



ST THOMAS COLLEGE PALAI
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ST. THOMAS COLLEGE, PALAI
VEHICLE OPERATIONS POLICY
2024



VEHICLE OPERATIONS POLICY

The ‘academic core’ of the college campus is a pedestrian-scale space and not intended for regular vehicular traffic. The Vehicle Operations Policy provides guidelines for the privilege of operating a motor vehicle on campus. The purpose of this policy is to reduce pedestrian risk, promote safe vehicle operation, and generally regulate traffic and parking on the campus. These rules and regulations are designed to promote safety and mobility and not to discipline and punish.

The regulations outlined here comply with the directives of the Motor Vehicles Department and the Higher Education Department. These rules apply equally to all faculty, staff, students and visitors, and are in effect on all campus properties, including roads, parking areas, improved and unimproved areas, and fields.

Objectives

- **Pedestrian Safety Enhancement**

Prioritize the safety of pedestrians by restricting vehicular traffic within the pedestrian-scale academic core of the campus, reducing the risk of accidents and promoting a safer environment for walking.

- **Promotion of Safe Vehicle Operation**

Provide guidelines and regulations to ensure that all motor vehicle operations on campus adhere to safety standards, reducing the likelihood of collisions, injuries, and property damage.

- **Regulation of Traffic and Parking**

Effectively manage traffic flow and parking on campus to minimize congestion, optimize space utilization, and enhance accessibility for all members of the campus community.



- **Compliance with Regulatory Directives**

Ensure that the rules and regulations outlined in the policy comply with directives from relevant authorities such as the Motor Vehicles Department and the Higher Education Department, promoting legal compliance and accountability.

- **Equal Application to All Stakeholders**

Ensure that the rules and regulations apply equally to all faculty, staff, students, and visitors, fostering a sense of fairness and equity in the enforcement of vehicle-related policies on campus.

- **Safety Promotion over Discipline**

Emphasize the promotion of safety and mobility rather than disciplinary actions, encouraging proactive measures to prevent accidents and ensure responsible vehicle operation.

- **Comprehensive Coverage of Campus Properties**

Extend the application of the policy to cover all campus properties, including roads, parking areas, improved and unimproved areas, and fields, to ensure consistent enforcement and adherence to regulations throughout the campus environment.

Campus Gates for Vehicles

- Gate No. 2 West Main
- Gate No. 3 Sports Complex
- Gate No. 4 C R Hostel (private)
- Gate No. 5 Alphonsian Road (emergency)
- Gate No. 6 Staff Quarters (private)
- Gate No. 7 CSIP Road (emergency)
- Gate No. 8 Middle Gate
- Gate No. 9 Bishop Vayalil A/C Hall (private)



Timing of Gates

- Gate 2 (West Main): 8.00 am to 5.30 pm on all days (manned)
- Gate 3 (Sports Complex): 5.00 am to 9.30 am and 3.00 pm to 10.00 pm on class days (unmanned, mainly for the use of sports complex members, remains open throughout the day on no-class days)
- Gate 8 (Middle Gate): Open throughout the day except from 3.00 pm to 5.30 pm on class days.

Driving

- No visitor vehicle shall be allowed inside the campus without a *bona fide* reason for a visit.
- The maximum speed limit on campus is 20 kmph. Lower speed limits are in effect when posted, or if road conditions warrant.
- Pedestrians have the right of way at all intersections, pedestrian crossings and asphalted roads except in cases involving emergency vehicles.
- Honking and idling while on campus are strongly discouraged. Contrary behaviour may lead to a warning.
- The college reserves the right to close or modify roadways and to close or open gates for special circumstances; always observe posted signs and directives from security officers.

Parking

- Parking is permitted only in designated parking areas. Do not park in walkways, roadsides, around waste collection points, in planted areas, lawns or in otherwise restricted locations.
- All campus parking areas are designated for an intended constituency, and many spaces are additionally restricted. Do not park in spaces or lots designated for constituencies other than your own. Do not remain past 6.30 pm. or arrive before 5 a.m. in places designated for no overnight parking.



- Overnight parking is allowed only for residents and only behind the A Block.
- Parking in a disabled-only space without the required permit will result in a warning.
- The college reserves the right to prohibit or restrict parking on the college property for special circumstances.
- Students may park their two-wheelers in front of the staff quarters, showing due deference to the residents of the quarters and the customers of co-operative bank. This is a temporary provision until alternative arrangements are made.
- Members of the Sports Complex may park their vehicles in the designated parking areas near the integrated sports complex.
- Residents may use Gate no. 8 (Middle Gate) to reach their parking lots behind the A Block.
- As a green initiative, from 5.30 pm to 8.00 am the main road from Gate 2 to Abdul Kalam Elanji and Njaval will be the exclusive domain of pedestrians and cyclists (A garden with a forking path!)

Assistance

Security should be notified immediately if a vehicle becomes inoperable on campus.

Administration & Enforcement

- The bursar's office shall:
 1. Administer and enforce campus traffic and parking regulations.
 2. Issue warnings.
 3. Patrol the college campus.
 4. Review the administration and enforcement of these regulations.
 5. Recommend revisions of the campus traffic and parking policy.



6. Supervise installation of appropriate traffic signs.

- The college reserves the right to boot or tow away any illegally or improperly parked vehicle at owner/operator expense at any time.
- Individuals suspected of operating a vehicle under the influence of any drug or alcohol will be reported to the police.

The Vehicle Operations Policy serves as a crucial framework for managing motor vehicle activities on the college campus, particularly within the pedestrian-focused academic core. By prioritizing pedestrian safety, promoting safe vehicle operation, and regulating traffic and parking, the policy aims to create a secure and accessible environment for all members of the campus community. Emphasizing compliance with regulatory directives and equitable application to all stakeholders, the policy underscores the institution's commitment to safety, mobility, and legal accountability. Importantly, the policy focuses on promoting safety and mobility rather than punitive measures, aligning with the overarching goal of fostering a culture of responsibility and well-being among all individuals on campus. With comprehensive coverage of all campus properties and adherence to established guidelines, the Policy plays a vital role in ensuring a harmonious and efficient transportation environment within the college campus.