

Student Food Security Programme

The University has established a comprehensive Student Food Security Programme to ensure that every student has constant access to safe, nutritious, and affordable meals. This programme is grounded in the Anurag University Food Policy (2023) and is implemented through a series of structured initiatives that address food insecurity, promote responsible consumption, and support student well-being across all academic and community settings. The same are briefed below:

1. Anurag University Food Policy (2023): Institutional framework for food security

The University adopted a formal Food Policy in 2023

, which provides the foundation for its food security initiatives. This policy ensures a structured, sustained, and accountable institutional approach to addressing student food insecurity. The policy is designed to:

- Ensure access to food for all members of the university community
- Promote nutritious and balanced diets
- Maintain high standards of food safety and hygiene
- Provide affordable meal options for all students
- Respect cultural and dietary diversity
- Foster environmentally sustainable food systems
- Raise awareness about food insecurity and responsible consumption
- Promote continuous improvement and accountability in food services

2. Affordable and nutritious meals for all students

The University ensures that fresh, hygienic, and nutritious cooked meals are available to all students—both day scholars and hostel residents—daily. Key features include:

- Balanced meal plans
- Subsidised pricing to support students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds
- Regular monitoring of hygiene and nutritional quality
- Multiple food options to accommodate dietary preferences

3. Guaranteed access to food during off-campus community activities

The University ensures student food security even beyond the campus. During community programmes, outreach initiatives, fieldwork, and service-learning events, the University provides healthy meals to all students and staff

participating in off-campus activities. This ensures that no student skips meals due to academic or community engagements

4. Extended food service hours on campus

Recognising that students may arrive early or stay late due to academic, research, or extracurricular commitments, the University ensures that food is available:

- At least one hour before the start of official work/academic hours
- Up to two hours after the closing hours
- This extended schedule prevents students from facing hunger during early-morning or late-evening hours and supports a wide range of academic needs.

5. Affordable pricing compared to external vendors

The University maintains significantly lower pricing for meals compared to private restaurants outside the campus, which directly contributes to reducing food insecurity among students. This includes:

- Low-cost breakfast, lunch, and dinner options (only for hostellers)
- Budget-friendly snacks and beverages
- Price regulation to ensure affordability remains consistent

6. Awareness and sensitisation

To cultivate awareness about hunger and food insecurity among the students, the University regularly organises student visits to the Akshaya Patra Foundation, a leading NGO that works to solve hunger and malnutrition among school children. The university is grateful to Akshaya Patra for helping our students learn about food insecurity and responsible consumption. These visits help students:

- Understand the scale and impact of food insecurity
- Observe large-scale meal preparation processes, ensuring nutrition and hygiene
- Appreciate the importance of equitable access to healthy food
- Develop social responsibility and awareness about responsible consumption