The University of Hyderabad, a premier institution of post graduate teaching and research in the country, was established by an Act of Parliament (Act No. 39 of 1974) on 2nd October, 1974 as a Central University, Wholly financed by the University Grants Commission.

The "objects of the University" as envisaged in the Act are:" to disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in such branches of learning as it may deem fit and by the example of its corporate life, and in particular to make special provisions for integrated courses in humanities and science in the educational programmes of the University and to take appropriate measures for promoting inter-disciplinary studies and research in the University."

The University is primarily a post-graduate research University. UoH conducts its own entrance examinations for all the courses during the month of February every year and interviews in the month of May every year. The University offers Integrated M.A/MSc, M.A, MSc, M.F.A, M.Tech, M.B.A, M.C.A, M.Phil and Ph.D degrees. Admission to UoH is highly selective and competitive. The University follows the reservation system given in the UGC guidelines while admitting students. The University follows the continuous assessment pattern where 40% of the marks are allotted for internal assessment and 60% for external examination. The students are graded on a 10.0 point scale with D being the lowest passing grade while A+ being the highest. The toppers of each of the post-graduate taught course in the general and reserved categories are awarded the University Gold Medal. The University is a public research university with high research activity in every department and awards about 300 doctorates every year.

The University library is a central facility to support teaching and research activities of the University. This present library building was inaugurated by his Excellency late Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the then Vice President of India, on 21 October 1988 and named after late Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The Library is connected to Campus Network. The library also created learning environment by establishing Online Public Access Catalog (WebOPAC), OPAC Searching Area, Internet browsing area, Laptop zone with Wi-Fi facility, specialized workstations & software for visually-challenged students and by facilitating electronic resources, search services/tools.