

## **Institutional Distinctiveness 2016-2017**

Defining our success as an institution requires us to carefully assess our students' short-term objectives relative to their long-term goals and to provide the right curricula, academic supports, and services to help them achieve these goals. At Shree Jayendrapuri Arts and Science College, this means supporting a diverse student population striving for a wide range of outcomes. Like many institutions, our College serves a mix of traditional and non-traditional learners from various academic backgrounds. The College measures its Academic achievements by establishing goals and expectations tied to our students' aspirations. We compare our outcomes to state and national standards, but we are never satisfied by merely meeting the acceptable mark. Instead, we aim to have a positive impact in our community and the wider society by producing graduates who exceed average expectations, both in their academic achievements and in what they are able to accomplish after leaving the College. At our College, we focus on the entire student experience, assisting each individual on the journey from prospective student to graduate. We have developed a system to help students navigate their courses and make smart academic choices. We engage them at every point along the academic journey, equipping them with the information they need to make career decisions early so they are driven to succeed in their chosen fields. The college offers several outreach activities to new students, including our new student orientation program. Our new entrants experience program offers organized events to engage new students as they transition to college. These offerings are part of a strategic approach to helping new students adjust to the post-secondary education experience by providing important information and managing expectations. To support current students, we have established a series of program progression benchmarks monitored through academic advising. Learning is dependent on the pedagogical approaches' teachers use in the classroom. Pedagogy refers to the "interactions between teachers, students, and the learning environment and the learning tasks." Effective pedagogy has led to academic achievement, social and emotional development, acquisition of technical skills, and a general ability to contribute to society. Some of the pedagogy strategies include the following:

- strong grasp of pedagogical approaches specific to the subject matter and age of the learners (also called pedagogical content knowledge)
- appropriate use of whole class, small group, and pair work
- meaningful incorporation of teaching and learning materials in addition to the textbook
- frequent opportunities for students to answer and expand upon responses to questions
- varied lesson activities and
- a positive attitude towards students and belief in their capacity to learn.

We supplement our academic programs with extracurricular activities. We strongly believe that every higher education institution should strive to produce graduates who have had opportunities for personal development and civic engagement, and who have grown from students into responsible and active citizens.