Goa University, established in June 1985 by an Act of Goa Government, is located on a picturesque campus spread over 427.49 acres area of Taleigao plateau overlooking the Zuari Estuary, within close vicinity of the capital city of Panaji, in North Goa. The Campus, having easy accessibility by road, rail and air, is well organized and beautiful in nature. Goa University, the only university in the State is committed to its motto - dissemination of knowledge, as inscribed in its emblem Learning is Divine. Following the liberation of Goa and with considerable backing of the Government, the University of Bombay, established a Centre for Post-Graduate Instruction and Research in June 1965 in Panaji. This subsequently grew into the seat of post-graduate education (master's and doctoral) in the state of Goa. The staff of this Centre formed the core faculty for post-graduate education of the newly formed Goa University.

With a modest beginning with only a few departments in the temporary premises during early years, the University moved to its present location on Taleigao Plateau in 1992 with its own buildings designed by the famous architect Shri. Satish Gujral. The campus became the main campus of the university. Besides being the most important location for post-graduate studies, it also serves as the academic nerve-centre of the higher education system in Goa. Today Goa University, is a university of affiliated colleges, 55 of which are distributed across Goa, 30 in general education, 25 in professional education, with total enrolment of about 28,000. Most of these are enrolled in undergraduate programmes and the main campus which is primarily for post-graduate and doctoral students has an enrolment of about 2,000. Interestingly, a large majority of students enrolled in the various programmes are women.

Presently, Goa University has 12 faculties of which 6 faculties operate on the campus with 24 Departments and 3 Research Centers that offer post-graduate education in the State of Goa. Goa University has always been a favorite choice for academic pursuits of students aspiring higher education in the State. The University teaching Departments, have incorporated a wide-range of advanced and inter-departmental/interdisciplinary teaching components and research methods in almost all Programmes/courses.

The University has been one of the earliest to introduce the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) with modular courses in all the campus based PG programmes as recommended by UGC. Many of the post-graduate programmes are designed keeping in mind the industrial requirements and societal needs in perspective, and are intended to offer gainful employment opportunities. All the PG programmes include Dissertation work to promote research temperament among the students.