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# Which courses are TRENDING this time around?

Arts and Sciences Colleges are buzzing this time of year, because it's admission season find **Roshni Raghavan** and **Archana P N**

**Chennai:** Just out of school, Swathi Kallur is looking for anything off beat. "I am not interested in any of the traditional courses," she says. "I have bought application forms for courses in Psychology, Journalism and corporate economics." She adds that others are a lot clearer, "A lot of my friends are looking for BCom (honours). It's a four-year course and the degree is equal to BCom and MCom together," says Swathi.

Others like Michele from St Joseph's, are clear about what they want to study. "I always wanted to study social work, hence I have applied for BSW in MCC, MSSW, Stella Maris and St Thomas College," she says.

"These days students are sure of what they want," says Lalitha Balakrishnan, Principal of the MOP Vaishnav College for Women, "They don't pick media courses as an alternate for the traditional commerce courses or vice versa. Students with creative skills go for media courses, while students good with numbers and logics go for commerce or mathematics."



Students and parents checking admissions info at Madras Christian College

Nowadays, students have started thinking out-of-the-box and are opting for courses offers them more than academics. "We even offer summer courses for the first year students. The BSc Mathematics is more than just 'Maths' here. We introduce students to accounts and insurance, which enables their careers to branch out further," she adds.

"This year while the rush still remains for Commerce

and Media courses, Mathematics has hit a record number of applications. Usually students apply for mathematics as an alternate to engineering courses, but this year there seems to be a more sure demand for the course," Lalitha notes.

"Traditional Sciences are making a comeback after 2005. Demand for microbiology is increasing," says Jothi Kumaran, principal of Ethiraj College for Women.

"There has always been a great rush for Commerce and Computer Science, but communication courses are most popular these days. In the undergraduate level, we only offer Visual Communication."

Colleges hold entrance tests to check the aptitude level of the students who wish to study visual communication. "For VisCom, a student needs to have some basic creative skill, which we



check through our entrance tests. Last year, Psychology and VisCom were in demand. Although it is too early to tell, yet, I think the trend is continued from last year," she adds.

In other popular women colleges in the city, like Stella Maris and Women's Christian College, Commerce continues to be in demand. Lit-

erature and Sociology in Stella Maris have also been quite popular. Visual Arts is slowly gaining popularity in Stella Maris. In WCC, Psychology is a popular choice amongst the students.

Alexander Jesudasan, Principal of Madras Christian College, agrees to the popularity of Commerce and Literature courses. "The

— **Lalitha Balakrishnan**,  
Principal of MOP Vaishnav

duce a new B A English Language and Literature course, which will focus on the communication aspects. We have various media courses and a well-equipped language laboratory. We are expecting good response for the new course," says Alexander.

SDNB Vaishnav College for Women has a strong reputation for B Com. Principal G Rani says that they cannot meet the demand for B Com each year. "The number of applicants for B Com is always high. BSC Com-

puter Science has also shown good response in our college. Computer Science students get well placed in software companies."

Rani notices a big change in the last 2 years. "People have started to turn towards science courses. Since our college has research departments in all the sciences, students prefer to do their degree here."

"Recently, the UGC has introduced the BVoc, but the sad part is that no college from Madras University can offer it. We can expect more vocational courses coming in the following years. If it happens, the present generation can be equipped in the field of their choice and they will be self-made children," she adds.

"I always wanted to be a dancer," says Swarnalatha, whose *Arangetram* took place recently. "Earlier, one had to pursue the dance alongside their professional career. However, times have changed. I can pursue my passion with a degree in dance. In Chennai, only MGR Janaki College has a degree course that can help me pursue my dance career," she adds.