



Student Safety Policy

PREAMBLE & STATEMENT OF INTENT

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, prioritizes the physical, psychological, clinical, and environmental safety of all students across its campuses, hospitals, hostels, and academic faculties. Recognizing the unique responsibilities associated with health sciences, medical education, and biomedical research, JSS AHER is committed to providing a secure, supportive, inclusive, and threat-free environment that enables students to pursue their academic, clinical, and personal growth without fear of harm, discrimination, or distress.

This policy aligns with the guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC), National Medical Commission (NMC), Dental Council of India (DCI), Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), Indian Nursing Council (INC), and national statutory frameworks governing campus safety, anti-ragging, clinical safety, and student welfare.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- **Ensure Comprehensive Safety:** Establish robust physical, clinical, psychological, and digital safety protocols for all students across academic and residential settings.
- **Maintain Zero-Tolerance:** Enforce strict zero-tolerance policies against ragging, sexual harassment, bullying, discrimination, substance abuse, and violence.
- **Safeguard Clinical Environments:** Protect health sciences students from occupational hazards, cross-infections, radiation, and clinical workspace risks.

- **Provide Emergency Support:** Maintain structured 24/7 crisis response mechanisms, emergency contact protocols, and mental health support services.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all undergraduate, postgraduate, super-specialty, doctoral, diploma, and intern students enrolled across all Constituent Colleges (Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Biomedical Sciences, Nursing, Allied Health), University Departments, Research Centers, Teaching Hospitals, Clinical Skill Labs, Hostels, and University-managed transport services.

3. DOMAINS OF STUDENT SAFETY & PROTOCOLS

3.1 Campus Physical & Infrastructure Safety

- **Access Control & Surveillance:** Round-the-clock security personnel deployed across campus gates, academic blocks, clinical buildings, and residential quarters. High-resolution CCTV surveillance operating at key access points while respecting personal privacy.
- **Identity Verification:** Mandatory display of official University Identification Cards for entry into academic premises, hospitals, laboratories, and hostels.
- **Visitor Management:** Strict visitor logging procedures at all university buildings and residential facilities.
- **Fire & Structural Safety:** Routine fire safety audits, maintenance of fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, automated alarms, clear emergency exit pathways, and periodic evacuation drills.

3.2 Clinical, Laboratory & Occupational Safety

- **Infection Control & PPE:** Mandatory provision of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for students undertaking clinical postings, laboratory work, or mortuary sessions.
- **Bio-hazard & Chemical Handling:** Strict adherence to Biomedical Waste Management rules, radiation safety norms (AERB compliant), and safe chemical handling protocols in research and teaching laboratories.
- **Immunization & Health Care:** Mandatory vaccination schedules (including Hepatitis B) for all clinical and health sciences students prior to hospital postings, backed by rapid-response post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) protocols for needle-stick or sharps injuries.

3.3 Anti-Ragging & Anti-Bullying Mandate

- **Zero-Tolerance Enforcement:** Absolute prohibition of ragging in any form (physical, verbal, psychological, or digital) inside or outside the campus in accordance with Supreme Court mandates and UGC/NMC regulations.
- **Anti-Ragging Committees & Squads:** Active Anti-Ragging Committees and surprise inspection squads operating across colleges, sports facilities, canteens, and hostels.
- **Affidavits & Orientation:** Mandatory annual anti-ragging undertakings submitted by students and parents during admission.

3.4 Gender Safety & Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- **Safe Working & Learning Environment:** Absolute commitment to gender equality, respect, and safety.
- **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):** Functional Internal Complaints Committees in place across all constituent units to handle grievances regarding sexual harassment under the POSH framework, maintaining confidentiality and swift due process.
- **Helplines & Well-Lit Spaces:** Dedicated emergency helplines and well-lit walkways, corridors, and transport pick-up/drop-off points across all university areas.

3.5 Mental Health, Counselling & Psychological Well-being

- **Student Counselling Services:** Qualified full-time psychological counsellors available for confidential, free-of-cost counselling and therapy sessions.
- **Mentorship / Guardian Teacher Scheme:** Allocation of dedicated faculty mentors to small groups of students for regular academic, personal, and emotional guidance.
- **Crisis Intervention:** 24/7 mental health emergency support protocols to manage acute psychological distress, burnout, or anxiety.

3.6 Residential & Hostel Safety

- **Rector & Warden Oversight:** Full-time Wardens and Resident Faculty available on-site across all student hostels.
- **Biometric Access & Curfew Hours:** Regulated entry/exit systems with biometric tracking and designated evening return times for student safety.
- **Sanitation & Food Safety:** Regular hygiene audits of student mess facilities, canteens, and drinking water filtration systems.

3.7 Field Visits, Transport & Off-Campus Safety

- **Authorized Transport:** University-approved, insured vehicles driven by verified drivers for academic field trips, community health postings, and rural health center visits.
- **Faculty Escorts:** Mandatory presence of faculty or institutional staff escorts during outstation educational tours, sports events, and clinical camps.

4. GOVERNANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Student Safety & Welfare Committee (SSWC)

To ensure the effective monitoring and enforcement of this policy, JSS AHER operates the **Student Safety & Welfare Committee (SSWC)**, comprising:

- **Dean (Academics):** Chairperson
- **Registrar:** Member
- **Finance Officer:** Member
- **Dean (Research):** Member
- **Dean of a Constituent College / Faculty** (*Nominated by Vice-Chancellor on rotation*): Member
- **Chief Medical Officer / Student Welfare Officer:** Member
- **Chief Security Officer:** Member
- **Student Representatives (UG & PG):** Invitee Members

4.2 Responsibilities of the SSWC

The SSWC shall:

- Conduct bi-annual comprehensive safety audits across all campuses, hospitals, and residential hostels.
- Review incident reports, security breaches, and clinical safety grievances.
- Oversee anti-ragging squads, hostel safety measures, and mental health initiatives.
- Submit an annual Student Safety Assessment Report to the Vice-Chancellor and Academic Council.

5. EMERGENCY CONTACT & REPORTING MECHANISMS

- **24/7 Campus Emergency Helpline:** Dedicated, centralized emergency numbers posted visibly across all colleges, hospital blocks, and hostel notice boards.
- **Grievance Redressal Portal:** Online portal for anonymous or open reporting of safety concerns, infrastructure defects, or security lapses.
- **Immediate Response Team:** On-call security, medical emergency teams from JSS Hospital, and wardens available for instant deployment during emergencies.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of this policy is driven by the Office of the Dean (Academics), the Registrar, Chief Security Officers, Hostel Wardens, and the Deans of the respective constituent colleges and academic faculties.

7. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:

This policy will come into immediate effect 01.01.2025

8. DATE OF REVISION:

01.01.2027




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