



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
DISTANCE EDUCATION BUREAU
Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
35, Feroze Shah Road, New Delhi – 110001
Website: <https://deb.ugc.ac.in/>
Email: ugcdeb01@gmail.com
Ph. No. 011-2360 4695, 694, 648, 666

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F. No. 8-8/2023(DEB-I) (ODL)

17 November, 2023

✓ The Registrar
Gauhati University
Gopinath Bardoloi Nagar
Jalukbari – 781 014
Guwahati, Assam

Sub: Commission Order on the application submitted online by the Higher Educational Institution (HEI) for recognition of the programmes to be offered in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode from academic year 2023-24, academic session beginning July-August, 2023 and onwards-regarding.

Sir/Madam,

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 26 read with clause (j) of section 12 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956), University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 has notified on 4th September, 2020 in the Gazette of India. Subsequently, the first and second amendments in Principal Regulations have been notified on 01.07.2021 and 18.07.2022 respectively in the Gazette of India.

2. The eligibility criterion for Higher Educational Institution is enumerated under Regulation 3 in Part II of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments. The Regulation 4 and 5 describe the process of application and the approval process for the Open and Distance Learning and Online Programmes whereas Regulation 6 describes provisions of right to appeal by the Higher Educational Institutions aggrieved with the order of the Commission and Regulation 7 describes the process of withdrawal of Recognition.

3. University Grants Commission invited online applications from the eligible Higher Educational Institutions as per Regulation 3(A) and Regulation 3(B)(b) of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments for recognition of the programmes under Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode and/ or Online mode from academic year **2023-24, academic session beginning from July-August, 2023** and onwards vide Public Notice F. No. 1-1/2023 (DEB-I) dated 01st March, 2023, mentioning therein that the online portal for submitting applications shall be open upto 31st March, 2023. **Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam** submitted its application for recognition of the Open and Distance Learning Programmes.

4. Application received from **Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam** was scrutinized and deficiency(ies) or defect(s) in application were communicated to the HEI as per the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments with a request to remove or rectify such deficiency(ies) or defect(s) along with relevant documentary evidence (if any).

5. In view of the complaints received against the HEI regarding violations of the UGC (Open and Distance Learning (ODL)) Regulations, **Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam** was visited virtually by the Visiting Expert Committee (VEC) constituted by the Chairman, UGC on **08.06.2023 and 09.06.2023**.

6. The report of the Visiting Expert Committee was considered by the Expert Review Committee (ERC) in its meeting held on **20th June, 2023**. The Expert Review Committee based on the application submitted, clarification submitted with documentary evidence for the deficiency(s) or defect(s) communicated earlier, the report of Visiting Expert Committee along with documentary evidence and in terms of provisions of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments, made recommendations for the consideration of the Competent Authority/Commission.

7. Based on the recommendations of Expert Review Committee (ERC) and its approval by Competent Authority/Commission, I am directed to issue this Order, thereby communicating the programme wise recognition for the programmes to be offered in **Open and Distance Learning mode** from academic year 2023-24, academic session beginning **July-August, 2023** by **Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam** as detailed in point no. 8 below. The Expert Review Committee recommendation sheet approved by Competent Authority along with VEC Report has already been communicated to the Higher Educational Institution through UGC-DEB portal on 03.07.2023.

8. Programme wise recognition status

(i) Open and Distance Learning Programmes Recognized: 04 (Four)

(Assessment sheet communicated to the HEI through UGC-DEB web portal on 03.07.2023)

S. No.	Name of the ODL Programme(s)	Period of Recognition
1.	MASTER OF ARTS (ASSAMESE)	2023-24, academic session beginning from July-August, 2023 to 2027-28 (upto January, 2028 only)
2.	MASTER OF ARTS (ENGLISH)	
3.	MASTER OF ARTS (POLITICAL SCIENCE)	
4.	MASTER OF SCIENCE (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)	

Note:-

1. The HEI has proposed to conduct Term End examinations only on Sunday, which may delay the evaluation process. Accordingly, the Expert Committee recommends that the HEI shall conduct examinations on Saturdays & Sundays, to ensure timely completion of Examination process.
2. HEI shall conduct regular Trainings/Seminars/Workshops for both faculty and admin staff, to enhance the quality of education.
3. HEI shall offer proposed M.Sc (IT) programme from Headquarters only.

(ii) Open and Distance Learning Programmes Not Recognised: Nil

9. For the programmes recognised in 8(i) above, the Higher Educational Institution shall comply with all the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes & Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments while offering the programmes in Open and

Distance Learning mode. Some specific provisions for compliance have been mentioned in **Annexure-1**.

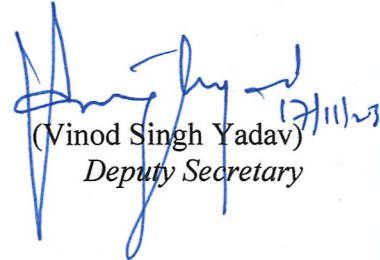
10. As stipulated under Sub-Regulation 7 of Regulation 5 of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020:

“No Higher Educational Institution shall offer any Open and Distance Learning Programme and/or Online Programme and admit learners thereto unless it has been granted recognition by the Commission and admission shall not be made in anticipation of the recognition”.

11. In the event of any Higher Educational Institution found offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode without recognition of the Commission or in violation to any of the provisions of these regulations and guidelines or orders made there under, the Commission may take actions as per Regulation 7 of Part -II of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments.

12 The application of the HEI for the academic year 2023-24, session beginning July - August, 2023 and onwards **stands closed**.

Yours faithfully,


(Vinod Singh Yadav)
Deputy Secretary

Encl(s) :- As Above

Copy to: -

1. The Secretary, Higher Education, Government of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati, Assam with a request to ensure that HEI adheres to all the provisions of the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments.
2. The Economic Advisor, Distance Learning Section, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001.
3. The Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University, Gopinath Bardoloi Nagar, Jalukbari, Guwahati, Assam – 781 014
4. The Deputy Secretary, State University Bureau, UGC, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi -110 002.
5. Guard File.

(Dr.Naresh Pal Meena)
Education Officer