

## Institutional Distinctiveness

### **Vision**

**“To become the center of excellence in dental education and dental care in Jammu and Kashmir”**

### **Mission“**

**To provide high-quality dental education and dental care services with strong moral and ethical values to the community at affordable prices with a focus on learner-centered education and patient-centered service”**

According to the vision of IDS, it will be striving to become a center of excellence in Dental Education in the region. This vision of the institute has directly linked to the academic achievement of its students. It is a fact that not all students are brilliant and can perform well without much help from the system. Many students face difficulties in their adjustment or coping behavior in a new academic situation. Therefore, there is a need to develop a well-structured student assistance mechanism in the college so that the vision of the institute may be achieved soon.

The Institute of Dental Sciences has a student population coming from different religious, cultural backgrounds, and educational systems. All these features provide a unique character to the college and exemplify unity in diversity. First-year students must adjust to a new learning environment as well as to a new culture. Most of the students join the college after their higher secondary school and are therefore very young, around 18-20 years of age. Therefore IDS has developed a very systematic and organized support service to help the students with their adjustment to the new system. The rationale of developing such a system

- First-year students come from different academic backgrounds (High school System, such as CBSE, ICSE, and State board) from various parts of the North Indian states, are young, away from their homes for the first time, and need help to adjust to not only the new academic system but also to the different environment.
- The academic workload, especially in health-professions programs, is stressful and many students need help with study skills and time management.
- Students also need emotional support and encouragement to be able to perform at their best in academics, feel supported and have a sense of well-being.
- A well-structured support program like the mentorship program at the IDS can help students cope with the academic workload, learn to manage time, and support them through encouragement and advice.

IDS has developed the following support services for the students.

**(a) Formation of Student Council:** The Student Council consists of students duly elected as class representatives for each class. The responsibility of the Student Council is to maintain the welfare of students, to bring forth their grievances, and to address all activities including clubs and publications.

**(b) Personal Counselling Services:** Personal counseling is available for personal problems (i.e. financial, career, home, health, etc.). All counseling sessions are conducted with the utmost regard to confidentiality and all records kept by the Counselor are treated as confidential. The student's meeting with a counselor shall be encouraged to discuss any concerns that they have about the confidentiality of personal information.

**(c) Career Counseling Activities:** The activities empower IDS students through their career development support services. These support services intend to equip IDS students to make well-informed decisions about their future careers and engender in them life-long skills of learning as they navigate through the developmental stages of their life careers.

- **Campus Health Services:** Great emphasis is exercised to make the campus a healthy and safe place to study, work and live for students and staff. The establishment of the Campus Health Clinic which is a first-aid room within the campus serves to complement the academic mission of IDS by providing immediate healthcare to the IDS campus community, which includes students, staff, and faculty members.
- **Addressing Student Grievances:** The Office of the Student Affairs accepts the complaints and maintains a log of formal, written student complaints filed. Students shall be informed of the action(s) taken to resolve the complaint in writing maximum within 10 working days.
- **Students Safety and Security:** As per the policies and procedures relating to safety, IDS is committed to a high standard of fire safety and makes all reasonable efforts to adopt best practices and compliance with current fire safety legislation and standards through the provision of the unobstructed passage of escape, fire-warning systems, fire-fighting equipment, fire safety inspection, trained personnel to deal with fire, explanation of fire safety procedures to incoming students and conduction of fire drill.
- **Residential Hall Services:** The Office of Student Affairs of IDS supports and complements the mission of the university and its academic program by creating a comfortable, safe and secure environment that contributes to the success of the resident students' educational mission and

personal growth. The Office ensures that the hostels shall offer a learning environment that fosters self-dependence, respect for social and communal norms, and tolerance of cultural diversity. The residence halls have in-house administrative and learning communities that provide opportunities for its residents to improve their leadership, communication, and social skills that contribute to their individual personal and professional development.

- **Students Hobby Clubs:** Student Clubs are a gateway for students to develop social, educational, and leadership skills. Their involvement in these clubs allows them to groom their personality traits and aptitudes. The activities of the clubs are planned and conducted by competent student engagement officers.
- **Mentorship Program:** The Mentorship Program of IDS is tailored to support students who are under pressure due to academics, family expectations, and the obligation to succeed. These potential stressors can affect the learning ability and academic performance of a student. These can be further compounded if the student experiences difficulties of integrating into the system or faces social, emotional, or family problems. A Mentorship Program Guide has been developed to guide the implementation, and faculty development programs are being organized to educate the mentors about their role and make the program effective.
- **Experiential Learning Service:** Experiential learning is an inseparable component of Health Profession Education. The students of IDS are integrated with the experiential learning environment from the early years of their study. They find them in multiple experiential environments during their study period. These facilities constitute important pillars of the Academic Health Care System which is an innovative concept introduced by IDS.