

POLICY

on Free Lunch Support for Students from Low-Income Families

1. Purpose

This policy establishes the University's commitment to supporting students from low-income families by providing free daily lunches throughout the academic year. The initiative aims to ensure equitable access to education, promote student well-being, and reduce financial barriers that may negatively impact academic performance and personal development.

2. Policy Statement

The University recognizes that access to nutritious food is a basic human need and a prerequisite for successful learning. To foster an inclusive and supportive academic environment, students who come from low-income households are eligible to receive free lunches on campus on a daily basis.

3. Objectives

- To promote equal access to education by reducing financial stress related to basic needs.
- To improve student well-being, academic focus, and performance.
- To support institutional commitments aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty).
- To foster dignity, inclusion, and social equity across the student community.

4. Eligibility Criteria

Students may qualify for free lunch assistance if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Belong to the bottom 20% of the household income group, based on documented income status.
- Are recipients of government or institutional financial aid designated for low-income students.
- Are identified by the University's Social Support Commission as facing financial hardship.

Verification of eligibility is conducted confidentially through the Student Support Office in accordance with privacy and data protection policies.

5. Program Implementation

- Eligible students receive nutritious meals in designated university dining facilities every academic day.
- Meal plans include balanced food options aligned with student dietary requirements and nutritional standards.
- The program operates on a **no-stigma** model to ensure dignity, confidentiality, and respect for participants.

6. Responsibilities

Unit	Responsibility
Student Support Office	Eligibility assessment, documentation, student communication
Dining Services Department	Meal provision and dietary compliance
Finance Department	Program budgeting and internal reporting
Monitoring & Evaluation Unit	Tracking participation, student outcomes, and program effectiveness

7. Monitoring and Review

- The University will evaluate the program annually to assess its impact on student retention, well-being, and academic performance.
- Adjustments to eligibility criteria, program scope, and service delivery may be made based on evaluation results and available resources.

8. Confidentiality

All student information and eligibility documentation are handled in accordance with institutional privacy practices. No student will be publicly identified as a beneficiary of the program.

9. Policy Effective Date

This policy is effective as of the date of approval and remains active until amended or replaced by the University administration.