PARENT'S CHECKLIST

"Is This Degree Legit?"

7 verification steps to run **before paying a single rupee** for any online university programme.
Print it. Use it. Share it with family.

Work through each point independently. Check the box only when you have verified — not just been told — that it's true.

01 ☐ **UGC ENTITLEMENT — VERIFY THE OFFICIAL LIST** LEGAL

Visit **ugcmoocsportal.inflibnet.ac.in** and search for the university under "Entitled Institutions." If it is not listed, the online degree has no legal standing in India — it cannot be used in government jobs, higher studies, or regulated professions. This check is non-negotiable.

02 ☐ **NAAC ACCREDITATION — CHECK GRADE & EXPIRY DATE** VERIFY

Go to **naac.gov.in**, search the university, and note two things: the grade (B+ or above is the minimum worth considering) and the **valid-until date**. An expired accreditation certificate is no accreditation at all — universities sometimes continue to advertise a lapsed grade.

03 ☐ **A REAL CAMPUS YOU CAN VISIT** VERIFY

Every degree-granting university must have a functioning physical campus registered with the UGC. Search the campus address on Google Maps. A shared co-working space, a residential colony, or an address that cannot be found on Street View is a hard stop — not a reason to negotiate.

04 ☐ **YOUR DEGREE CERTIFICATE CARRIES THE RIGHT NAME** CRITICAL

Ask for a sample degree certificate **before** you pay. It must display the UGC-entitled university's full name and official seal — not a "learning partner," "study centre," or intermediary institute's name. This is exactly what employers and future universities will verify.

05 ☐ **PLACEMENT CLAIMS ARE BACKED BY EVIDENCE** DUE DILIGENCE

Any college can print "95% placement." Ask for three specific things: **(a)** the names of the top 5 recruiters from the last academic year, **(b)** the median CTC — not the highest, and **(c)** the NIRF 2024 placement report URL. Refuse to proceed without all three.

06 ☐ **FEES ARE ACCEPTED SEMESTER-WISE** CRITICAL

UGC regulations **require** online universities to collect fees semester by semester. A demand for the full 2–3 year programme fee upfront — especially if paired with "limited seats" urgency or a "pay today for a discount" offer — violates UGC norms and is a pattern associated with known fraud cases.

07 ☐ **THE UNIVERSITY ANSWERS AFTER YOU'VE PAID** DUE DILIGENCE

One week after receiving your offer letter, call the **university's helpline directly** — not the agent, not the counsellor who sold you the course. Confirm: LMS access date, programme start date, and how to escalate a complaint. If nobody picks up or the call redirects to a third party, you have identified the problem before it costs you ₹2–3 lakh.

⚠ **If more than 2 boxes remain unchecked** — stop. Do not proceed with payment. Speak to a counsellor at findmycollege.com before you decide.

Research & Counselling Team
Last updated: April 2026