affiliating University.

The parent University will confer the status of autonomy upon a college that is permanently affiliated, with the concurrence of the State Government and the University Grants Commission.

4. What are the pre-requisites for becoming autonomous?

All colleges recognized under section 2(f) and 12(B) of UGC Act with sufficient academic and nonacademic resources are eligible to apply for conferment of UGC autonomy.

The Colleges which have been awarded Higher NAAC /NBA grade are eligible.

Autonomous status covers certificate diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate and M.Phil programmes offered in colleges.

5. Who are the stake-holders to avail the benefits of autonomy?

The major stake holders of an autonomous college are:

- a) Faculty
- b) Students
- c) Parent/Guardian
- d) Alumni
- e) Local community

6. Who grants the degree in an autonomous college?

The Parent University will award degree to the students evaluated and recommended by the autonomous college. The degree certificates will be in a common format devised by the University.

The name of the college will be mentioned in the degree certificates.

Autonomous colleges that have completed three terms can confer the degree under their title, with the seal of the university.

7. **What is the minimum period of awarding autonomous status to a college?

Five Years.

8. What are the flexible operations that autonomous colleges can adopt?

- Prescribe its own relevant courses of study and syllabi by restructuring and redesigning courses to suit local needs.
- Student centric wide choice in courses wide range of electives. Freedom in choice of courses.
- Periodical change in syllabus as per changing needs
- Prescribe rules in consonance with the reservation policy of the State Government.
- Evolve methods of assessment of student's performance, the conduct of examinations and notification of results.
- Use modern tools of educational technology to achieve higher standards and greater creativity
- Promote healthy practices such as projects, community service, extension programs, projects for the benefit of the community at large and other related programs.

9. How does the examination system function in an autonomous college?

Students' performance is examined internally and externally. Continuous assessment and range of assessment options To ensure fairness and justice to students, various alternatives are adopted in the examination system.

10. What is the role of office of Controller of Examination?

The Exam Committee is responsible for the smooth conduct of the Semester examinations, submission of assignments, and additional examinations. All matters involving the conduct of examinations, spot valuations, tabulations, preparation of Grade Cards etc fall within the duties of the Office of the Controller of Examinations.

11. Who declares the result?

The SGPA and CGPA grades that are tabulated by the Controller of Examination is reviewed by the moderation committee. Any deviation and discrepancies are deliberated and removed. The entire result is discussed in the Academic Programme Evaluation Committee (APEC) for its approval. The result is declared on the college notice boards as well as on the web site of the college. A copy is also sent to the University.

12. Can the college give a provisional degree certificate?

Since the examinations are conducted by COE of the College and the results are also declared by COE of the college, the college sends a list of successful candidates with their final Grades and Grade Point Averages including CGPA to the University. With the prior permission of the University, the college will be entitled to give the provisional certificate.

13. What are the Statutory Committees of an autonomous college?

The Statutory Committees are-

1. Board of Governors (BOM)
2. Academic Council
3. Finance Committee
4. Board of Studies
5. Controller of Examinations

14. What are the non-statutory committees?

The non-Statutory Committees are)

- a) Departmental Academic Committee
- b) Grievance Redressal Committee
- c) Anti Ragging Core Committee
- d) Research and Development Committee
- e) Students Welfare Committee
- f) Literary Committee
- g) Library Committee
- h) Sports Committee
- i) Cultural Committee
- j) Administrative Quality Circle

- k) Planning & Evaluation Committee
- l) Extra Curricular Committee
- m) Academic Audit Committee
- n) Hostel & Canteen Committee

15. Can short term courses be offered by autonomous colleges beyond the curriculum?

Yes. The college can offer special need based short term courses under the departments of the college for the benefit of the students and outsiders can also enroll for them.

16. Shall we get autonomy for PG and Doctoral Programmes also?

Yes, initially, PG programmes can enjoy autonomous status.

17. How can an autonomous College start new degree / Post Graduate courses?

An autonomous College is free to start a new degree or Post Graduate course with the approval of the Academic Council of the College. Such courses shall fulfill the minimum standards prescribed by the University / UGC in terms of number of hours, curricular consent and standards. The college may rename the existing course after restructuring / redesigning it and the University should be duly informed of such proceedings so that it may award new degrees in place of the old. The University has the right to review and scrutinize all new courses of an autonomous college and can modify them in consultation with UGC.

Common programmes to be adopted are:

- a. Semester pattern of study
- b. Continuous internal assessment
- c. Credit/grading system
- d. Student feedback
- e. Self-appraisal by teachers

18. What is the difference between a Deemed University and an Autonomy College?

A Deemed University is fully autonomous to the extent of awarding its own Degree. A Deemed University is usually a Non-Affiliating version of a University and has similar responsibilities like any University.

An Autonomous College enjoys Academic Autonomy alone. The University to which an autonomous college is affiliated will have checks on its performance of the autonomous college.

19. Who will check whether the academic standard is maintained / improved after Autonomy? How will it be checked?

There has to be a built in mechanism in the autonomous college working for this purpose. An Internal Committee called Academic Programme Evaluation Committee (APEC) is a Non-Statutory body, will keep a watch on the academics and keep its reports and recommendations every year. In addition to APEC, Academic Council, the highest academic body, also supervises the academic matters. At the

end of three years, there is an external inspection by the University for this purpose. The standards of question papers, the regularity of academic calendar, attendance of students, speed and transparency of result declaration and such other parameters are involved in this process.

20. **What is the role of State Government towards assistance to Autonomous College?

_ The Government has to convey in Concurrence for the extension of autonomy of any college by the UGC within the stipulated time of 90 days after receipt of the review Committee report. The State Government has to give a no objection to the college continuing to be autonomous.

_ The Government has to avoid as far as possible, transfer of teachers, especially in colleges where academic innovation and reforms are in progress, except for need based transfer.

_ The Government has to depute a nominee on time to the Governing body of Government colleges and other bodies wherever their nominees are to be included.

21. What is the nature of assistance granted by Government/UGC after conferment autonomous status?

Financial assistance and other enabling provisions-

The Commission will provide assistance to autonomous colleges to meet their additional and special needs such as :

- Guest/visiting faculty o Orientation and re-training of teachers.
- Re-designing courses and development of teaching/learning material
- Workshop and seminars
- Examination reforms o Office equipment, teaching aids and laboratory equipment
- Furniture for office, classrooms, library and laboratories
- Library equipment, books/journals
- Expenditure on meetings of the governing body and committees
- Honorarium to Controller of Examinations (full-time) not exceeding Rs. 8000/- p.m. o Accreditation (NAAC) fee o Renovation and repairs not leading to construction of a new building .
- Extension Activities

22. ** What about the fee structure in autonomous colleges?

The fees charged will be according to the parent University norms. But for additional courses.

Vocational Component, Skill improvement programme, extra-curricular activity, moderate separate fee is charged.

23. What is the benefit to the Students and Teachers of autonomous colleges?

- An autonomous college carries a prestigious image for the students and the teachers.
- Autonomy reflects efforts for excellence in academic performances, capability of self governance
- enhancement in the quality of education.
- Enjoys job oriented curriculum .
