

FAQs*

1. **What are the rules and regulations governing ODL education offered by institutions in India?**

UGC has notified University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 on 4th September 2020 in the Gazette. Amendments were later notified on 1st July 2021 and 18th July 2022. These regulations are available on the UGC website.

These regulations apply to universities under clause (f) of section 2 of the UGC Act, 1956, and Institutions Deemed to be Universities under section 3 of the said Act.

2. **What are the programs that are permitted and prohibited in ODL education?**

The UGC regulations stipulate the minimum standards for instruction for undergraduate, postgraduate degrees, and postgraduate diplomas.

Programs in disciplines such as Engineering, Medical, Pharmacy, Nursing, Architecture, Law, Agriculture, Culinary Sciences, Visual Arts, and other professional courses are prohibited in ODL and/or Online mode. Similarly, research-based programs like M.Phil and Ph.D. are not allowed.

3. **Is a degree acquired through ODL equivalent to one acquired through the regular mode?**

Yes. Degrees and diplomas awarded through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode, recognized by UGC, are considered equivalent to those obtained through conventional learning as per Regulation 22 of the UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

4. Is a degree acquired during the recognized period still valid?

Yes. If admission is taken into a recognized ODL program during its recognition period, the degree remains valid even if the institution loses recognition later. This is subject to UGC norms and guidelines.

5. Can learners from any location in India enroll in ODL programs?

Yes. Learners residing anywhere in India can enroll in program, however they should be ready to attend the Personal Contact Program (PCP) and exams at Parul University, Vadodara.

6. Can all HEIs offer Degree programs in ODL mode?

No. Only HEIs recognized for offering ODL programs at undergraduate, postgraduate, or diploma levels and with the necessary approvals from statutory and regulatory authorities can offer Degree programs.

7. What documents are required for admission?

- Aadhar ID Card
- Photograph
- 10th Class Certificate
- 12th Class Certificate
- Graduation Degree (if applicable)
- It is mandatory to upload scanned copies of these original documents.

8. Can examinations be taken from any location?

No, ODL learners are supposed to appear for examinations at Parul University, Vadodara.

9. Are live sessions or attendance mandatory in ODL programs?

Parul University will conduct offline classes for 2 weeks in each semester for students. These classes are called Personal Contact Program. As per UGC guidelines, students studying in distance mode are required to attend PCP classes with at least 75% attendance.

10. **Is the learning material provided to ODL learners?**

Yes. Learning materials will be couriered to ODL learners.

11. **What system requirements are necessary for ODL programs?**

There is no major system requirements mandatory for ODL programs.

12. **Do I need to buy textbooks or software?**

No. All essential materials are provided.

13. **Can I communicate with faculty?**

Yes, there is a mechanism where queries can be submitted, and faculty will respond.

14. **How are examinations conducted?**

Examinations for ODL programs may be conducted in offline mode at Parul University, Vadodara.

15. **What is the assessment method for UG and PG programs?**

Assessment generally includes:
End Sem Exam: Weighted at 70%
Continuous Evaluation: Weighted at 30%

16. **What is the maximum duration to complete a program?**

UG Programs: 3 years (maximum duration: 6 years)

PG Programs: 2 years (maximum duration: 4 years)

17. **Are projects included in ODL programs?**

Yes, ODL programs often include projects for practical exposure.

18. **Whom should I contact for further queries?**

Each learner is assigned an Academic Mentor for academic support and a Technical Mentor for technical assistance.

19. Can a learner pursue two degree programs simultaneously?

Yes, UGC regulations allow pursuing one regular on-campus degree and one ODL degree concurrently.

20. How can I obtain my Degree and Mark sheet?

Degrees will be couriered to your registered address. Digital Marksheets will be provided in encrypted mode.

21. Is the ODL program offered by Parul University recognized by UGC?

Yes, Parul University's ODL programs are UGC-approved.

22. Will the mode of learning be indicated on the certificate?

Yes, the mode of learning will be clearly mentioned on the certificate as per UGC guidelines.

23. Do ODL degrees have a validity period?

No, ODL degrees are valid for a lifetime.

24. Can I apply for Government jobs, UPSC exams, or Ph.D. after completing an ODL program?

Yes, UGC recognizes ODL degrees, and they are accepted for competitive exams, Ph.D. admissions, and government job applications.

25. Can I work while pursuing an ODL course?

Yes, the flexibility of ODL programs allows learners to work while studying at their own pace.

26. Will I get placement support?

Yes, training and placement assistance are typically provided to ODL learners.