SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1
NO POVERTY
Indicator 1.3.2 | Bottom Financial Quintile Student Success

Getting a student from a poor family into university is an achievement, but it means little if that student has to leave halfway. At CUTM AP, success is measured by **how many low-income students leave with a degree**. The University has therefore set graduation and completion goals for students from the bottom 20% of household income groups, and it supports those goals with financial, academic, health and personal support that stays with the student from the first semester to the last.

The results are encouraging. In 2025 the campus recorded an **overall pass percentage of 82%**, even as it grew from 361 students in 2022–23 to 1,947 in 2024–25. Over the same period the number of students receiving financial aid rose from **143 to 467**, so that money worries do not push students out before they finish.

1. Policy Framework

The University's **Equal Opportunity Policy (2024)** and **Poverty Reduction Policy (2024)** name students from socio-economically disadvantaged groups as a priority, not only for admission but also for retention and graduation. Each school tracks the progress of students who receive financial aid and steps in early when a student starts to fall behind.

Table 1: Graduation and completion status for low-income students

Measure	Status
Overall pass percentage	82% (2025)
Students who discontinued, 2024 admission batch	8.0% (40 of 499)
Students who discontinued, 2025 admission batch	3.3% (23 of 693, so far)

2. Keeping Students on Course

The University keeps a record of every student who leaves before finishing. Across four admission batches, **96 students discontinued**. Of the **499 students admitted in 2024, 92% are still studying**, and of the **693 admitted in 2025, 96.7%** remain enrolled. Each case is followed up by the student's school.

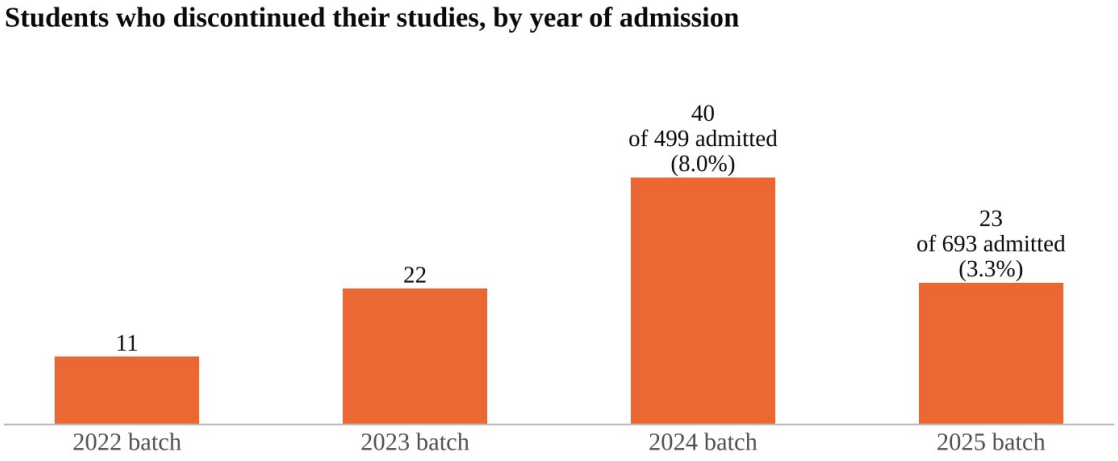


Figure 1: Students who discontinued their studies, by year of admission (Registrar's office)

3. Financial Support that Keeps Students Enrolled

The most common reason a poor student leaves university is money. CUTM AP tackles this through need-based scholarships that cover tuition, fees and essential costs, and it has steadily widened this support:

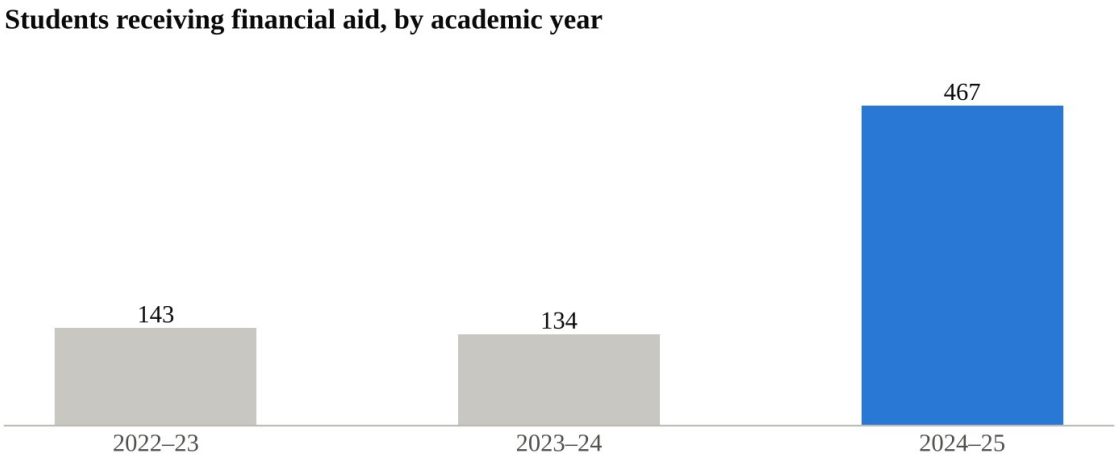


Figure 2: Students receiving financial aid at CUTM AP, 2022–23 to 2024–25

- **2022–23:** ₹2,13,51,250 awarded to **143 of 361 students**.
- **2023–24:** ₹2,11,48,050 disbursed to **134 of 495 students**.
- **2024–25:** ₹78,84,250 in University scholarships paid to **467 of 1,947 students**, and **169 first-year students** verified as eligible for government fee reimbursement.

Alongside its own scholarships, the University helps students claim the government support they are entitled to, including the State's fee reimbursement through the Jnanabhumi portal (169 of the 172 first-year applicants in 2024–25 verified eligible), Post-Matric Scholarships and the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarships, and guides students who need more help through the paperwork for bank education loans. Fees can be paid in **two instalments**, and during the COVID-19 pandemic deadlines were extended by **up to one year**, so that no student lost their place because a family's income had suddenly stopped.

4. Academic Support

Many low-income students are the first in their family to attend university and may join with gaps in their schooling. The Deans of each school identify students who need extra help and arrange **remedial classes** in the subjects they find difficult. Every student also has a **faculty mentor** who follows their progress through the year and is often the first to notice when a student is struggling with studies, money or homesickness.

5. Health and Mental Well-being

Students cannot finish a degree if poor health or stress pushes them out. On **4 April 2025** the University's Healthcare on Wheels programme came to the Vizianagaram campus and gave **254 students** free health screening (vital signs, haemoglobin, blood pressure, BMI, vision and hearing), mental-health workshops and **free individual counselling**. Two further mental-health awareness sessions on 18 and 27 November 2025 reached **240 student attendances**.



Free health screening and counselling on campus, 4 April 2025



Mental-health awareness session for students, November 2025

Figure 3: Health and well-being support for students

6. Results and Impact

- **82% overall pass percentage** in 2025.
- **744 students** received financial aid over three years, and the number of aided students more than tripled.
- **92% of the 2024 batch and 96.7% of the 2025 batch** are still enrolled.
- **254 students** received free health screening and counselling on campus in 2025.

- **No student was forced out for unpaid fees** during the pandemic, thanks to fee deferral of up to one year.

7. Conclusion

For a family living on a small income, a son or daughter who graduates and finds steady work can change the family's fortunes for a generation. By pairing financial aid with remedial teaching, mentoring, free health care and flexible payments, CUTM AP gives the students it admits from the poorest households a real chance to finish what they started.