

BEST PRACTICES OF THE COLLEGE

1. Title of the Practice

Fair and transparent admission process

2. Objectives of the Practice

The admission is online through MIS. The students register themselves for admission to the parent university, i.e., Kumaun University, Nainital, and subsequently on the college website, too. The registered students, as per the merit list are given admission as per the fixed criteria, i.e., cut-off percentage, which again differs for the general and other students belonging to SC, ST, and other categories. Different committees look into their testimonials before finalizing their admissions. The list of cleared students is displayed on notice boards and the college website, so that the students may finally go in for the submission of admission fees, as the final benchmark of being admitted into the college. The objectives thus are the following:

1. Admissions are carried out as per the merit of the student. The cut-off percentage for admission to science faculty (B. Sc and M. Sc) is 45 percent, Arts (B. A, M. A and B. Com, M. Com) is 40 percent,
2. All the criteria as relates to reservation of seats for SC, ST, and OBC, as well as students belonging to other states, primarily for Jammu and Kashmir students, are duly carried out as per the provisions defined. The reservation is fixed at 19 percent for SC, 4 percent for ST, and 14 percent for OBC.
3. Admission to self-financed and vocational courses too are as per merit.
4. The admission process is carried out within a fixed stipulated time frame so that the actual classes could be conducted at the earliest, and thus the prescribed syllabi could be completed well before the scheduled date of the start of the examination.

The intended outcome of the present practice is to make the admission process fair and transparent so that no deserving candidate is unjustifiably left out.

3. The Context

The admission process is an online process, and as emphasized above, the student seeking admission has to register himself in the parent university (Kumaun University, Nainital) and subsequently on the college website, too. The majority of the students do not possess the bare minimum expertise to undertake this exercise, and thus are completely dependent upon outside sources, viz., cyber cafes, etc. this dependency very often than not is prone to exploitation.

Even though there are several colleges in close vicinity of the present institute, there is an overwhelming tendency for students seeking admission to the present institute, which eventually results in creating pressure for the college administration to undertake or conduct the admission exercise smoothly. The problem gets only accentuated when student political outfits and leaders, in the garb of doing 'humanitarian good' exerts pressure through holding Dharanas and agitation, which only prolongs and impedes the smooth functioning of the admission process.

However, the major problem faced is when the admission seeker does not carry out his or her admission within the stipulated time frame post the display of the merit list (for which a definite time frame is executed by the admission committee) and subsequently turns up demanding admission.

4. The Practice

Overwhelming admissions, as already emphasized above, had led to a burgeoning strength, which presently hovers at more than 12,000. The limited space, which includes the infrastructural support and limited space within the lecture theatres as well as the number of classrooms, necessitates that the classes are sub-divided into sections. This then results in more burden on the teaching faculty in terms of the number of classes he or she would take per day. To offshoot the problem, the college administration has mandated that additional classes would be taken- the evening classes so that the needs of the students are optimally met.

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5. Evidence of Success

The evidence of success could be gauged from the performance of the enrolled students in their respective examinations. The number of students attaining ranks at the level of the university, i.e., gold medallist, over the last two years, number 08, or the total number getting enrolled for their Ph. Ds (totaling 144), or those availing UGC research scholarship (totaling 34), and more importantly the substantial number of students qualifying the competitive UGC/UGC-CSIR NET, GATE or INSPIRE (totaling 47 during the last two years) speak for themselves.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The prime problem faced by the institute is the lack of space to create or construct more infrastructure. We have already exploited to maximize the available space and thus are no longer in a position to construct buildings to accommodate students or to fulfill their needs in terms of the classes undertaken. The only recourse left with the administration was to go in for undertaking classes in two shifts, which we have done. Having emphasized this fact, being a government-aided college, with a fixed bare minimum fee structure, and financial support extended by the government- all this falls short of the actual amount or support base that could lead to augmentation of the infrastructural support base, in the form of the requisite number of student chairs/study tables, requisite scientific instruments to conduct practicals, the recurring budgetary support for the renewal (say chemicals, maintenance of equipment, etc)- in numbers and amount that would fulfill the requirements of the enrolled

students. While NAAC emphasizes ICT-based teaching, the institution is trying hard to fulfill this obligatory requirement as a teaching aid.

7. Additional notes

Efforts should be made, as far as possible, to create a facility where students may prepare for their competitive exams, or even for the regular examination, in a quiet, and comfortable, environment. Creation of such a facility- a reading room does not take much financial cost, and any college- small or big can easily afford to create such a facility. If warranted this facility could even be extended for holding motivational talks, general talks, or lectures on current topics of interest, or even for holding competitions, like debate, extempore, or group discussions. The establishment of a reading room, well equipped with reference texts (normally which are not distributed or lent to the students, because of their higher price) should invariably be made available to the students, or even the teaching faculty, thus.

8. Any other information regarding institutional values and best practices that the college would like to include

- i. Admission process is as per the merit of the students and is transparent through online mode, and making use of the MIS
- ii. Faculty empowerment is very vivid. For example, the examination committee is mostly constituted of female faculty members. They are also being relegated to the task of actually managing the exams.
- iii. Regular classes are undertaken, with the prescribed syllabi completely undertaken, well before their annual examinations.
- iv. Most of the classes, are equipped with LCD projectors, and wall-mounted projection screens.
- v. Students are encouraged to participate in different workshops, seminars, and other cultural events, including sports.
- vi. The college Reading Hall is equipped with the latest material for the preparation for competitive exams.
- vii. The research cell duly conducts the Pre-PhD coursework for the benefit of the enrolled research scholars.

Certified that the information furnished above is correct to the best of my knowledge & belief.

(C S Negi)

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