

# Autonomy FAQ

## **Q1. What is autonomy?**

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

## **Q2. What is the need for autonomy?**

To enable colleges to award degrees on behalf of the affiliating University by providing more academic and operative freedom to function better with credibility

- The Education Commission of India (1964-66) recommended college autonomy as an instrument for promoting academic excellence, keeping concern of the increasing number of colleges affiliated under a single university.
- 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.
- The 1964- 66 Education Commission pointed out that the exercise of academic freedom by teachers is a crucial requirement for development of the intellectual climate of our country.
- With students, teachers and management being co-partners in raising the quality of higher education, it is imperative that they share a major responsibility.

## **Objectives:**

The National Policy on Education (1986-92) formulated the following objectives for autonomous colleges. An autonomous college will have the freedom to:

1. Determine and prescribe its own courses of study and syllabi, and restructure and redesign the courses to suit local needs; and
2. Prescribe rules for admission in consonance with the reservation policy of the state government;
3. Evolve methods of assessment of students' performance, the conduct of examinations and notification of results;
4. Use modern tools of educational technology to achieve higher standards and greater creativity; and
5. Promote healthy practices such as community service, extension activities, projects for the benefit of the society at large, neighborhood programmes, etc.

## **Q3. Who grants Autonomy?**

In case of colleges affiliated to the University, it is the University who grants the power of Autonomy in concurrence with UGC and the respective state government.

## **Q4. Is there any difference between a deemed university and the autonomous college?**

A deemed university is established by an act of Central Govt. and fully autonomous to the extent of awarding its own Degree. A deemed university is functionally similar to the responsibilities of a University whereas an autonomous college uses the academic independence without the authority to award degrees.

**Q5. Once granted, will the status be retained forever?**

No. The status of Autonomy is given to the institute for only a period of 6 years.

Once this initial period of six years gets over, the institute again needs to go through reassessment by the Review committee formed by the experts from UGC and the university. So in short, the right of autonomy has to be continuously earned.

**Q6. Shall the college award its own degree after becoming autonomous?**

No. The Degree will be awarded by the University with the name of the college mentioned on it.

**Q7. Once the college becomes autonomous, will there be any change in status for teachers and students as well?**

Most importantly, a Review committee will be formed having experts(both in technical and administrative) from various domain,--usually in concurrence with UGC and the university--, so as to re-evaluate the performance of students taught under new revised syllabi of Autonomy.

**Q8. What are the enacting statutory bodies in an Autonomous college?**

(a) Board of Governors (b) Academic council (c) Finance committee (d) Board of Studies.

**Q9. Can there be any foreign collaboration with the institute so as to enhance the knowledge-quotient of students?**

- Yes. There can certainly be. Both the Academic council and Finance committee together can schedule up some classes/lectures in an acclaimed foreign university, officially select the students to go there, and make them attend the sessions.
- In return of this foreign collaboration, the university can send over their students, making them do some workshop here, and thus share knowledge.
- This is a process often termed as "Lab Rotation".

**Q10. How far the syllabi should be changed?**

Autonomy allows the freedom to change the syllabi as often as the institution needs.

**Q11. Can the autonomous colleges provide a provisional degree certificate?**

Since the examination will be conducted by the college and results will also be declared by the college, the autonomous college, with the prior permission of affiliating university, is entitled to award a provisional degree certificate to the students.

**Q12. Will the academic autonomy make the positive impact on the Placements or Employability?**

Yes. It is often observed that autonomous colleges bring in more opportunities of employability or placement: because of its revised education, regular assessment of students, industry-oriented practical education, along with a progress in research and novel administrative ventures.