



The History
of
College of Education

Foundations and the Post-War Boom (1938–1953)

The College of Education began its journey in 1938 as a department under the College of Liberal Arts, led by Dr. Alfredo Q. Gonzales. Through the joint efforts of Dr. Gonzales and Dr. Pedro Rio, the junior college evolved into a senior college offering a four-year BSE degree.

By May 1, 1940, the college was formally recognized as a separate unit. Early majors included Biology, Chemistry, Social Science, General Science, Mathematics, and Religious Education. While leadership shifted in 1941 when Dr. Francis Rose replaced Dr. Rio, the college saw its most explosive growth after World War II. Between 1945 and 1953, enrollment tripled, making it the largest college in the university.

Filipinization and Professionalization (1946–1967)

In 1946, following the mandate for the "Filipinization" of administration, Dr. Alfredo Catedral was appointed Dean. This era was marked by the introduction of the Junior Normal course and the leadership of Prof. Nicolas Baban (OIC) and Mrs. Josefina Ruiz.

Significant curricular shifts occurred in the mid-1960s under Dr. Elma S. Herradura:

- The Elementary Teacher Certificate (ETC) was phased out.
- BSEED students were required to complete a full semester of internship.
- Physical Education (PE), Music, and Filipino were added as new majors.

Expansion and the Golden Jubilee (1968–1996)

The college faced fluctuating enrollments in the late 60s and 70s but remained resilient. Leadership passed through Mrs. Julia D. Gonzales and Mrs. Leda G. Alba. A major structural change occurred in 1976 when the Bachelor of Science in Food and Nutrition (BSFN) was transferred to the college.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Josefina M. Arandela and later Atty. Lorna D. Gellada, the college hit several milestones:

- 1981: Attained a five-year accredited status, a first in the region.
- 1983: The BSEED program was replaced by the BEED.
- 1988: The College celebrated its Golden Jubilee, formally committing to the EXCEL philosophy.

Diversification and New Horizons (1997–2009)

- In 1997, Dr. Nelson A. Pomado took the helm. This era was defined by "Hospitality and Niche" programs. The college introduced:
 - BSHRM and BST: (Later merged into the ITHRM in 2005).
 - Diploma in Teaching (DipT): For baccalaureate degree holders.
 - Special Education (SPED): Introduced as a specialization in 2004.
- Under Dr. Celia P. Sumagaysay and Dr. Joel A. Ciriaco, the college added Library and Information Science (BLIS) and specialized diplomas in Special Education.

Academic Excellence and the Center of Development (2010–2015)

- Dr. Pomado returned in 2010, overseeing a historic leap in accreditation. In February 2013, the BSED and BEED programs were elevated to Level IV Status, the highest possible accreditation.
- Following Dr. Pomado's retirement in 2015, Dr. Merle Lorca-Junsay assumed leadership. Under her tenure, the college reached its highest peak of recognition:
- Center of Development (COD): Designated by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) from 2016 to 2018.
- Today, the College of Education remains a bastion of teacher training, producing "Ambassadors of EXCEL" ready for lifelong service to God and humanity.

The Era of Global Engagement & Inclusivity (2015–Present)

The Leadership of Dr. Merle Lorca-Junsay (2015–2025)

Following the retirement of Dr. Pomado in June 2015, Dr. Merle Lorca-Junsay assumed the deanship. Her decade of leadership was defined by high-level academic recognition and a pivot toward international exposure for Centralian educators.

In school year 2018-2019, the College has been offering five (5) programs

applying CMOs for Teacher Education 2017: Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEEd); Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (BCEd); Bachelor of Physical Education (BPEd); Bachelor of Special Needs Education (BSNEd) and Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSEd).

The college opened its doors to internationalization in 2018 with its first batch of

interns sent to Vietnam through CHed's Student Internship Abroad Program (SIAP).

Presently, the college participates in various international programs in addition to

the CHed's SIAP. These include the student and faculty exchange program administered by the CHed IAS, the SEAMEO SEA-Teacher program, and other internship partnerships with Asian universities.

In September 2023, the BSNEd program of the college was granted Level II accredited status while the BSEd and BEEd programs successfully sustained their Level IV status (valid from December 2023 to December 2028) as recommended by ACSCU-ACI Board of Directors and duly confirmed by FAAP.

In August 1, 2025, following the appointment of Dr. Merle P. Lorca-Junsay as the Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Maredil R. Ambos was entrusted with the responsibility of serving as the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Dean of the College.

five (5) year re-accredited status and attained the Candidate Status of its BSNEd programs until 2019. In the same year, the BSNEd program was awarded Level I accreditation status.

From 2017, the BSEd and BEEd programs of the college retained its Level IV, a

Leadership History

The Early Years (1938–1961)

- **Dr. Alfredo Q. Gonzales (1938–1939):** The inaugural dean when the college was still a department.
- **Dr. Pedro Y. Rio (1939-1941)**
- **Dr. Alfredo Catedral (19-45-1946, 1949 -1960, 1963):** He was the first dean appointed after the "Filipinization" of the administration.
- **Prof. Nicolas Baban (1947–1949):** Served as Officer-in-Charge while Dr. Catedral pursued further studies.

Growth and Transition (1962–1987)

- **Mrs. Josefina Ruiz (1962–1963; 1960 OIC):** Served as acting dean and later as OIC.
- **Dr. Elam S. Herradura (1964-1965):** Served as dean until 1966.
- **Mrs. Julia D. Gonzales (1967–1971; 1973, 1976):** Her term was split by a leave to finish her doctorate.

- **Mrs. Leda G. Alba (1971–1973):** Served as dean during Mrs. Gonzales' leave.
- **Mrs. Josefina M. Arandela (1976–1983; 1984–1987):** A prominent alumna who held the deanship for two distinct periods.
- **Atty. Lorna D. Gellada (1983–1984 OIC; 1987–1997 Acting Dean):** Led the college through a significant decade of curriculum changes.

Modern Era (1997–Present)

- **Dr. Nelson A. Pomado (1997–2001; 2010–2015):** Served two major terms, including a period where he also oversaw University Accreditation.
- **Dr. Perla A. Suyo (2001–2005):** Led the college before the hospitality programs were merged into a separate institute.
- **Dr. Celia P. Sumagaysay (2005–2008):** Served as OIC Dean.
- **Dr. Joel A. Ciriaco (2008–2010):** Served as Acting Dean before transitioning to the Graduate School.
- **Dr. Merle Lorca-Junsay (2015–2025):** A long-serving dean known for navigating the college through the shift to face-to-face learning post-pandemic.
- **Dr. Maredil R. Ambos (2025–Present):** Currently serving as the OIC Dean of the College.

