



SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY "NEOFIT RILSKI"

FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY

DEPARTMENT: MANAGEMENT OF EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Doctoral program in Special Pedagogy

Information package ECTS

SCIENTIFIC FIELD	PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES
PROFESSIONAL DIRECTION:	1.2. PEDAGOGY
DOCTORAL PROGRAM:	SPECIAL PEDAGOGY
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION:	RESEARCHER
TRAINING PERIOD:	3 /three / or 4 /four/ YEARS
FORM OF EDUCATION	FULL TIME / PART TIME / INDIVIDUAL

The doctoral program "Special Pedagogy" at the Department Management Education and Special Pedagogy of the Faculty of Pedagogy, at SWU "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad provides the third degree of higher education and increases the doctoral student's educational and research qualifications. The duration of the program is 3 years for both full-time and self-study form, and 4 years in part-time form. The doctoral dissertation defence is the final stage of the program.

In accordance with the Act for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, art. 6 (7), the right to education in the third educational degree of the higher school hold those who have completed a master's degree and have successfully passed the competitive examinations.

The doctoral candidate's check-up trainings implemented through a syllabus. It is developed by the scientific unit that offers the doctoral program and is approved by the Faculty Council.

The educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific subject of Special Pedagogy is acquired by a doctoral student who has passed the exams provided in the curriculum and has defended a dissertation under the terms and conditions of the Law on Scientific Degrees and Scientific Titles.

The qualification characteristic determines the graduate professional purpose of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in Pedagogy professional field.

1. DOCTORAL PROGRAM GOALS

1. Trains highly qualified scientific, research and teaching staff with experience in experimental activities in the Pedagogical Sciences field, professional field of Pedagogy, scientific subject of Special Pedagogy, where the doctoral program is.
2. Increases independence and initiative, focused on providing personal information awareness and facilitating professional contacts with Bulgarian and foreign scientists.
3. Extends the fundamental and professional competence for research, practical-applied and teaching activity in the field of Special pedagogy.
4. It forms modern scientific-theoretical and practical-applied knowledge, skills and competencies for independent research and teaching activities, for team work, for application of innovative and technological achievements in the field of Special Pedagogy.
5. Improves methodological experience in results analysing of scientific research and in substantiating the recommendations related to the examination, diagnosis and correctional work with persons (children and the elderly) with special educational needs in the general education, special schools, specialized institutions, day care centers, etc.
6. Enhances the language training in the chosen foreign language in connection with its use of the doctoral student professional activity.
7. Increases social activity, adaptability and competitiveness in the labor market, ensuring its realization in specific social conditions.

2. GENERAL QUALIFICATION AND PROGRAM SPECIALIZATION

- The doctoral program in the professional field of Pedagogy, scientific specialty Special pedagogy is focused on training researchers who can accomplish:
- Research in the field of special education.
- Research and teaching activities in the field of special pedagogy, including in higher education.
- Consultative work in the field of the system of educational research and educational services in public practice.
- Expert activity in the system of special pedagogical institutions, state administration, non-governmental organizations, associations of people with disabilities, etc.

3. ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

3.1. Knowledge:

- in-depth knowledge of the theoretical foundations of pedagogical science and in particular of special pedagogy;
- knowledge related to the methodology of scientific research in the field of special pedagogy;
- knowledge of modern methods, techniques and technologies and their application in the study of the features of different types of dysontogenic;

- specialized and systematized knowledge for performing critical analysis and for synthesizing new ideas;
- in the process of scientific research presents knowledge and understanding at the highest level not only in the specific scientific field and field, but also in related scientific fields.

3.2. Skills:

- selects, discovers and researches literature sources related to the research problem; quickly finds, extracts, synthesizes and evaluates the necessary information from various sources;
- collects, analyzes, classifies and systematizes information in a certain sequence and logic;
- interprets scientific theses (own and foreign) and implements them in pedagogical practice
- argued and substantiated with evidence analyzes and defends those related to special pedagogy;
- seeks innovative solutions by combining different strategies and technologies; improves standard models and approaches;
- analytically and critically evaluates their own experimental results related to the establishment of certain patterns in the study of phenomena in special pedagogy;
- organizes and plans its own scientific activity (in view of: time, accuracy of the object of study, clarity of goals and objectives, specificity of the hypotheses, etc.).

3.3. Independence and responsibility

- creates and interprets new knowledge through own research or other scientific activity;
- demonstrates skills for expanding the scope of the hitherto known scientific field and assesses the need for up-to-date publications;
- has the ability to self-assess the achievements of research work
- has the ability to compose, design, implement and adapt a modern research process with scientific stability

3.4. Learning competence

- expresses the capacity for systematic acquisition and understanding of a significant amount of knowledge from the latest scientific achievements or from the field of special pedagogical practice

3.5. Communicative and social competencies

- has an established style of scientific communication (in conversations, consultations and debates, for the defense of scientific positions, teamwork, etc.);
- demonstrates capacity for systematic acquisition and understanding of a significant amount of knowledge from the latest scientific achievements or in the field of special pedagogy and professional practice;
- freely communicates in Bulgarian and in some of the most common European languages.

3.6. Professional competencies

- is ready for independent research, experimental and practical-applied activity;
- identifies resources and opportunities for research and project activities; makes reasoned decisions and adapts the project design to unforeseen circumstances;

- demonstrates general ability to conceptualize, design and implement projects to generate new knowledge, apply or understand state-of-the-art developments, and adapt design design to unforeseen circumstances;
- provides transfer of own results in solving other problems in the given scientific field;
- clearly formulates new problems - theoretical and practical.

4. FIELDS OF PROFESSIONAL REALIZATION

The doctoral students in Special Pedagogy in the process of their training and research activity prepares for:

- independent research activity in the field of special pedagogy, based on the acquired broad- profile and fundamental training regarding the system of modern pedagogy;
- permanent enrichment and improvement of the pedagogical process for the different educational levels by implementing results from own research;
- scientific-teaching work in the higher schools in disciplines of the specialty Special pedagogy;
- managerial activity in the educational system, in positions that require the appropriate level of special pedagogical qualification;
- expert activity in positions involving the solution of research and practical tasks in: research institutes and universities, school policy, public administration, mass media, non- governmental organizations, etc.
- participation in various forms of continuing education (postdoctoral programs for raising the professional qualification and experience in the scientific specialty and in the professional field.

CONTENTS OF CURRICULUM

ACTIVITIES			
EUDCATIONAL ACTIVITY	ECTS credits	RESEARCH ACTIVITY	ECTS credits
Contemporary theories and social practices in special education	7	Preparatory and accompanying activities for the dissertation – research and review of literature	10
Philosophy and methodology of scientific research	7	Development and presentation of a project for the scientific thesis	7
Project development and management	7	Discussion of a dissertation project – first stage. Presentation of a concept	10
Elective course 1	7	Development of research tools	7
Elective course 2	7	Discussion of a dissertation project – second stage	10
PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITY	20	Participation in doctoral sessions and other scientific forums	11
ELECTIVE COURSES		Discussion of results from the research activity on the dissertation work	10
Comparative special education	7	Introduction to the procedures for defense of the dissertation	10

Developmental psychology in children with special educational needs	7	Discussion of a dissertation (substantially prepared dissertation)	20
Training of children with special educational needs	7	Completion of a dissertation. Approbation.	30
Art pedagogy in special education	7		
Vocational guidance and training of students with special educational needs	7		
Working with families of children with special educational needs	7		
TOTAL:	55		125

BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSEES

COMPULSORY COURSES:

CONTEMPORARY THEORIES AND SOCIAL PRACTICES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

ECTS credits: 7

Type of the course: compulsory

Form of Assessment: exam

Department: Management of Education and Special Pedagogy
Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Dr Daniela Botseva, Department "Management of Education and Special Pedagogy"
E-mail: daniela_botceva@abv.bg

COURSE SUMMARY

The lecture course on Contemporary Theories and Social Practices in Special Education specifies the changing social perceptions and social interactions, both in terms of theoretical and methodological aspects of special education and in terms of individual cases and disorders. Contemporary theories in a more global aspect are focused not only on children with special educational needs, but also on all age groups of people with special educational needs. Alternative programs and procedures for the education of children and adults with disabilities are sought.

TEACHING METHODS

The lecture course on Contemporary Theories and Social Practices in Special Education is developed in accordance with the basic principles of pedagogical knowledge: pluralism in the researcher's thinking, continuity in the development of socio-culture, historical continuum of changes in pedagogical reality, objectivity in assessments.

Main teaching methods: lecture, seminar and practical exercise, case studies, discussions.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Scientific knowledge and professional qualities! Excellent knowledge of the regularities in the pedagogical process, understanding of pedagogical issues from the positions of new pedagogical thinking and current educational trends in relation to persons with special educational needs,

critical positions and independent assessments of pedagogical facts, phenomena and subjects, personal qualities for an original approach and creative solutions.

Positive attitude towards the profession of a scientist and readiness for a personal example of conscience and morality, duty and responsibility. Skills for abstract thinking, analysis and synthesis of pedagogical facts, scientific commentary.

PHILOSOPHY AND METHODOLOGY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

ECTS credits: 7

Type of the course: compulsory

Form of Assessment: exam

Department: Management of Education and Special Pedagogy
Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Mirela Kyuchukova, PhD

COURSE SUMMARY: The course introduces doctoral students to the most important aspects of the philosophy and methodology of scientific knowledge. The general philosophical premises for the possibility, essence and limit of knowledge in general and of scientific knowledge in particular are revealed. Doctoral students become familiar with the different views on methodology; with the relationship between logic, methodology and methods of scientific research; with the main general scientific methods of knowledge. Special attention is paid to the problems of methodology and methodology of pedagogical scientific research, to the disclosure of the essence, system and mechanisms of application of general scientific and specific methods in pedagogical scientific research work

TEACHING METHODS

The course on “Philosophy and Methodology of Scientific Research” includes lectures and exercises aimed at clarifying philosophical theories of knowledge, of truth; methodology, methodology and methods of scientific knowledge; Philosophical and general scientific methods of knowledge. Methods of research and methods of proof.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Doctoral students must:

- study the most important problems and solutions in the field of philosophy and methodology of scientific knowledge;
- learn to comply with the basic requirements for scientificity in cognitive activity - the requirements for general validity, provability and verifiability, in their scientific research activity;
- to master the requirements of the most important theoretical and empirical methods of scientific knowledge and acquire knowledge and skills for their practical application in pedagogical scientific research.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

ECTS credits: 7

Type of the course: compulsory

Form of Assessment: exam

Department: Management of Education and Special Pedagogy
Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Miroslav Terziyski

COURSE SUMMARY:

The course "Project preparation and management" introduces doctoral students to the main aspects of project development, which are the basis for organizing and managing projects when applying for European Union programs.

The purpose of the course "Project development and management" is to provide doctoral students with in-depth knowledge about effective project development, the management process of project creation and implementation, as well as the development of the project budget.

TEACHING METHODS: to ensure high-quality training of doctoral students and achieve their goals, teaching the discipline "Preparation and project management" flexibly combines various methods and forms of training: lectures on knotty topics, case studies, and independent work. The forms of control are also adapted to the nature of the discipline-conducting control checks in the form of discussing case studies during classroom sessions and drawing up a project proposal.

EXPECTED RESULTS: doctoral students gain knowledge about the main categories and concepts in project design, implementation, and control. To get acquainted and form a certain level of practical ideas for the application of forms, techniques, and methodologies in the construction of a project proposal, as well as knowledge of their areas of application.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

ECTS credits: 7

Type of the course: compulsory

Form of Assessment: exam

Department: Management of Education and Special Pedagogy

Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer: Assoc. prof. Milena Levunlieva

Course summary:

According to Decision No. 21 of 04.09.2013 of the Academic Council, the English language course is mandatory for all doctoral students in the first year of their studies, who are studying in various doctoral programs in all faculties of the South-West University "Neofit Rilski".

The course is intensive and involves 6 hours of study per day. It takes place (usually every year in the first month after the end of the summer semester) and its duration may vary depending on the formation of groups by language proficiency levels. The level of competence is determined through a preliminary entrance test, on the basis of which participants are divided into levels - beginner, intermediate and advanced, corresponding to levels A1, A2 - B1 and B2 - C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

The course aims to provide practical preparation for students in English, with the focus on mastering basic knowledge of vocabulary and grammar at lower levels and improving and expanding knowledge and increasing the level of language proficiency at higher levels. The training is based on an integrative approach, in which the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for doctoral students is based on the development of the four main types of skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Special emphasis is placed on developing speaking and listening skills, as well as on mastering the basic principles of constructing an academic text in English, as well as the skills of preparing presentations, a resume, an abstract, and an article in English. The English course for doctoral students necessarily contains the following modules: practical grammar, vocabulary, written exercises, reading and listening comprehension, and conversation. Depending on the

specific needs of students from different faculties and specialties, specialized vocabulary for the field is also introduced, as well as exercises in specialized and general translation.

ELECTIVE COURSES:

COMPARATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION

ECTS credits: 7

Type of the course: elective

Form of Assessment: exam

Department: Management of Education and Special Pedagogy

Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer:

COURSE SUMMARY: The training in the elective course “Comparative Special Education” includes studying the state and trends in the development of the education and upbringing of individuals with special educational needs in different countries around the world, which increases the professional competencies of doctoral students from the Department of Special Education. The educational systems, teaching, professional realization, social adaptation and training of personnel for special and integrated education and training in individual countries and in our country are studied. The policy, legislation, organization, structure and financing of special education in different countries are examined.

The aim of the course is for students to acquire knowledge about the essence and peculiarities of special education in different countries around the world, to get to know and use foreign experience in building, changing and managing educational work in our country.

TEACHING METHODS: The lecture course is developed in accordance with the basic principles of pedagogical knowledge: pluralism in the researcher's thinking, continuity in the development of socio-culture, historical continuum of changes in pedagogical reality, objectivity in assessments. Main teaching methods: lecture, seminar exercise, case study analysis, etc.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Scientific knowledge and good knowledge of basic international documents dealing with the problems of special education around the world and the attitude towards DSEP. Getting to know foreign experience in the field of training, upbringing, education, rehabilitation, social adaptation and integration of DSEP and forming the ability to creatively apply this experience in our country, depending on our traditions in this area.

WORK WITH FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

ECTS credits: 7

Type of the course: elective

Form of Assessment: exam

Department: Management of Education and Special Pedagogy

Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Svetoslava Saeva

e-mail: s_saeva@swu.bg

COURSE SUMMARY: The aim of the course is to clarify key concepts in working with families of children with SEN, to acquire basic knowledge on the technology of conducting consultative work with families of different categories of children with SEN.

The focus is on the most common areas of work and consultation to families of children with SEN; socio-pedagogic work in conflict relationships between parents and children and between children with SEN and their schoolmates; place and role of family in the system of integrated education; models of interaction between parent and professional.

TEACHING METHODS: to ensure high-quality training of doctoral students. Lectures take place on the approved manner. Discussing case studies, and independent work solving tests and development of topics in theoretical and scientific practical orientation.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Excellent knowledge regularities of the patterns in working with families of children with SEN. Doctoral students acquire knowledge about the main categories of concepts in the design, implementation and analysis of work with families of children with SEN.

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY IN CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

ECTS credits: 7.0

Type of the course: elective

Assessment form: exam

Department: Management of Education and Special Pedagogy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof Dr Daniela Botseva, Department “Management of Education and Special Pedagogy”

e-mail: daniela_botseva@swu.bg

COURSE SUMMARY: Psychological point of view in realization of the speech therapy work through systematization of psychological criteria for evaluation of people with anomalous development, psychological analysis of typical situations for rendering component and specialized assistance.

Course Objectives:

The course is directed to forming knowledge about the above topics.

TEACHING METHODS:

Conversation, discussion, associative method, conference, power point presentation Problem analyse, scenario analyse, analyse of object character, analyse of free choices, analyse and finding compromise solutions

EXPECTED RESULTS:

Evaluating the student shall be carried out in the sixth grad scale. Course ends with a written exam on the material according to the attached syllabus (50% of final grade).

TRAINING OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

ECTS credits: 7

Type of the course: elective

Form of Assessment: exam

Department: Management of Education and Special Pedagogy
Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Botseva, PhD

COURSE SUMMARY: The course is aimed at training, development and socialization of children with special educational needs integrated into mainstream schools. Designed for the acquisition of knowledge about the specifics of working with these students. The main objective is introduces the with the most effective methods, approaches and the pedagogical technologies for teaching, of different groups of pupils with SEN, to clarify the psychological and pedagogical problems of education and social adaptation in the midst from their peers in norm.

TEACHING METHODS: The lecture course is developed in accordance with the basic principles of pedagogical knowledge. Main teaching methods: lecture, case study analysis, mini-experiments behavior of children with SEN etc.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Scientific knowledge with the problems of special education around and the attitude towards children with SEN. Getting to know the experience in the field of training, upbringing, education, rehabilitation, social adaptation and integration of children with SEN and forming the ability to creatively apply this experience.

ART-PEDAGOGY IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

ECTS credits: 7,0

Type of the course: elective

Form of Assessment: exam

Department: Management of Education and Special Pedagogy

Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Svetoslava Saeva, PhD

e-mail: s_saeva@swu.bg

COURSE SUMMARY: With topics included students with information about the specifics of art-pedagogy as a phenomenon that can be used in learning and development of children with special educational needs (CSEN). A wide range of ideas and techniques that can be effective in versatile activities organized with CSEN.

Course content:

Basic conceptual ideas of the art-pedagogy. Goals, objectives and functions of art-pedagogy in special education. Relation of art-pedagogy in different fields of scientific knowledge. Principles of the art-pedagogy. Methods of the art-pedagogy. Art activities for children with SEN and their developing corrective action.

TEACHING METHODS:

The course includes lectures and seminars. Knowledge available in the system using interactive methods - case studies, discussions, debates, role-plays, situational methods, role play, multimedia presentations.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Mastering system of knowledge and skills about the nature, role and place of art-pedagogy in the correctional system of the developing work with CSEN. Specific application of art-pedagogical methods in different groups of children with SEN. Diversity of techniques for the implementation of art-pedagogy in the education of children with SEN.

PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE AND TRAINING OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

ECTS credits: 7,0

Type of the course: elective

Form of Assessment: exam

Department: Management of Education and Special Pedagogy
Faculty of Pedagogy

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Svetoslava Saeva, PhD

e-mail: s_saeva@swu.bg

Course summary:

The course "Professional Guidance and Preparation of Students with Special Educational Needs" is a natural continuation and result of all the above courses. The main goal of educating children with special educational needs is to provide them with competence for independent living as adults. The specific objectives of the course are related to:

- Mastering skills for independent living.
- Guiding the student with special educational needs to the most suitable and preferred area for professional development.

This is done through continuous observations of the dynamics, if any, of the student's interests in a particular activity. If there is an affinity for a given area, it is encouraged for personal implementation by the student and the effectiveness and level of effectiveness and successful completion of the assigned task are monitored.

After successfully completing the course, the doctoral student can independently deal with the professional orientation and professional preparation of students with special educational needs.