Centurion
UNIVERSITY
Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...

University Anti-Poverty Programmes

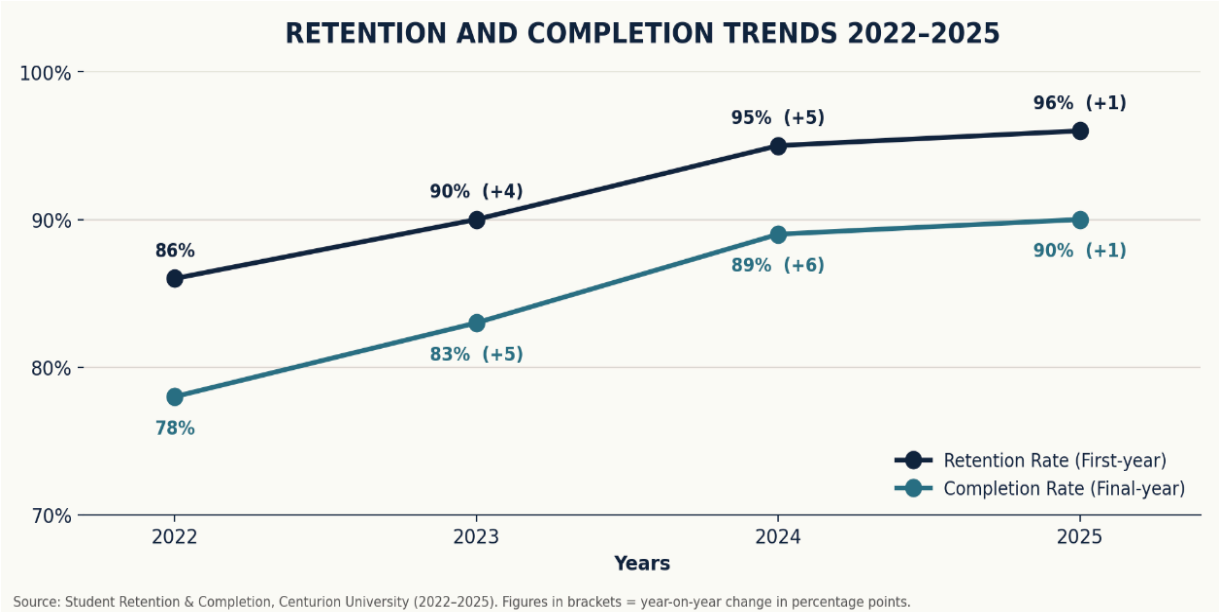
Institutional Targets for Admission of Students from Economically Disadvantaged Backgrounds

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) recognizes higher education as a powerful instrument for social inclusion, poverty reduction, and sustainable development. In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 4 (Quality Education), the University has established institutional policies and measurable targets to expand access to higher education for students from the bottom 20% of household income groups and other socio-economically disadvantaged communities.

Annual Admission Target

Centurion University achieved 98.44% of its annual admission target, reflecting effective admission strategies, extensive outreach initiatives and coordinated efforts by the admission teams.

While student enrollment is an important measure of access, graduation is the ultimate measure of transformation. From 2022 to 2025, Centurion University achieved significant improvements in student success - with first-year retention climbing from 86% to 96% and final-year completion rising from 78% to 90%. These outcomes go beyond academic achievement. Each additional graduate represents a livelihood strengthened, a family empowered and potential community growth. By enabling more rural and low-income students to complete their degrees and secure meaningful employment, Centurion University is helping to break the cycle of poverty and build sustainable prosperity across regional and tribal communities. Result: Dropout fell from 14 % to 4 % between 2022–2025, directly contributing to long-term poverty reduction.



Policy and Governance Framework

Policy and Governance Framework of Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM)

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) follows a comprehensive Policy and Governance Framework established under the Centurion University of Technology and Management Act, 2010 (Odisha Act 4 of 2010), ensuring institutional autonomy, transparency, accountability, participatory decision-making and responsible administration. The university's governance structure comprises statutory bodies, including the Board of Governors, Board of Management, Academic Council, Finance Committee and Board of Studies, which oversee strategic planning, institutional administration, academic standards, curriculum development, financial management and research activities.

CUTM implements a wide range of institutional policies covering academic governance, financial administration, human resource management, research and development, intellectual property rights, student welfare, gender equality, disability inclusion, equal opportunity, environmental sustainability, energy conservation, waste management, digital governance, data protection, professional ethics and anti-corruption. Institutional accountability and stakeholder protection are reinforced through dedicated committees such as the Anti-Ragging Committee, Internal Committee against Sexual Harassment, Student Grievance Redressal Committee, SC/ST Committee, Equal Opportunity and Inclusion mechanisms, Research Committees and Sustainability Committee. Furthermore, the university's E-Governance Policy promotes technology-enabled administration through integrated digital platforms and ERP systems for academic management, financial operations, information dissemination and stakeholder services.

Through regular institutional reviews, quality assurance mechanisms, statutory oversight and publicly accessible policies, CUTM strives to ensure ethical leadership, inclusive governance, operational efficiency and sustainable institutional development across its campuses.

Equal Opportunity and Poverty Reduction Policies

CUTM's admission targets are guided by its Equal Opportunity Policy (2024) and Poverty Reduction Policy (2024), which promote socio-economic equity by prioritizing admissions for Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs). The policies recognise income, caste, geography, and gender as key dimensions of disadvantage.

CUTM's admission framework targets students from the bottom 20% of household income groups. The Poverty Reduction Policy (2024), approved by the University administration, commits CUTM to ensuring that every student, regardless of economic situation, has access to quality education. It provides institutional scholarships for economically backward and deserving students, including the Full Fee Waiver Scholarship for all four years of study and the Chandrika Scholarship for female students. This commitment is put into practice through three admission mechanisms:

Reserved seats: 49.5% of seats are reserved for SC (15%), ST (7.5%) and OBC (27%) candidates, groups concentrated in the lowest income brackets in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Income-verified support: eligibility for need-based scholarships and fee waivers is assessed using verified family-income certificates, with an annual household income below ₹1 lakh used to identify bottom-quintile applicants.

Targeted outreach: admissions outreach is concentrated in rural and tribal areas, with campuses located in NITI Aayog aspirational districts including Gajapati, Rayagada and Balangir.

CUTM tracks the household income profile of each year's intake against this commitment. In AY 2025–26, approximately 51% of the intake came from families in the bottom 20% income group, and 83.1% of scholarship recipients came from families earning below ₹1 lakh a year.

Reservation Policy as an Economic Proxy

CUTM fully adheres to the Government of India's constitutionally mandated reservation policy, which directly correlates with income-based disadvantage:

Category	Quota	Socio-economic relevance
Scheduled Castes (SC)	15 %	Communities facing chronic economic marginalization
Scheduled Tribes (ST)	7.5 %	Predominantly rural and forest-based populations in lowest income quintile
Other Backward Classes (OBC)	27 %	Socially and educationally disadvantaged with persistent income deficits

Table 1: Reservation Quotas and Their Linkage to Economic Disadvantage in CUTM Admissions

Together, these categories constitute 49.5 % of total admissions. Empirical data confirm that SC/ST/OBC households in India overwhelmingly occupy the bottom 20–40 % of the national income distribution. In Odisha and Andhra Pradesh—CUTM's core catchment—more than 60 % of Below-Poverty-Line (BPL) families belong to these categories. Thus, CUTM's statutory reservation structure itself functions as an instrument to achieve bottom-quintile representation.

➔ Geographic Targeting of Underserved Regions

CUTM's seven campuses—six in Odisha and one in Andhra Pradesh—are strategically located in underserved districts with limited higher education access. These regions are characterised by high tribal and rural populations, below-average per capita income, inadequate higher education infrastructure, and high levels of multidimensional poverty.

- High tribal and rural populations.
- Per capita income below the national average.
- Limited access to higher education institutions before CUTM's establishment.
- High levels of multidimensional poverty compared to state and national averages.

➔ Financial Support and Admission Incentives

CUTM complements targeted admissions with a comprehensive financial aid ecosystem that reduces affordability barriers for students from economically disadvantaged households.

Scholarship Ecosystem (AY 2025-26)

- A total of 5,867 students benefited from scholarships/freeships during 2025-26, with a combined disbursement of ₹12,07,68,336. The ₹7.08 crore shown in Table 2 is the government-scheme component of this total; the remainder comes from the University's own scholarships (₹4.77 crore) and NGO and corporate sponsors (₹0.23 crore).
- Government schemes supported the largest number of students (2,953, ~50.3% of all beneficiaries) across 18 different schemes, disbursing ₹7,08,08,644 (~58.6% of total funds).
- The Institution's own scholarship programme supported 2,881 students (~49.1% of beneficiaries) with ₹4,76,63,592 disbursed (~39.5% of total funds) — the second-largest funding channel.

NGOs and external agencies contributed ₹22,96,100 to 33 students across 14 schemes and 9 distinct sponsoring organisations (e.g., HDFC Bank, Jindal/JSP Foundation, Mirae Asset Foundation, Vidyasarathi, Buddy4Study), reflecting a diverse but comparatively small external funding base.

Table 2: Government Schemes

#	Scheme Name	Students	Amount (INR)
1	Krishi Vidya Nidhi Yojana	61	₹29,29,025
2	National Scholarship	6	₹72,000
3	E-KALYAN-SC-ST-OBC/EBC SCHOLARSHIP	67	₹28,41,000

#	Scheme Name	Students	Amount (INR)
4	Godabarisha Vidyarthi Protsahana Yojana (LAPTOP DBT)	9	₹2,70,000
5	Gopabandhu Sikhya Sahayata Yojana	21	₹3,68,000
6	E-MEDHABRUTI- LAPTOP	9	₹2,70,000
7	National Scholarship- PG Studies	6	₹90,000
8	E-MEDHABRUTI- PG Merit	42	₹6,23,000
9	PM ASSAM RIFLES	5	₹1,68,000
10	National Scholarship- DISABILITIES	1	₹90,000
11	Post Matric Scholarship	1,034	₹2,71,44,823
12	PRERANA	786	₹1,88,45,796
13	E-MEDHABRUTI- Technical and Professional	867	₹1,62,13,000
14	E-MEDHABRUTI- U.G Merit	10	₹1,00,000
15	UMBRELLA SCHEME FOR ARUNANCHAL	2	₹1,30,000
16	YOSODA SCHEME	23	₹5,56,000
17	BIJU SISHU KALYAN YOJANA	2	₹60,000
18	LIC	2	₹38,000

Scholarship Highlights

- 2,953 students benefited from government-sponsored schemes, 2,881 students received assistance through CUTM's institutional schemes, and 33 students were supported by non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- The total scholarship amount disbursed was approximately ₹7.08 crore (₹7,08,08,644).
- Post Matric Scholarship was the largest contributor, supporting 1,034 students with ₹2.71 crore.
- E-MEDHABRUTI – Technical and Professional benefited 867 students, with financial assistance of ₹1.62 crore.
- PRERANA Scholarship supported 786 students, providing ₹1.88 crore in scholarships.
- Krishi Vidya Nidhi Yojana assisted 61 students, distributing ₹29.29 lakh.

- E-KALYAN (SC/ST/OBC/EBC Scholarship) benefited 67 students, with ₹28.41 lakh awarded.
- Merit-based scholarships such as E-MEDHABRUTI (PG Merit and UG Merit) and National Scholarship (UG, PG, and Disabilities) recognized academically deserving students.
- Special welfare schemes including YOSODA Scheme, Gopabandhu Sikhya Sahayata Yojana, BIJU SISHU KALYAN YOJANA, PM Assam Rifles, and the Umbrella Scheme for Arunachal Pradesh provided targeted financial support to eligible students.
- Laptop assistance was provided through Godabarisha Vidyarthi Protsahana Yojana (Laptop DBT) and E-MEDHABRUTI Laptop, promoting digital access for higher education.
- The wide range of scholarship schemes demonstrates the institution's commitment to equitable access to education, financial inclusion, and student success, particularly for students from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Table 3: Socio-Economic (Caste Category) Distribution (Govt.schemes)

Category	Students	% Students	Amount (₹)	% Amount
OBC/SEBC	973	32.95%	1,68,04,475	23.73%
OBC	954	32.31%	1,82,16,000	25.73%
General	376	12.73%	78,78,600	11.13%
SC	328	11.11%	1,69,54,267	23.94%
EBC	190	6.43%	44,25,000	6.25%
ST	81	2.74%	44,03,802	6.22%
BC	51	1.73%	21,26,500	3.00%
Total	**2,953**	**100.00%**	**7,08,08,644**	**100.00%**

Key Points

- OBC/SEBC and OBC together account for about 65% of beneficiaries (1,927 of 2,953) and about 49% of the total amount.
- SC students are only 11.11% of beneficiaries but receive 23.94% of the funds, more than double their share. The average is about ₹51,690 per student.
- ST students are 2.74% of beneficiaries but receive 6.22% of the amount. The average of about ₹54,368 per student is the highest of any category.
- General category students are 12.73% of beneficiaries and receive 11.13% of the amount, so their share is roughly proportional (about ₹20,950 per student).

- OBC/SEBC and OBC receive less than their student share (23.73% and 25.73% against 32.95% and 32.31%). Their averages are about ₹17,270 and ₹19,095 per student, below the overall average of about ₹23,980.
- EBC is about proportional (6.43% of students, 6.25% of the amount). BC is the smallest group, at 1.73% of students and 3.00% of the amount.

Fee Waivers and Application Support

CUTM provides complete or partial tuition and hostel fee waivers to students from the bottom income quintile. Application and examination fees are also waived, with admission support for online applications and document digitization to assist rural applicants.

Credit and External Support Integration

CUTM complements its institutional scholarships by facilitating access to state credit schemes such as the Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme, which offers low-interest education loans of up to ₹4 lakh. This blended financing approach improves the affordability and accessibility of higher education for economically weaker students.

Digital Access and Equity

During the academic year 2025–26, 18 students received laptops worth approximately ₹30,000 each (₹5,40,000 in total): 9 under the Godabarisha Vidyarthi Protsahana Yojana (Laptop DBT) and 9 under the E-Medhabruti Laptop scheme, supporting access to digital learning resources. CUTM also offers subsidised data plans to SC/ST/OBC students, and digital-literacy training enables rural entrants to participate in online learning ecosystems.

Holistic Support Infrastructure

CUTM provides subsidized meals, transportation, affordable housing, and remedial academic support, enabling low-income students to enroll, persist, and successfully complete their education.

Foundation Education and Pipeline Development

CUTM addresses the structural gap that prevents bottom-quintile youth from qualifying for university admission. It has established three model schools in underserved districts to provide quality secondary education and career orientation for tribal and rural students. This longitudinal approach creates a feeder system ensuring that economic status is not a barrier to eligibility.

➔ Quantitative Evidence of Admission Targets

Institutional data for AY 2025-26 show that:

- Approx. 51% of the total student intake originates from families in the bottom 20 % income group.
- 83.1% of scholarship beneficiaries come from families earning < ₹ 1 lakh per year.
- 65.3% of government-scheme beneficiaries belong to OBC/SEBC categories and 13.9% to

SC/ST.

- Students represent 33+ districts, confirming broad regional coverage.

- Among professional programs (B.Tech and B.Sc. Agri), 25 % of admissions include full tuition and hostel scholarships worth ₹ 75 000 – ₹ 1.1 lakh per student.

Comparative Context and Global Positioning

- Globally, most universities report financial aid or outreach activities, but rarely quantify admission targets by income quintile. For example, Universitas Airlangga (Indonesia) and BINUS University report community engagement and scholarship programs, but do not define income thresholds. In contrast, Centurion University's use of verified family-income certificates (< ₹ 1 lakh per year) provides a clear quantitative definition of the bottom quintile.

Table 4: CUTM Admission Practices

Criterion	CUTM Model
Income Definition	Official verification of < ₹ 1 lakh annual income
Geographic Focus	Rural and tribal districts with BPL majorities
Financial Aid	Category-wise and income-wise reporting
Monitoring	Admission Equity Dashboard tracking each student
Policy Integration	Institutionalized in Equal Opportunity Policy (2024)

Centurion University thus offers a unique *inclusive growth model* for higher education in developing economies.

➔ Outcomes and Impact

The University's multi-dimensional admission strategy yields significant development impact:

- Equitable Access: Approximately 51% of the annual intake from families in the bottom quintile.
- Regional Inclusion: 69.1% of students from economically backward districts.
- Affordability: ₹ 12.07 crore in scholarships reducing average tuition burden by 65 %.
- First-Generation Learners: > 62 % of enrollees are first in their families to attend university.
- Digital Inclusion: Free laptops and data plans for SC/ST/OBC students.

Retention: 96% continuation from first to second year for low-income students.

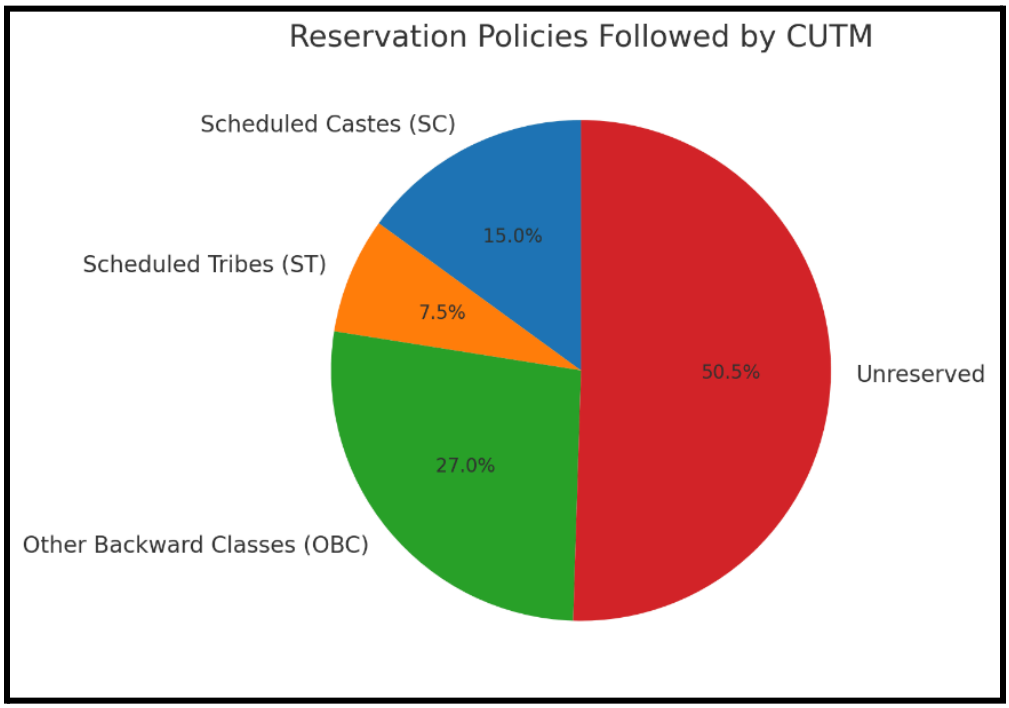


Figure 1 : Reservation policies followed by Centurion University of Technology and Management