

Institutional Accessibility Guidelines for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil College of Engineering, Satara

These guidelines are issued to ensure equal access, inclusion, and non-discrimination for students, staff, and visitors with disabilities at Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil College of Engineering, Satara. The policy is aligned with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, UGC and AICTE regulations, and international best practices in accessibility and inclusive education.

1. Objectives

- To provide a barrier-free and inclusive learning environment.
- To ensure reasonable accommodation in academic, administrative, and co-curricular activities.
- To promote universal design in infrastructure, teaching, and digital platforms.
- To comply with statutory requirements of UGC, AICTE, NAAC, and the RPwD Act, 2016.

2. Legal and Regulatory Framework

- Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.
- UGC Guidelines on Higher Education for Persons with Disabilities.
- AICTE Approval Process Handbook – Accessibility and Universal Design norms.
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1.

3. Physical Accessibility and Infrastructure

- Provision of ramps with appropriate gradient, handrails, and non-slip flooring in all academic and administrative buildings.
- Installation of lifts with audio announcements and Braille-enabled control panels where applicable.
- Wide doorways, corridors, and accessible seating arrangements in classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and auditoriums.
- At least one accessible toilet on each floor, equipped with grab bars and suitable fittings.
- Barrier-free rooms in hostels and accessible common facilities.
- High-contrast signage, tactile paths, and Braille signboards at key locations.

4. Academic and Examination Accommodations

- Grant of extra time during examinations as per UGC/University norms.
- Provision of scribe/reader/assistant for students who require such support.
- Availability of question papers and study material in accessible formats such as large print, Braille, or digital text.
- Permission to use assistive devices including screen readers, magnifiers, and speech-to-text software.
- Flexibility in attendance, assessment methods, and assignment submission where required as a reasonable accommodation.

5. Digital and ICT Accessibility

- The institutional website, Learning Management Systems (LMS), and online portals shall conform to WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards.
- All audio-visual content shall include captions, subtitles, or transcripts.
- PDFs, presentations, and e-content shall be provided in accessible formats compatible with screen readers.
- Online forms and portals shall be navigable using a keyboard and accessible assistive technologies.

6. Support Systems and Services

- The Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) shall function as the nodal body for disability-related matters.
- The institution shall facilitate access to assistive technologies such as screen readers, hearing support systems, and adaptive equipment.
- Counseling, mentoring, and career guidance shall be provided to students with disabilities.

- A grievance redressal mechanism shall be in place to address accessibility-related concerns.

7. Sensitization and Capacity Building

- Regular training programs for faculty and staff on inclusive teaching and accessibility practices.
- Awareness programs for students to promote empathy, respect, and inclusion.
- Incorporation of accessibility guidelines in induction and orientation programs.

8. Monitoring, Review, and Compliance

- Annual accessibility audit of infrastructure, digital platforms, and academic practices.
- Collection of feedback from students with disabilities for continuous improvement.
- Submission of compliance reports to affiliating University, UGC, AICTE, and NAAC as required.

These guidelines shall come into effect immediately and shall be reviewed periodically to ensure continuous improvement in providing an inclusive and accessible educational environment at Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil College of Engineering, Satara.