

MERCY COLLEGE, PALAKKAD

Kerala

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUDIT- 2025

Mercy College Palakkad was established in the year 1964 and is NAAC accredited with A grade in to their 4th cycle.. The intuition has over 2000 students with 29 programmes. The College has 4 research centres of the University of Calicut in the Departments of English, Botany, Physics and Chemistry

Audit covered academic activates including teaching, research and publications for the period 2024-25 covering the following Departments:

1. Computer Applications
2. Commerce
3. Economics
4. Bio Technology
5. Botany
6. Physics
7. Chemistry
8. Economics
9. Computer Science
10. Social Work
11. English
12. Physical Education
13. Zoology
14. Mathematics

Besides Language teachers also made their presentation

Input report was received and each department made a detailed presentation on their teaching learning processes along with publications and research outcomes, Extension services and community engagement was also covered.

Departments have identified their Best Practices and did present their future Plan of Action.

Experiential learning Methods adopted was presented and efforts to promote innovative teaching methods was explored.

Student activates in terms of Sports, cultural activities and Clubs are present but not in all possible collaborative forms. Teaching Learning processes are managed well with good delivery mechanisms. Infrastructure in terms of classrooms, and other facilities are good. College has excellent infrastructure in the form of a good library with e-resources and

institutional repository, science laboratory, IT Infrastructure, Fitness Centre, family Counselling centre and Heritage Museum, very good sports facilities both for indoor and outdoor games

University level curriculum is delivered under OBE for 4YUGP. Basic preparations have been made for the 4 year UG programme. Greater efforts need to be made on experiential learning for UG students, research and Publications need further strengthening.

General Recommendations

1. Considering Implementation of 4 year UG programme , Experiential Learning Methods need to be developed for each Discipline. Use of Case Studies, real life immediate Context Projects, Analysis of Available Secondary Data on real issues, Relational Assignments could be used.
2. interdisciplinary approach needs focus in terms of Minors as well as skill development courses. Disciplines like Commerce, Economics, Computer Applications and Mathematics need to collaborate. Similar collaborations among Disciplines need to be examined. Language and Mathematics teachers should offer career support for competitive examinations
3. Linkage with Industry as well as Professional bodies need to be developed for Enriched learning experiences.
4. Teachers, specifically with research guide ship and PhD degrees, need to enhance output from research in terms of Publications. The research activities of the P. G. Research Department are weak and need to be largely improved.
5. Every faculty with a doctoral degree is to be encouraged to bring an externally funded project by next year.
6. Faculty with research guide ship are to produce at least one publication every academic year either in standard journal of the subject domain or as a book chapter.
7. The practice of introducing financial support for the publication of research outcomes in open access journal also may be introduced to boost the publications by faculty members.
8. A target on research outcomes may be fixed for each faculty and research supervisor at the beginning of the academic year after proper deliberations and the same is to be submitted to IQAC.
9. Faculty with external projects may be rewarded by institutional awards including citation and cash prize.
10. Making available Learning Content in local language as well as in the digital form has to be explored.
11. Students can be encouraged to take up Additional MOOCs

12. Policies on Consultancy, Community linkages, research etc., NEED TO BE FORMULATED. Potential for Consultancy need to be examined and a Cell for this purpose can be established
13. Preparations for Internship and research projects need to be made for the 4 year programme. Defending Research projects proving its validity can be encouraged.
14. Explore potential for New Programmes, specifically innovative Programmes .
15. Mercy college should have an LMS of its own, so that every faculty is bound to follow it.
- 16 IDP is to be framed immediately and all curricular and off-curricular and pro-curricular activities of various departments are to be turned accordingly. department should develop a plan which converge into the IDP and the best practices and uniqueness of the institution
- 17 Demand ratio of various programmes is to be seriously studied and efforts are to be taken to improve the demand for different UG and PG programmes.
- 18 The conventional academic program must be revamped by incorporating more skill component and multidisciplinary.
- 19 The possibility of elevating the status of the college to autonomous is to be explored without delay as it provides more opportunity for the revision of syllabus and starting new programmes which have contemporary relevance.
- 20 The vacant faculty positions in various departments are to be filled in a regular mode at the earliest.
- 21 A tribal village may be adopted and different departments may develop a strategic plan for the village by utilizing the hours dedicated fir the cocurricular and extension programs of their choice for the upliftment of the village. Every.
- 22 The mentoring system, bridge courses and remedial classes, enrichment course, peer teaching, group teaching and group learning, language proficiency course, teaching and learning in bharatiyabhashas etc. may be institutionalized with a defined structure. The outcomes of these activities are to be specifically mentioned.
- 23 Feedback systems are to be introduced effectively and action is to be taken based on stakeholder's inputs including curriculum revision, Teacher rearrangement, by appointing professor practice and the career promotion of faculties.
- 24 Externally funded projects are not seen in any of the research and teaching departments which is to be seriously looked in to.
- 25 The 'seed money' system may be introduced from the management side as a token to initiate the research activities based on a research policy document.
- 26 Incentives may be given to those faculties who publish research articles in SCOPUS/ other reputed journals based on the policy document.

- 27 All sophisticated equipment may be housed in a common research lab (Mercy CSIF/MCSIF) with access to all research supervisors and research scholars.
- 28 The income generated through consultancy is practically nil which needs to be addressed based on a policy document.
- 29 More certificate courses are to be offered by BCA, Computer science and Bio technology department so that it will be benefited to all students of Mercy College and the near public.
- 30 The critical strength of students in the campus needs to be increased by adding more value-added/certificate and diploma courses by various departments.
- 31 The infrastructure facilities also need to be augmented according to the needs of the day.
- 32 Every PG department should organize at least one national/regional seminars covering the topics of current significance and local needs.
- 33 The activities of the domain related clubs are to be defined and act and select programmes based on this plan.
- 34 The sustainability outcome and green initiatives of the institution are to be fixed initially and each department should chart programmes accordingly. For example, best green initiative the chemistry department can think of is to minimize chemicals and physics department is to minimize energy consumption.
- 35 Target community is to be identified initially before introducing programmes by individual departments.

Department Specific Recommendations.

Department of Chemistry (PG & Research)

Department performed reasonably well during this period. Only one research supervisor is currently guiding students. Other teachers with Doctoral degrees are to be taken students for research or external student projects (other institutions) and internships, as most of the times the outcome end with a publication. Every faculty should offer one certificate course.

Department of Physics (P G & Research)

Performance of this department with 100% PhD holders are reasonably good during this period. But the potential of the faculty members is not tapped fully during this period. Only one research supervisor is currently guiding students. Other teachers with Doctoral degrees are to

be encouraged to take students for research or external student projects (other institutions) and internships, as most of the times the outcome end with a publication. Every faculty should offer one certificate course.

Department of Botany (P G & Research)

Performance of this department with 100% PhD holders is good during this period. But the faculty members can do better in research and extension activities. Every teacher with a Doctoral degree is to be encouraged to take students for research or external student projects (other institutions) and internships, as most of the times the outcome end with a publication. Every faculty should offer one certificate course. Individual efforts may be taken by faculty members to improve the quality of publication and academic visibility.

Department of Zoology (P G)

Performance of this department with only two permanent faculty is good and commendable during this period. Efforts may be taken to fill up the faculty positions on a permanent mode.

Department of Mathematics and Statistics (P G, SF)

There are only two permanent faculty members in the department of mathematics and statistics, which is really a challenge. The curriculum of the programme may be made more applied in future to attract the students to this fundamental science. The performance of the department is reasonably good.

Department of Computer Science (SF)

The strength of the students may be increased. More certificate courses may be offered for the students of Mercy college and public. The programmes offered by the department under various umbrellas need to be institutionalized and should come up as a lead department in future. This department should ensure that every student studying in Mercy should come out with a basic understanding of data and its usage. Performance of the department is reasonably good.

Department of Computer Applications (SF)

The strength of the students may be increased. More certificate courses may be offered for the students of Mercy college and public. The programmes offered by the department under various umbrellas need to be institutionalized and should come up as a lead department in

future. This department should ensure that every student studying in Mercy should come out with a basic understanding of data and its usage. The activities of this department and Department of computer science may be converged more to the IDP and taken up projects accordingly. Performance during the assessment period is reasonably good.

Department of Biotechnology (SF)

The strength of the students may be increased. More certificate courses may be offered for the students of Mercy as well as public. The lead of the green initiatives of the department needs to be strengthened by offering a corticate course to every student studying in Mercy college by offering a certificate course on either biogas generation, bio manure production mushroom cultivation etc. This department should ensure that every student studying in Mercy should come out with a basic understanding of waste management and its implications.

Department of BCA

The strength of the students may be increased. More certificate courses may be offered for the students of Mercy as well as public. This department may function as catalyst for tuning the activities of the department of computer science and department of computer applications. All pro academic and cocurricular activities of these departments may be converged, so that better outcome will come out of this. These three departments should support all other departments to develop more idea on data management and its processing as in future everybody looks at data and its accuracy.

Department of Commerce

The Department offers B.Com with Computer Application (Aided).

B.Com with Finance (Self Financing).M.Com.(Self Financing).

Diploma in GST and Diploma in Tally.

Foundation Programme in Banking and Financial Services

Programmes offered have adequate demand and teaching processes are good. There is scope for enhancing employability through industry based courses on banking, Fiancé and Insurance. Industry collaborations need to be enhanced for internship under 4YUGP as well as for expediential learning adoption methods.

Department of Economics

Courses offered BA and MA in Economics

Department does use best practices in Teaching and learning support . Encouraging students to engage in real time project based on issues pertaining to Planning and Development for which data and outcomes from national agencies like the Niti Ayog and State Planning Board can be made use of . Innovative courses that focus on Data Analytics and introduction of real time live projects can be considered. There is a need to evolve new content in the interdisciplinary format in association with Departments of Computer Applications , Commerce and Mathematics.

Department of History

The Department offers BA Degree in History with Indian constitution & Politics and General Economics as subsidiaries. The Department also offers Historical Tourism as open course to the students of other Departments.

The Department can think of greater interdisciplinarity in its approach and it is suggested to have more open courses that have innovative pathways.

Department of Social Work.

The Department offers MSW with specialization in Rural and Urbana community development as well; as Medical and Psychiatric Social Work.

The Department can stream line the extension activities of the College and engage with the Local bodies for live projects. Research projects on Urban and Rural development in the Kerala context can be taken up .

The department has scope for Consultancy in the areas of expertise for which it can work with appropriate proposals.

Department of English

Programmes offered, MA in English literature and Phd

Research engagement need to be strengthened. Collaborative research with external centres can be undertaken.

The English Department teachers need to support career development through training in good English as well as development of communicative skills . A similar approach need to adopted by teachers in other languages.

Department of Physical Education

There is excellent output from sports and games and the Physical education Department is truly functional on the outcome based mode. The Department can extend its services to a larger student group on campus.

The Auditor also interacted with the Administrative Staff and examined the systems for student services as well as Audits in place.

Detailed discussions were held with the IQAC team. IQAC is in place with functional systems. Sessions promoting familiarity with the new Binary accreditation, UGC regulations as well as Upcoming policy changes can be taken up . FDPs on the same can be arranged. NAAC as well UGC publications on the above need to be acquired and displayed for wider internalization.

The Suggestions put forward in this audit and Action Plan thereon need to emerge as a Policy.

The report is submitted for action.

External Auditors



**1 Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil
Dean Faculty of Commerce,
Former Director IQAC , University of Kerala**

**2 Prof Abraham Joseph
Director IQAC , University of Calicut**

**Audit held on 26th March 2025
Report Submitted 18th April 2025**

**Appendices
Input reports of various departments.**

