SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1
NO POVERTY
Indicator 1.3.3 | Low-Income Student Support

For a student from a poor family, tuition is only one of the costs of studying. Meals, a place to stay, the bus fare home, health care and help when something goes wrong can add up to more than a family can manage. CUTM AP supports low-income students with these everyday needs so that hardship outside the classroom does not end their studies.

Table 1: Support services for students from low-income families

Type of support	Free or subsidised	What the student receives
Food	Paid (no concession)	Nutritionally balanced, freshly prepared meals under the University Policy for Good Food in the Campus; free drinking-water points across the campus.
Housing	Paid (no concession)	Separate hostels for girls and boys, each with a superintendent and wardens.
Transport: University bus	Paid (no concession)	University buses serve students' home routes; the charge depends on the student's boarding point
Transport: public transport	Subsidised / Free	Government student bus pass at concessional rates; railway student pass at concessional rates, and free for children of railway employees
Health care	Free	Health screening, mental-health workshops and individual counselling for 254 students on campus (4 April 2025)
Health information	Free	Reproductive-health session for 120 students (18 November 2025); mental-health sessions for 240 student attendances (November 2025)
Fee support	Free	Tuition fee waivers for economically disadvantaged students; payment in two instalments
Grievance and legal support	Free	Six standing committees for 2025–26, including an external advocate on the Committee against Sexual Harassment and two advocates and a police officer on the Anti-Ragging Committee

1. Food

Meals on campus are governed by the **University Policy for Good Food in the Campus**. Under this policy the University serves **nutritionally balanced, freshly prepared food** with good vegetarian

options, publishes nutritional information for menu items, and sources seasonal ingredients from **local suppliers and small enterprises** where possible. It also provides **free drinking-water points** across the campus so that students do not have to buy bottled water.

2. Housing

The University runs **separate hostels for girls and boys** on campus. Each has its own superintendent, and the girls' hostel has a Chief Warden and a dedicated grievance committee, so that young women from distant villages can live safely close to their classes. Affordable housing on campus matters most for students from remote and tribal areas, who would otherwise pay for rented rooms in town.

3. Transport

Students can travel to the campus in two ways:

- **University buses:** the University runs buses on students' home routes. They are charged at the general rate, with no concession, and the fare depends on the stop where the student boards.
- **Public transport:** students can use the **government student bus pass**, which is issued at concessional rates, and the **railway student pass**, which is concessional for all students and **free for students whose parent is a railway employee**. These passes bring the daily cost of travel well within the reach of low-income families.

4. Free Health Care and Counselling

Students from poor families often put off seeing a doctor because of the cost. The University removes that barrier by bringing care to them. On **4 April 2025** its Healthcare on Wheels programme set up on the Vizianagaram campus and gave **254 students** free multi-station screening for vital signs, haemoglobin, blood pressure, BMI, vision and hearing, together with mental-health workshops and **free one-to-one counselling**. Students also received free health information through a **reproductive-health awareness session for 120 students** on 18 November 2025, and **two mental-health sessions** on 18 and 27 November 2025 (240 student attendances).



Free health screening for students on campus, 4 April 2025



Reproductive-health awareness session for students, 18 November 2025

Figure 1: Free health services for students on the Vizianagaram campus

5. A Safe and Healthy Campus

All university premises are **smoke-free, tobacco-free, drug-free and alcohol-free**, under an institutional policy grounded in national and state law. Ragging is banned, and an **Anti-Ragging Committee** constituted under University Grants Commission guidelines watches over new students.

6. Financial Help with Living Costs

The University's scholarships help students meet the costs that come with studying, not just the tuition fee. In 2024–25, **467 of the 1,947 students** on the campus received financial assistance. Tuition fees are waived for economically disadvantaged students, and all students can pay fees in **two instalments**.

7. Grievance and Legal Support

Students new to university life, especially first-generation learners, often do not know where to turn when they face a problem. For 2025–26 the Registrar's office constituted **six committees** that students can approach free of charge, in person, by phone or by email. Together they handle complaints about fees, scholarships, hostel life, discrimination, ragging and harassment, and two of them include practising advocates who can guide students on legal matters.

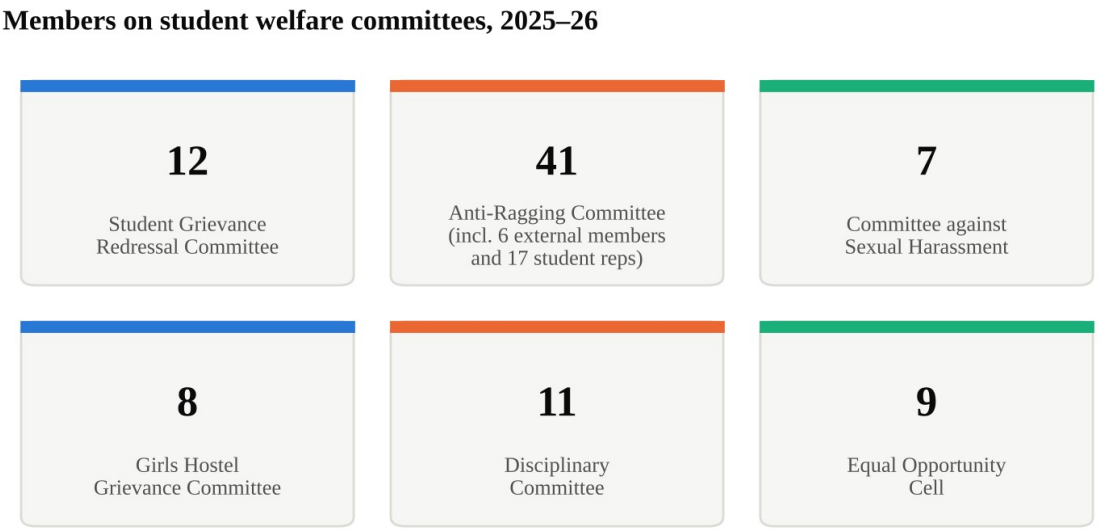


Figure 2: Members on CUTM AP's student welfare committees, 2025–26

Table 2: Student welfare and grievance committees, 2025–26

Committee (date constituted)	Chairperson	Members
Student Grievance Redressal Committee (16 July 2025)	Dr. P. Pallavi, Registrar	Prof. P. Mallikarjuna Rao (Ombudsman); Dr. M. L. N. Acharyulu, Head IQAC (Convener); Dr. D. Srinivasa Rao; Dr. K. Vijayababu; Mr. K. Jogi Naidu; Mr. R. Lakshman Rao; Ms. M. Sravani; Dr. K. Ramya; Ms. Anuradha Patnala; Ms. Sheerin Bashar (Girls Hostel Superintendent); Mr. Aasif Lone (Boys Hostel Superintendent)
Anti-Ragging Committee (16 July 2025, per UGC guidelines)	Dr. R. S. Varma, Dean – Students Affairs	17 faculty and staff, including Deans, Heads of Department, the hostel wardens and the Security Officer; 6 external members: a Sub-Inspector of Police, two advocates, the PRO and two press reporters; 17 senior student representatives (8 girls, 9 boys)
Committee against Sexual Harassment (16 July 2025)	Dr. G. Pushpalatha, Dean, CSoSAg	Ms. M. Sravani; Ms. Anuradha Patnala; Dr. K. Ramya; Ms. G. Madhavi; Ms. K. Pratibha Malini; external member Ms. Vaddadi Sridevi, Advocate
Girls Hostel Grievance Committee (17 July 2025)	Dr. P. Pallavi, Registrar	Ms. G. Madhavi; Ms. M. Sravani; Dr. K. Ramya; Ms. Anuradha Patnala; Ms. Rashmi Rekha Pradhan; Ms. Sheerin Bashar (Girls Hostel Superintendent); Ms. T. Chandra Kala (Girls Hostel Chief Warden)
Disciplinary Committee (28 August 2025)	Prof. D. Srinivasa Rao	Mr. Asif Majeed Lone (Convener); Ms. M. Sravani; Dr. Ch. Mohan Babu; Dr. D. J. M. S. N. K. Sri Veda; Dr. Satheesh Ampolu; Dr. K. Jogi Naidu; Mrs. Anuradha Patnala; Mrs. Syamala Alana Teja; Ms. Sheerin Bashar; Mr. S. Manikanta
Equal Opportunity Cell (16 July 2025)	Dr. P. Pallavi, Registrar	Dr. D. Srinivasa Rao (Convener); nodal officers for OBC, SC, ST and persons with disabilities; Dr. P. A. Sunny Dayal; Dr. R. S. Varma; Mr. K. Pavan Kumar, HR

8. Conclusion

By looking after meals, housing, travel, health and safety alongside tuition, and by giving every student a committee to turn to when something goes wrong, CUTM AP removes many of the hidden costs that push poor students out of university.