

Vaishnava Training Academy (VTA) for youth at ISKCON Chowpatty

Training in basic principles and practices of Krishna consciousness creates the foundation for a successful lifelong devotional career.

Overview of Vaishnava Training Academy

Focus Areas: - The Vaishnava Training Academy (VTA) focuses on an all round development of the trainees by imparting not only Shastric knowledge but also inculcating the subtle aspects of Vaishnav Sadacar and proper dealings in Sanga. - Also part of the curriculum are various Skills needed for a modern day preacher. And above all there is a strong emphasis on refining one's Sadhana, by which one can improve his dealings with the sound vibration through the process of Chanting and Hearing. Classes & Faculty: - Classes are conducted 5-6 days a week. Special seminars and workshops are conducted on weekends - The best of preachers and subject area specialist, from both the Ashrams are invited as speakers for the VTA Tenure: - The VTA course spans for a period of 11 months - The course spans over three trimesters - Devotees should have minimum 70% attendance in each of the three trimesters.

Training Objectives

Training Objectives: By the end of the course, the students would be able to: - Become self-inspired and self-disciplined to practice sincere Sadhana for the rest of their lives - Make well-informed decision about choosing a suitable Ashram with responsibility and maturity - Enlist and explain the meaning of qualities which are characteristic of a Vaishnava - Develop an aspiration and constantly practice to acquire the qualities which are characteristic of a Vaishnava especially gratitude, self-discipline etc. - Exhibit basic skills in terms of Preaching, Kirtan, Deity Worship and Cooking - Exhibit elementary knowledge of history, culture & philosophy of Krishna consciousness to be able to properly represent temple/ ISKCON to the congregation/ outside world - Exhibit basic skills and values which are part of community living especially cooperation, Tolerance, team work, contribution etc. - Maintain good standards of personal health & cleanliness Outcomes Devotees who have gone through VTA training have greater clarity and maturity in terms of philosophical understanding, choice of Ashram and dealings in personal and spiritual life. This clarity and maturity goes a long way in a stable and steady life in Krsna consciousness irrespective of the Ashram one chooses.