



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...

INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY 2025

INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY POLICY 2025



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

Shaping Lives...

Empowering Communities...

CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT
ODISHA

FOREWORD



At Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), we believe that institutional autonomy is fundamental to academic excellence, innovation, integrity and public trust. The freedom to determine our academic priorities, pursue independent research and make decisions in the best interests of our students is central to our mission as a progressive institution of higher education.

As we continue to strengthen collaborations with industry, government, philanthropic organizations, alumni and international partners, it is essential that such partnerships support—rather than influence—our academic mission. The Institutional Autonomy Policy reaffirms our commitment to safeguarding academic, research, administrative and governance independence while ensuring transparency, accountability and responsible stewardship of external funding and collaborations.

This Policy establishes a robust framework to protect academic freedom, preserve the integrity of teaching, research, curriculum, admissions and assessment and ensure that all institutional decisions remain guided by academic merit, ethical principles and the University's statutory governance mechanisms. It also aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the UGC Institutional Development Plan (IDP) and other applicable regulatory frameworks.

I encourage every member of the Centurion University community—including faculty, researchers, students, administrators and our valued partners—to uphold both the letter and the spirit of this Policy. Together, let us continue to build an institution distinguished by academic independence, ethical governance, innovation and excellence in higher education.

Prof. (Dr.) Supriya Pattanayak
Vice Chancellor
Centurion University of Technology and Management

Contents

1. PREAMBLE	1
2. PURPOSE	1
3. SCOPE	2
4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES	2
5. POLICY STATEMENT	4
6. RESEARCH INDEPENDENCE	5
8. PROHIBITED CONDITIONS	6
9. INDUSTRY COLLABORATION	6
10. GOVERNANCE SAFEGUARDS	6
11. CONFLICT OF INTEREST	6
12. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	7
13. DISCLOSURE	7
14. MONITORING	7
15. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL	7
16. VIOLATION OF POLICY	8
17. RESPONSIBILITIES	8
18. Approval and Review	9
ANNEXURE I – ACADEMIC DECISIONS RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE UNIVERSITY	10
Alignment with UGC IDP Guidelines	10

INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY POLICY

1. PREAMBLE

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) is committed to preserving its academic integrity, institutional autonomy and public trust while pursuing excellence in teaching, research, innovation, skill development and community engagement.

The University recognizes that collaborations with industry, government, philanthropic organizations, CSR agencies, international organizations, alumni, development partners and private funding agencies are essential for achieving institutional goals. However, such collaborations shall never compromise the University's academic freedom, curriculum design, research integrity, admissions, evaluation processes or governance.

This Policy has been framed in alignment with:

- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
- UGC Guidelines for Institutional Development Plan (IDP)
- UGC Regulations issued from time to time
- National Credit Framework (NCrF)
- Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)
- National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF)
- Applicable statutory regulations.

The policy gives effect to the UGC IDP principle that Higher Education Institutions should exercise academic, administrative, financial and business autonomy with accountability, while safeguarding their social and academic mission.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to safeguard the academic, administrative and institutional autonomy of Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) by ensuring that all academic, research and governance decisions remain independent, transparent and free from undue external influence. Specifically, the Policy seeks to protect the University's academic

independence, preserve faculty freedom in teaching, research and scholarly activities and prevent inappropriate influence from external funding agencies, commercial interests or political entities. It further aims to promote transparency and accountability in all funding relationships, ensure that curriculum development and academic programmes are guided solely by academic merit and institutional priorities, uphold the objectivity and integrity of research outcomes through evidence-based practices and maintain public trust and confidence in the University's governance and decision-making processes.

3. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all academic, research, administrative and collaborative activities undertaken by Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM). It covers all Schools, Departments, Research Centres, Centres of Excellence and Incubation Centres, as well as all faculty members, researchers, visiting faculty and administrative departments. The Policy further extends to consultancy assignments, sponsored research projects, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)-funded initiatives, philanthropic donations, government-funded projects, international collaborations, industry partnerships, alumni-funded initiatives and any other external engagements or funding arrangements that may influence the University's academic, research, administrative or governance functions.

This Policy shall guide all stakeholders in ensuring that institutional autonomy, academic freedom and the integrity of the University's decision-making processes are upheld across all activities and partnerships.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) shall uphold the following guiding principles to safeguard its institutional autonomy, academic integrity and governance while ensuring that all external collaborations and funding arrangements align with the University's vision, mission and regulatory obligations.

4.1 Academic Freedom

The University recognizes academic freedom as a fundamental principle of higher education. Faculty members shall have the freedom to teach, conduct research, publish scholarly work

and express academic opinions without undue interference or influence from sponsors, funding agencies, industry partners or any external entity. Such freedom shall be exercised responsibly, in accordance with professional ethics, institutional values and applicable regulatory frameworks.

4.2 Institutional Autonomy

The University shall retain exclusive authority over all academic and institutional matters. Decisions relating to curriculum design, academic regulations, examinations, grading, award of degrees, student admissions, faculty recruitment, promotions and academic governance shall remain the sole responsibility of the University. No external organization, funding agency, donor or collaborating institution shall influence or interfere with these academic and administrative decisions.

4.3 Transparency

The University shall ensure transparency in all externally funded activities and partnerships. Details of external funding shall be appropriately documented through institutional records and all funding agreements shall clearly define their objectives, financial commitments, ownership of intellectual outputs, reporting requirements and mechanisms for conflict resolution to ensure accountability and mutual understanding among all parties.

4.4 Accountability

All externally funded projects, collaborations and institutional engagements shall be implemented in compliance with the University's Statutes, applicable University policies, UGC regulations, financial rules, ethical standards and the Research Integrity Policy. All stakeholders shall remain accountable for maintaining the highest standards of professional conduct, financial prudence and institutional integrity throughout the lifecycle of such engagements.

4.5 Student Interest First

The University shall ensure that the interests of students remain paramount in all academic, research and collaborative activities. No partnership, funding arrangement or external engagement shall compromise the quality of education, learning outcomes, academic standards, student rights or opportunities for academic progression and mobility. All decisions

shall be guided by the University's commitment to providing an equitable, high-quality and student-centric educational environment.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) shall ensure that all academic, research, administrative and governance decisions remain independent and free from undue influence by donors, sponsors, funding agencies, collaborating organizations or any external entity. The University shall preserve its institutional autonomy by retaining exclusive authority over all matters related to curriculum, academic programmes, faculty governance, student assessment and admissions.

5.1 Curriculum

The University shall maintain complete academic control over the design, revision, implementation and evaluation of curricula. External funding agencies or collaborating organizations shall not prescribe syllabi, remove or alter academic content, insert promotional or commercial material, influence learning outcomes or determine the credit structure of any programme. All curriculum revisions and modifications shall be approved only through the University's statutory academic bodies, namely the Board of Studies, Academic Council and Board of Management.

5.2 Academic Programmes

The University shall retain sole authority over decisions relating to the introduction, modification, continuation or closure of academic programmes. External organizations shall not determine the establishment of new programmes, closure of existing programmes, examination patterns, grading standards or the award of academic qualifications, degrees, diplomas or certificates.

5.3 Faculty Independence

The independence of faculty members shall be protected in all externally funded and collaborative activities. Sponsors, donors and funding agencies shall not appoint or terminate faculty members, influence promotion decisions, interfere in classroom teaching or affect academic assessment and evaluation processes. Faculty shall continue to exercise academic freedom in accordance with University regulations and professional standards.

5.4 Student Assessment

The integrity of student assessment processes shall be safeguarded at all times. No external sponsor, donor or collaborating organization shall influence examinations, evaluation procedures, grades, certification or the award of medals, prizes or academic distinctions. All assessment activities shall remain under the exclusive authority of the University.

5.5 Admissions

The University shall maintain complete autonomy over admissions and student selection processes. Funding agencies, sponsors or external organizations shall not influence admissions, reservation policies, scholarships, seat allocation or student selection decisions, except in the case of scholarships administered through transparent, merit-based and University-approved procedures.

6. RESEARCH INDEPENDENCE

The University shall uphold the principles of academic freedom and scientific integrity in all research activities, including those supported by external funding. All externally funded research shall remain independent, objective and evidence-based. Sponsors, funding agencies or collaborating organizations shall not suppress research findings, manipulate results, prevent or unreasonably delay publication, alter research conclusions or influence the peer-review process. Researchers shall retain the right to publish their findings following reasonable protection of confidential information, intellectual property and other legitimate obligations specified in funding agreements.

7. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

The University may accept financial or in-kind support from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, endowments, research grants, alumni contributions, government agencies, philanthropic organizations, international funding bodies and industry partners. Such funding shall be accepted only where it aligns with the University's Vision and Mission, promotes public interest, complies with applicable laws and regulations and does not impose restrictions on academic freedom, institutional autonomy or independent decision-making.

8. PROHIBITED CONDITIONS

The University shall not accept any funding, donation, sponsorship or collaboration that compromises its academic or institutional independence. Funding arrangements shall be rejected where they require modification of curricula, mandatory use or promotion of commercial products, restrictions on academic publications, political or ideological influence, discriminatory practices, preferential admissions, appointment of specific faculty members, alteration of examination or assessment outcomes or censorship of research findings.

9. INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

The University encourages collaboration with industry to strengthen education, research, innovation, skill development and employability through internships, apprenticeships, live projects, laboratories, Centres of Excellence, joint research initiatives, innovation programmes and entrepreneurship activities. However, such collaborations shall not compromise the University's academic autonomy. Industry partners shall not dictate academic content, influence degree requirements, determine assessment methodologies or override the University's academic regulations, policies or governance processes.

10. GOVERNANCE SAFEGUARDS

The University shall maintain appropriate governance mechanisms to safeguard academic independence and institutional autonomy. Oversight shall be exercised by the Board of Management, Academic Council, Board of Studies, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Research Advisory Committee, Ethics Committee and Finance Committee within their respective areas of responsibility. Any funding agreement or collaboration involving academic activities shall be subject to review and approval by the appropriate statutory authority of the University before implementation.

11. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

To uphold transparency and impartiality in institutional decision-making, faculty members, researchers, administrators and other concerned personnel shall disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest, including consultancy relationships, financial interests, equity

ownership or sponsored engagements that may influence academic or administrative decisions. Individuals with such conflicts shall recuse themselves from all related deliberations and decision-making processes.

12. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The ownership, protection, management and commercialization of intellectual property arising from externally funded or sponsored projects shall be governed by the University's Intellectual Property (IP) Policy, the terms of the relevant funding agreement and applicable laws and regulations. While reasonable provisions may be made to protect confidential information and intellectual property rights, the academic freedom to publish research outcomes shall not be unreasonably restricted.

13. DISCLOSURE

The University shall maintain comprehensive institutional records of all externally funded activities to ensure transparency and accountability. Such records shall include sponsored research projects, research grants, CSR funding, endowments, industry partnerships, international collaborations and other significant funding arrangements. The register shall be reviewed and updated annually by the appropriate University authorities.

14. MONITORING

The implementation and effectiveness of this Policy shall be monitored annually by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in coordination with the Registrar and the Finance Office. The review shall assess funding agreements, academic independence, research integrity and compliance with institutional governance requirements. The findings shall form part of the University's Institutional Development Plan (IDP) monitoring and continuous quality improvement framework.

15. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

The University shall provide a confidential and accessible mechanism through which faculty members, staff, students, researchers or other stakeholders may report any attempt to improperly influence academic or institutional decisions relating to curriculum, examinations,

research, admissions or governance. All complaints shall be addressed through the University's established grievance redressal mechanism and individuals reporting concerns in good faith shall be protected against retaliation in accordance with the University's Whistle Blower and Grievance Redressal policies.

16. VIOLATION OF POLICY

Any violation of this Policy shall be addressed promptly and appropriately in accordance with the University's rules and applicable legal provisions. Depending on the nature and severity of the violation, actions may include termination of funding agreements, suspension or discontinuation of collaborative arrangements, disciplinary proceedings against individuals concerned, reporting to relevant statutory or regulatory authorities and legal action where warranted.

17. RESPONSIBILITIES

The effective implementation of this Policy requires the collective responsibility of the University's statutory bodies, academic leadership and administrative authorities. Responsibilities shall be assigned as follows:

Authority	Responsibility
Board of Management	Approve the Policy, provide strategic oversight and safeguard institutional autonomy.
Academic Council	Ensure academic independence in teaching, learning, assessment and academic governance.
Board of Studies	Maintain curriculum independence and oversee academic programme development and revision.
Registrar	Coordinate implementation of the Policy and ensure institutional compliance.
Finance Committee	Monitor compliance with funding agreements and financial governance requirements.
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)	Monitor implementation, conduct annual reviews and recommend continuous improvements.
Research Advisory Committee	Safeguard research integrity and oversee compliance in externally funded research activities.
Principal Investigators	Ensure compliance with this Policy and applicable regulations in all sponsored research projects.

18. Approval and Review

This policy has been approved by the university administration and will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with current laws and best practices. Any amendments to the policy will be communicated to the university community.



Dr. Anita Patra
Registrar
Centurion University of Technology and Management



ANNEXURE I – ACADEMIC DECISIONS RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE UNIVERSITY

The following decisions shall remain the exclusive authority of CUTM:

- Vision and Mission
- Academic Strategy
- Institutional Development Plan
- Curriculum Design
- Programme Approval
- Learning Outcomes
- Credit Framework
- ABC Implementation
- Faculty Recruitment
- Student Admissions
- Examination and Evaluation
- Degree Award
- Research Agenda
- Ethical Review
- Academic Regulations
- Internal Quality Assurance

Alignment with UGC IDP Guidelines

This policy operationalizes the key governance principles of the UGC IDP draft by:

- safeguarding **academic, administrative, financial and business autonomy with accountability**;
- reinforcing **good governance, transparency, stakeholder trust and quality assurance**;
- ensuring that resource mobilization and external partnerships do not compromise the University's academic mission;
- supporting **NEP 2020, NCrF, ABC**, interdisciplinary education, research integrity and long-term institutional development.



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...

CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT, ODISHA

CAMPUSES:

Paralakhemundi Campus

Village Alluri Nagar
P.O. – R Sitapur, Via- Uppalada
Paralakhemundi, Dist.- Gajapati
Odisha, India. PIN– 761211

Bhubaneswar Campus

Ramchandrapur
P.O. – Jatni, Bhubaneswar
Dist.- Khurda, Odisha,
India, PIN– 752050

Balangir Campus

Behind BSNL Office
IDCO land, Rajib Nagar
Dist.- Balangir, Odisha
India, PIN-767001

Rayagada Campus

IDCO Industrial Area
Pitamahal, Rayagada
Dist.-Rayagada, Odisha
India, PIN-765001

Balasore Campus

Gopalpur,
P.O.-Balasore
Dist.-Balasore, Odisha
India, PIN-756044

Chatrapur Campus

Ramchandrapur,
Kaliabali Chhak,
P.O-Chatrapur, Dist.-Ganjam
Odisha, India, PIN-761020