

# FAQs: Prospective Students

## What is the UP Open University?

The UP Open University or UPOU is the fifth autonomous university of the UP System. It was established through in 1995 to provide wider access to quality higher education through distance education.

The university envisions to develop in students the discipline and capability to become lifelong learners who are at home in today's knowledge society.

The UPOU has been declared by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as the National Center of Excellence in Open Learning and Distance Education in recognition of its achievements in this field and its vital role in pushing the frontiers of learning in service to the Filipino nation.

## What is an open university?

An open university espouses a philosophy of open learning which differs in degree and dimension from institution to institution. For the UPOU, its philosophy of open learning is evolving. Its emphasis at present is on widening access to quality higher education.

## What is distance education?

Distance education is any of the various forms of study which is not under the continuous, immediate supervision of teachers present with their students in lecture/classrooms. It favors an independent self-learning style which takes place outside a formal classroom.

Despite the physical separation between the learner and the teacher, this does not mean that students are left on their own. Teaching and learning is mediated through the use of technology like print, audio, video, and the internet.

## What are the advantages of distance education?

Studying through the distance education mode offers the following benefits:

- No need to take leave from one's job
- No need to be separated from one's family
- Can immediately apply what has been learned to one's work
- Can save time and money
- Access to institutionally developed learning modules

## How is distance education different from the traditional mode of learning?

UPOU students are expected to perform the usual learning activities and course requirements performed by students in traditional classes. Unlike in face-to-face classes, the course materials are usually the starting point for study.

Course materials may come in the form of print modules, online articles and exercises, videos, and audio recordings. Interaction between the teacher and students also takes place through the internet.

## How do students and teachers interact with each other?

If traditional universities have classrooms and lecture halls, UPOU has course sites or "virtual classrooms" where students and teachers log in to discuss the lessons as well as do other learning activities.

Academic interactions, submission of course requirements, online quizzes, chats and other online activities can be done in the course site.

## Can I enroll in UPOU even if I am based abroad?

Almost all courses are taught online, which means that you can study any course wherever you are. Around 15 per cent of UPOU students are based abroad.

Some subjects require pre-scheduled face-to-face meetings (e.g., laboratory work or field practice).

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### **Do the students have to take examinations?**

Yes, students normally need to take examinations. The students sit for supervised examinations through either of these means:

- at pre-identified examination venues
- at a Philippine embassy/consulate or any academic institution/credible organization abroad under the supervision of a qualified proctor in the area.
- Online, via the internet and using a webcam.

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### **What courses or programs can I take at UPOU?**

A list of degree and non-formal courses can be found [here](#).

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### **How do I apply?**

The procedure for application, including the deadlines for submission, can be located [here](#).

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### **How much are the matriculation fees?**

Sample computation of assessment fees is found [here](#).