Policy for Graduation and Completion Support for Students from Economically Disadvantaged Households

BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

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Document Control

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1. Preamble

Brainware University (BWU) is committed to promoting **equity, inclusion, student success and equal opportunities in higher education**. The University recognises that students from economically disadvantaged households may face financial and socio-economic challenges that can affect their ability to continue their studies, meet educational expenses, maintain academic progress and complete their programmes.

While Brainware University does **not prescribe a separate numerical graduation or completion target specifically for students belonging to the bottom 20% of household income groups in India**, the University acknowledges the importance of creating an enabling institutional environment in which financial circumstances do not become an avoidable barrier to academic progression and graduation.

In furtherance of this commitment, the University provides a range of **institutional scholarships, need-based financial assistance, fee concessions, tuition-fee waivers or partial waivers, emergency financial support, learning-resource assistance, hostel support, mentoring, academic counselling and other student-welfare measures**, as applicable. The University also facilitates access to relevant government and external scholarship schemes and other available financial-support mechanisms.

This Policy establishes an institutional framework for identifying and supporting students who may require financial or related assistance during their academic journey. It seeks to strengthen student retention, academic progression and successful programme completion through a combination of **financial support, academic mentoring, counselling, student welfare and early-support interventions**.

The Policy reflects Brainware University's commitment to **inclusive and equitable education**, ensuring that students' economic circumstances are appropriately considered in institutional support mechanisms and that eligible students are provided reasonable opportunities to continue and complete their higher education.

2. Policy Statement

The University is committed to promoting equitable access to higher education and ensuring that financial hardship does not become a barrier to students' academic continuation, successful completion, and graduation.

At present, the University **does not prescribe a specific institutional target or quota for the admission, graduation, or completion of students belonging to the bottom 20% of household income groups in India**. However, the University recognises that students from economically disadvantaged households may face additional financial and socio-economic challenges that can affect their ability to continue and complete their programmes.

Accordingly, Brainware University provides appropriate financial assistance, academic support, student welfare measures and progression support to eligible students based on their individual circumstances and institutional provisions.

3. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

a) Promote equitable opportunities for students from economically disadvantaged households.
b) Reduce financial barriers that may contribute to student discontinuation or delayed completion.
c) Facilitate students' continuation in their academic programmes up to graduation.
d) Provide need-based financial assistance and other appropriate support to eligible students.
e) Identify students who may be at risk of discontinuation because of financial or related difficulties.
f) Strengthen academic, mentoring and student-support mechanisms for successful programme completion.
g) Promote an inclusive and supportive institutional environment consistent with the principles of equity and social inclusion.

4. Scope

This policy applies to domestic students of Brainware University who may experience financial hardship or socio-economic disadvantage during their period of study.

The University may consider relevant information such as family/household income, financial circumstances, academic status and other documented indicators of need while determining eligibility for institutional support.

5. Financial Support Measures

Subject to institutional rules and availability of resources, eligible students may receive one or more of the following forms of assistance:

- Merit-cum-means scholarship;
- Need-based fee concession;
- Tuition-fee waiver or partial waiver;
- Admission-fee assistance;
- Emergency financial assistance;
- Learning-resource support;
- Hostel assistance, where applicable;
- Assistance in accessing external scholarships and government scholarship schemes;
- Guidance regarding education-loan facilities;
- Other appropriate financial support approved by the University.

The University may also facilitate awareness and access to external scholarship and educational-loan opportunities. UGC itself identifies financial support and educational loans as mechanisms supporting equitable access to higher education.

6. Academic and Completion Support

Financial assistance may be complemented by academic and student-support measures, including:

- Faculty mentoring and academic counselling;
- Identification of students requiring additional academic support;
- Remedial and tutorial support, where required;
- Career and placement guidance;
- Student counselling and welfare support;
- Monitoring of attendance and academic progression;
- Guidance on examination and academic requirements;
- Assistance in accessing institutional and external support schemes.

These measures are intended to address not only financial barriers but also academic and institutional factors that may affect successful completion.

7. Student Identification and Support Process

The University may identify economically disadvantaged students through:

- Scholarship and financial-assistance applications;
- Self-declaration and supporting income documents;
- Recommendations from faculty mentors or academic departments;
- Student welfare/administrative records;
- Requests for emergency financial assistance; and
- Other appropriate institutional mechanisms.

Cases requiring financial assistance may be reviewed by the designated University authority/committee in accordance with applicable institutional rules.

8. Monitoring of Academic Progression and Completion

Brainware University shall endeavour to monitor the academic progression of students receiving institutional financial support.

Where appropriate, the University may maintain records relating to:

- Number of students receiving financial assistance;
- Nature and amount of assistance provided;
- Academic progression of supported students;
- Retention/continuation status;
- Programme completion and graduation status;
- Students requiring additional intervention; and
- Support provided to address identified barriers.

Such monitoring may be used for institutional quality improvement and student-success planning.

9. Graduation/Completion Target

Brainware University does not currently establish a separate numerical graduation or completion target exclusively for students belonging to the bottom 20% of the household-income distribution in the country.

Instead, the University's approach is to provide equitable opportunities and appropriate financial, academic and student-support interventions so that economic disadvantage does not unnecessarily prevent eligible students from continuing their studies and completing their programmes.

The University may periodically review student progression and completion data and, where considered appropriate, introduce measurable institutional indicators or targets for economically disadvantaged students.

10. Non-Discrimination and Equity

Financial disadvantage shall not, by itself, be a basis for discriminatory treatment in academic or student-support processes. The University shall endeavour to ensure that eligible students receive fair consideration for available assistance in accordance with institutional policies and applicable regulatory provisions.

The policy is aligned with the broader UGC framework concerning equitable opportunities for socio-economically disadvantaged groups in higher education.

11. Review and Continuous Improvement

The policy shall be reviewed periodically by the appropriate University authority to assess:

- Effectiveness of financial-assistance mechanisms;
- Student continuation and completion patterns;
- Utilization of institutional scholarships/support;
- Emerging financial barriers faced by students; and
- Opportunities for strengthening student-success interventions.

Based on institutional evidence and applicable regulatory or accreditation requirements, the University may revise the policy and introduce additional support mechanisms or measurable targets.

12. Institutional Commitment

Brainware University remains committed to the principle that economic disadvantage should not become an avoidable barrier to higher education, academic progression or successful graduation. The University therefore combines financial assistance with academic mentoring, student welfare and progression-support mechanisms to promote inclusive and successful educational outcomes.