

SPECIALTY PSYCHOLOGY

MASTER'S PROGRAM „SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY“

Educational and qualification degree: MASTER

Professional qualification: MASTER'S DEGREE IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Duration of training: 3 semesters

Mode of study: FULL-TIME, Bulgarian and English languages

FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

QUALIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

1. General characteristics and educational objectives of the Master's program:

The Master's program "School Psychology" is intended for students who have completed a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Eligible applicants may continue their studies to acquire comprehensive and in-depth theoretical knowledge and practical skills in school psychology. The program is suitable for specialists oriented towards applying psychological knowledge in the school environment. The rising demand for professional psychologists competent in prevention, psychological diagnosis and support applicable to the school institution determines the need to train highly qualified specialists in school psychology. The program aims to deepen, enrich and supplement the theoretical training of a Psychology Bachelor's degree by providing knowledge and skills with a wide range of practical applicability. The training provides in-depth scientific, theoretical and specialized training in the speciality. Furthermore, it enables students to master their skills and enhance their ability for scientific research and both scientific and applied practice formation of personal qualities, which are essential to operate in the conditions of the complicated and rapidly changing modern world.

1. Professional competencies and realization:

Graduates of the Master's program acquire personal and professional competencies for successful and productive practice, related to applying general psychological and specific principles, methods and procedures for evaluation, diagnosis, prevention, and counselling, as well as conducting fundamental and applied psychological research.

Education in the Master's program develops students' learning competence - they will be able to systematically and thoroughly evaluate their knowledge, identify the need for new knowledge, and possess a rich conceptual apparatus and abilities for conceptual and abstract thinking.

Students will also develop communicative and social competencies related to the ability to clearly and accessibly formulate and present their reasoned conceptions, problem statements and possible solutions to specialized and non-specialized audiences, using a wide range of techniques and approaches.

Graduates of the Master's degree will acquire professional competencies and skills for diagnosing gifted children and adolescents through their studies. They will acquire knowledge and skills for individual and group counselling of students with specific educational needs and students with problematic behaviour, of teachers and parents with issues of problematic relations with their students and/or their colleagues. Graduates will also develop competencies and skills, in order to be able to act as counsellors in all departments of the education system. The professional competencies that the graduates of the Master's program acquire grant them the opportunity for professional recognition in the various levels of the education system - primary schools, secondary general education schools, vocational high schools, and related institutions (such as centres for centres-social rehabilitation of children), children's pedagogical rooms, advisory, and counselling scientific units, private offices, as well as any

organization that can utilize a school psychologist. The training creates opportunities and educational prerequisites to continue studying toward a doctoral degree (Ph.D).

2. Organization and structure of training:

The developed educational syllabus is consistent with the latest trends in the academic training of specialists in school psychology. Both national and international experience in this field was considered during its preparation in order to be consistent with the accepted standards for the professional training of a Master's degree. Training has a duration of 1^{1/2} year /three semesters/ for graduates of the Bachelor's degree program or a Master's degree program in the same professional field. The Master's program has been compiled in such a way as to ensure coherence, consistency, and thematic connection between the envisaged study disciplines.

Curriculum for one and a half year / three semesters/:

The curriculum provides 90 ECTS credits spread evenly over three semesters. Students must attend and participate in 390 hours of lectures, 135 hours of practical exercises, 300 hours of practical training in the first, second, and third semesters.

The curriculum includes compulsory and optional disciplines. Compulsory disciplines provide in-depth scientific-theoretical and specialized training, while optional disciplines enrich knowledge, skills, and competencies obtained within the framework of the compulsory ones. During their studies, students must select four additional optional disciplines.

Students may choose -at their discretion- any discipline taught at the university, regardless of the faculty in which they are offered / in accordance with art. 2, para. 5 of the Ordinance on the state requirements for the acquisition of higher education, published in GG no. 76 /2002/. Total hours of the selected optional disciplines - up to 10% of the total Master's hours.

Students studying in the Master's program „School Psychology“ must also complete a mandatory educational placement in the form of a practical internship in the educational system. Students graduate either with a written state exam or by writing and defending a master's thesis. After successful completion of the exam / or successful defence of their Master's thesis, students acquire 15 ECTS.

3. Compliance with the mission of South-West University Neofit Rilski:

The implementation of the Master's program „School Psychology“ corresponds with the mission of the South-West University Neofit Rilski and the Faculty of Philosophy, their goals and strategies, and stems from the new dimensions of higher education in Bulgaria and the endeavour for the full inclusion of the country in international educational practices. The Master's program complies with the national and European standards and the requirements of the region in which South-West University Neofit Rilski.

The qualification characteristics of the specialty „School Psychology“ for the educational-qualification degree „Master“ (with the professional qualification „Master in School Psychology“), and the development of the curriculum and the study programs, is determined by and complies with the Law on Higher Education, the Classifier of Higher Education Areas and Professional Fields, the Ordinance on the State Requirements for the Acquisition of Higher Education at the Bachelor's, Master's, and Specialist Degrees (GG No. 76 of 6.08.2002), the National Classification of Positions and Professions, the Regulations for the Organization and Activities of the South-West University Neofit Rilski, the Regulations for Educational Activities, and the normative documents of the university.

CURRICULUM

First year			
First semester	ECTS credits	Second semester	ECTS credits
Psychologist's Professional activity at school	4	Psycho-diagnosis of children with special educational needs	5
Psychology of the teacher	3	Organization and conduction of psychological- and pedagogical experiment	5
Psychology of gifted children and adolescents	4	Psychological and Social problems in school	5
Psychology of pedagogical communication	4	Psychology of self-development at school age	4
Psychological measurements at school age	4	Optional disciplines /second group/	3
Optional disciplines /first group/	3	Optional disciplines /second group/	3
Optional disciplines /first group/	3	Practical training	5
Practical training	5		
	30 total		30 total
Third semesters	ECTS credits		
Practical training	15		
Preparation, elaboration and presentation	15		
Diploma thesis			
	30 total		
Optional disciplines / First group/ Students choose two disciplines	ECTS credits	Optional disciplines / Second group/ Students choose two disciplines	ECTS credits
Values in the Teacher's Work.	3	Psychology of intercultural relations at school	3
Psychology of Self-image at school age	3	Pedagogical Sociology	3
Psychological Features of Learning in a Digital environment	3	Psychology of Conflicts at school	3
Classroom Management	3	Strategies for Assertive Behavior	3
Assessment and Strategies for Development	3	Psychological Criteria for Verification and Assessment of Teacher's work	3
Teacher-Parent Relationships	3		
TOTAL FOR THREE SEMESTERS: 90 CREDITS			
TOTAL FOR 1 ½ ACADEMIC YEARS			

COMPULSORY COURSES

PSYCHOLOGIST'S PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AT SCHOOL

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 practical exercises

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

In this discipline, students are given basic guidelines for the activity of the psychologist in the pedagogical system. The activity guidelines are oriented towards interaction with teachers, students of different educational levels, and their parents. The workload is 30 academic hours lectures, 15 academic hours practical exercises, 75 hours extra-curriculum activity and 4 credits.

Content of the course:

The discipline includes lectures and seminar exercises and aims to familiarise students with the normative documents regulating the positions and professional commitments of the school psychologist and the specifics of his psycho-diagnostic, psycho-counselling, psycho-prophylactic, and psycho-corrective work.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out following the transfer and accumulation system of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF TEACHER

ECTS credits: 3**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** I**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, Dr.Sc., Department of PsychologyEmail: stoil_m@swu.bg**Hours:** 15 lectures + 15 practical exercises**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

Teacher psychology is vital in the overall preparation of Master's students. Essential regularities and psychological conditions for forming the teacher's personality are revealed. Psychological mechanisms for self-development and self-improvement are explored.

Content of the course:

The goals of the „Psychology of Teacher” discipline are: 1. To master the psychological regularities of the teacher's self-development; 2. The study of the teacher's psychology updates problems related to his interactive interaction with students and the need for their psycho-prophylaxis; 3. The lectures and practical exercises are devoted to issues related not only to the assimilation of knowledge but also to the creation of skills for self-knowledge and self-development of the teacher's creative potential.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF GIFTED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

ECTS credits: 4
Assessment: exam
Semester: I

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 practical exercises
Type of exam: written

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg

Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The „Psychology of gifted children and adolescents” is vital in the overall preparation of Master's students. Essential regularities and psychological conditions for forming the talented personality of children and adolescents are revealed. The psychological mechanisms of self-knowledge in their training are investigated as a constructive condition for actualizing their creative potential. The workload is 35 academic hours lectures, 15 academic hours practical exercises, 75 hours extra-curriculum activity and 4 credits.

Content of the course:

The discipline emphasizes the assimilation of the psychological regularities of self-knowledge in training, the observance of which increases the training effect. The lecture course and practical exercises are devoted to issues related not only to acquiring knowledge but also to creating skills for self-knowledge and self-development of the creative potential of children and adolescents.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF PEDAGOGICAL COMMUNICATION

ECTS credits: 4
Assessment: exam
Semester: I

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 practical exercises
Type of exam: written

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: teodor@swu.bg

Annotation:

Pedagogical communication is a specific type of human activity through which two main tasks are dealt with: exerting an influence on the development of the student's personality and creating conditions for the assimilation of knowledge.

Content of the course:

„Psychology of Pedagogical Communication” includes lectures and practical sessions for developing skills that provide opportunities for student understanding, building positive

relationships, reading expressive signals, resolving conflicts, and organizing learning interactions.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS AT SCHOOL AGE

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: avka@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 practical exercises

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course „**Psychological measurements at school age**” is studied during the first semester as a compulsory subject of the Master curriculum of School Psychology – non-specialists. The workload is 30 academic hours lectures, 15 academic hours practical exercises, 75 hours extra-curriculum activity and 4 credits.

Content of the course

This subject includes the following modules of content: process of measurement and construction of a psychological test; applied aspects of psychological testing in school environment.

The goals of the subject “Psychological measurements at school age” are: the basic terms of the psychological measurement and assessment to be clarified; the whole process of construction of a psychological test to be presented; the skills to be formed for application of psychological tests in the sphere of education; the skills to be formed for conducting computer testing; the skills to be formed for presenting the results from a psychological study in the form of a scientific paper; the professional ethics requirements of the psychological activity to be known and applied.

The lectures are held by means of the use of contemporary technical equipment as multimedia, software, models, and interactive methods. Practical exercises are held in laboratories. The students’ extra-curriculum activity represents preparation and presentation of scientific research; conducting psychological studies; testing; summarizing of articles and book chapters; essays on topics related to personal experiences and observations; analysis of cases; adaptation of a test.

Teaching and assessment method:

Assessment of the students’ results is done accordingly to the ECTS. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course on the basis of the assessment of a written test on some topics from the course content, as well as on the basis of the assessment of the student's independent (extra-curricular) work.

Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PRACTICAL TRAINING

ECTS credits: 25

Assessment: exam

Semester: I, II and III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 300

Type of exam: exam

Annotation:

Students in the Master's program undertake compulsory practical training in the first (I) semester. The purpose of the practical training is for the students to become familiar with the work of the school psychologist in a real professional environment; to familiarize themselves with the normative documents regulating the work of the school psychologist; To acquire knowledge and skills for conducting individual and group counselling with students; to familiarize themselves with the school psychologist's work within various external school institutions and units (Municipal Addiction Center, Regional Inspectorate of Education); to become familiar with the forms of accountability in the school psychologist's work. The workload is 50 academic hours practical exercises, 100 hours extra-curriculum activity and 5 credits.

Students of the master's program undergo a mandatory practical training in the second (II) semester. The purpose of the practical training is for the students to become familiar with the work of the school psychologist in a real professional environment; to get acquainted with the organizational activities of the school psychologist; to get acquainted with the formative activities of the school psychologist; to get acquainted with the types of work with parents; to get acquainted with the possibilities of arbitration in case of conflicts; work with the school culture on „Protection of Peace and protection of human rights“; to familiarize themselves with the mechanism for combating bullying and violence at school. The workload is 50 academic hours practical exercises, 100 hours extra-curriculum activity and 5 credits.

Students in the Master's program carry out a compulsory practical internship in the third (III) semester. The purpose of the practical internship is for the students to become familiar with the work of practising specialists in a real professional environment and to be able to implement an activity under supervision in accordance with the content of their studies in the Master's program. The workload is 200 academic hours practical exercises, 250 hours extra-curriculum activity and 15 credits

Content of the course:

Practical training is a valuable component of or addition to any educational programme. It will give students an insight into the world of work and an opportunity to

compare theory with practice. For many students, an internship is also an avenue towards longer-term employment.

✓ The head of the practical training instructs the student-interns before starting the practical training;

✓ He/she assigns the students (by order of the Rector), to institutions with which an institutional contract has been formed;

✓ Each student is obligated to certify the internship book with an inspector of the education department;

✓ The mentor prepares a program and schedule, which is agreed upon with the head of the practice;

✓ During the practical internship, each student keeps a diary for the implementation of the practical tasks;

✓ The mentor takes into account the student's presence and engagement during the internship and finally sets an overall grade for the student's work;

Teaching and assessment method:

The final grade is formed at the end of the third semester. Students who have successfully completed practical training at the relevant base institution are admitted to the exam. The final assessment includes the assessment by the mentor and the submitted portfolio report. It is formed after an interview with the practice supervisor, including the defence of the acquired knowledge and skills during the internship. At the end of the internship book, there are two survey cards: One for the student and one for the mentor, in which both enter their assessment and opinion about the practical internship and recommendations for its improvement

PSYCHO-DIAGNOSTICS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Desislava Drenska, MD, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: ddrenska@swu.bg

Hours: 35 lectures + 15 practical exercises

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The study discipline „Psycho-diagnosis of children with special educational needs“ examines the ongoing topic for the category of children and students with special educational needs (SEP), which also includes specific learning disabilities (SLD). Emphasis is placed on (1) the successive stages of psychological assessment and psychological counselling for children and students with SEN and (2) the etiological, clinical, social, and deontological aspects in the processes of their development and functioning in the conditions of integrated learning and inclusive education.

Content of the course:

Topics include basic and advanced knowledge of modern terminology, definitions, and classifications for children and students with SEN. The neurobiological and medical bases of the different types of disorders and disorders that make up the spectrum of SEN, the theoretical and practical methods of screening and diagnosis, and the principles of the advisory process oriented toward the target groups (parents and teachers) concerning the expressed in various degrees of severity of difficulties in sensory, language, behavioural and

social skills in children and students with SEN. Age-specific therapeutic approaches in the context of classic and innovative interventions and strategies are also presented.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the discipline „Psychodiagnostics of children with specific educational needs“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia. In practical classes, students work with test methods and implement laboratory experiments.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCTION OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIMENT

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: avka@swu.bg

Hours: 35 lectures + 15 practical exercises

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course „**Organization and Conducting of Psychological and Pedagogical Experiment**“ is studied during the second semester as a compulsory subject of the Master curriculum of School Psychology – specialists. The workload is 35 academic hours lectures, 15 academic hours practical exercises, 100 hours extra-curriculum activity and 5 credits.

Content of the course:

The course "Organization and Conducting of Psychological and Pedagogical Experiment" includes the following content modules: nature of psychological and pedagogical experiment, stages of psychological and pedagogical experiment, varieties of psychological and pedagogical experiment, experimental designs, report of psychological and pedagogical experiment.

The goals of the subject “ Organization and Conducting of Psychological and Pedagogical Experiment” are: achieving a clear understanding of the nature and importance of the psychological-pedagogical experiment, achieving a clear understanding of its varieties and types of experimental designs; mastering skills for organizing and conducting of psychological-pedagogical experiment, as well as presenting its results.

The lectures are held by means of the use of contemporary technical equipment as multimedia, software, models, and interactive methods. Practical exercises are held in laboratories.

The students’ extra-curriculum activity represents preparation and presentation of scientific research; conducting psychological studies; testing; summarizing of articles and book chapters; essays on topics related to personal experiences and observations; analysis of cases; adaptation of a test.

Teaching and assessment method:

Assessment of the students' results is done accordingly to the ECTS. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course on the basis of the assessment of a written essay on the content of the course, as well as on the basis of the assessment of the student's independent (extra-curricular) work.

Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN SCHOOL

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg

Hours: 35 lectures + 15 practical exercises

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Psycho-social issues at school are a vital ingredient in the overall preparation of the Master's students. Essential regularities and psychological conditions for competence in solving psycho-social problems are revealed.

Content of the course:

- Study of role stereotypes related to interactive interaction in training ;
- Psycho-social problems at school are studied;
- The lecture course and practical exercises are dedicated to issues related to acquiring knowledge and creating practical skills for solving psycho-social problems at school.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF SELF-DEVELOPMENT AT SCHOOL AGE

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D,

Department of Psychology

Email: teodor@swu.bg, simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 practical exercises

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

In this discipline, students are getting basic training on a fundamental issue of secondary education, increasing students' activity in their education and development.

Content of the course:

The discipline aims in curricula advancement with content that facilitates the development of students' self-awareness and to defend the new strategy for self-education in secondary schools after its official introduction. The Master's students will learn to pursue and implement systematic and methodical courses of action in order to facilitate the formation of the will since it is an essential condition to include students in self-education. Furthermore, students will acquire skills for applying the scientific know-how of self-development in the school's educational work. Also, Master's students will understand the need for interaction with extracurricular factors in school in order to facilitate the role of the subject-student in his development as a person.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

ELECTIVE COURSES

VALUES IN THE TEACHER'S WORK

ECTS credits: 3**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** I**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of PsychologyEmail: b_jordanova@swu.bg**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The discipline aims at the identification of values related to the organization and implementation of training, as well as values that ensure, together with training, the cultivation of virtues in students.

Students will acquire skills for forming the students' value system. They will realize that student learning and the teacher's pedagogical activity are based on the principles of tolerance and humanity and that the stimulation of interest in learning, through various types of behaviour on the part of the behaviour, contributes to the development and self-development of the student's personality.

Content of the course:

Topics include introducing students to basic techniques for pedagogical influence and highlighting the role of professional development. The teacher's profession requires a person not only to have in-depth knowledge of the content and teaching methodology of the subject but also to have a number of professionally significant qualities. In this sense, the discipline introduces students to the importance of personal example in the educational process, where the ethics of communication is a set of moral norms, rules, and ideas regulating the behaviour and attitudes of people in the process of their professional activity.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF SELF-IMAGE AT SCHOOL AGE

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Tsvetelina Hadjieva, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: cveti_hadjieva@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Development of skills for the public presentation of the results of one's psychological research; Development of skills for conducting computer and hardware testing.

Content of the course:

Objectives of the discipline „Psychology of self-image at school age“: Differentiation of theoretical considerations regarding the relation „personality-self-image; Clarifying the concepts involved in the content of the self-image problem; Formation of initial skills for using and applying psychological tests in the main applied spheres of pedagogical practice.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF LEARNING IN A DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b_jordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

This discipline introduces students to the theory and practice of e-learning, its design, implementation, and evaluation of its results. The discipline's purpose is to develop knowledge and skills to ensure a quality learning experience and specialized training on the

problems of learning and teaching in a remote or electronic environment. Given the rapidly changing need for new knowledge -and its direction-as, well as the special role of information and its knowledge for the change of human thinking and the development of the personality, learning in an electronic environment can rightly be indicated as one of the most successful forms for informing learners. That is because, in modern conditions, the dominant models of passive transfer of information in conventional practices in education are constantly changing, which contrasts with the interactive and constructive nature of e-learning.

Content of the course:

Nature and specificity of electronic distance learning in relation to traditional face-to-face learning; Theories and paradigms for the design of e-distance learning; Components, stages, approaches, and models for practical implementation of online learning; Tools in the e-learning environment and how they support online teaching and learning; Assessing the progress and achievements of students taught in an electronic environment; Measuring the quality of electronic distance learning.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b_jordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

This discipline analyses strategies for improving the organizational behaviour of management personnel in schools based on certain regularities in the functioning of small groups: group cohesion, conformity, leadership, features of communication, and attractiveness of leaders. Strategies for managing school stress are also analyzed. Students become familiar with the essence of culture in the school organization. The topics are united around significant issues for the management staff related to the specifics of the culture in the school organization, cultural differences, and the role of the leader in changing the culture according to the mission of the school organization.

Content of the course:

Planning, organising and controlling the processes in the class in order to create and maintain a comfortable working environment (the classroom) and carrying out effective training; techniques for forming and maintaining conditions supporting effective learning within a learning community; the process of motivating students for active participation in educational activities; establishing order and engagement of students, ensuring their cooperation; organisational and procedural measures to control the activities in the school class; providing feedback for more effective management of student activities.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT TEACHER-PARENT RELATIONSHIPS**ECTS credits:** 3**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** I**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D., Department of PsychologyEmail: simona.nikolova@swu.bg**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The discipline „Assessment and Strategies for the Development of Teacher-Parent Relationships” focuses on the role of the family in social structures and relationships that influence the educational interactions between parents and children, as well as the interaction between parents and educational institutions. In communication with parents, the values and norms defining the school's organizational culture as an institution are projected.

Content of the course:

The curriculum focuses on:

- Optimising the teacher-parent relationship;
- Patterns of relationships between teachers and parents;
- Proactive strategies to involve parents as partners;
- Practical guidelines for building partnership communication with parents;
- Attracting and involving parents in real action and teamwork;
- Strategies for resolving teacher-parent conflict situations.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF INTERCULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS IN SCHOOL**ECTS credits:** 3**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** II**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Hours: 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written

Lecturer: Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology
Email: avka@swu.bg

Annotation:

The subject „**Psychological measurements**” is studied during the second semester as an optional subject of the Master curriculum of School Psychology – specialists. The workload is 30 academic hours lectures, 60 hours extra-curriculum activity and 3 credits.

Content of the course:

The course in “**Psychology of intercultural relationships at school**” includes the following modules of content: multiculturalism and values; ethnic identity, stereotypes, attitudes, distances, experiences from interethnic contacts; friendships, conflicts and violence in school environment.

The goals of the subject “**Psychology of intercultural relationships at school**” are: understanding of valuable parameters of intercultural communication at school, maintenance of friendly relationships in multicultural environment; improvement of skills for prevention from racial violence and conflicts; study of ethnic stereotypes, attitudes, distances, and experiences from interethnic contacts.

The lectures are held by means of the use of contemporary technical equipment as multimedia, software, models, and interactive methods. The students’ extra-curriculum activity represents preparation and presentation of a scientific research; conducting psychological studies; testing; summarizing of articles and book chapters; essays on topics related to personal experiences and observations; analysis of cases; adaptation of a test.

Teaching and assessment method:

Assessment of the students’ results is done accordingly to the ECTS. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course on the basis of the assessment of a written test on some topics from the course content, as well as on the basis of the assessment of the student's independent (extra-curricular) work.

Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

PEDAGOGICAL SOCIOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof. Valentina Milenkova D.Sc., Department of Sociology

Email: vmilenkova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Various studies are also presented, referring to the processes that take place in educational institutions. An essential aspect of this discipline is the explication of sociological research, implying a deep penetration of the tools used, which allows clarification of the researchers' theoretical ideas and goals and the ways of reaching them.

Content of the course:

Training in the discipline includes the study of basic concepts, theories, and views in the field of pedagogical sociology. It acquaints students with the historical development of educational institutions, especially the university - as a form of spiritual life. It also presents modern trends in the development of higher education in European countries and the USA. Special attention is given to developing a „common European university area.”

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF CONFLICTS AT SCHOOL

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Chief Assist. Prof. Emelina Zaimova-Tsaneva, Ph.D, Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg, emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The study discipline:

- clarification of basic concepts in school conflicts;
- introducing students to scientific approaches to uncovering the content of conflicts and their participants.

Content of the course:

- introducing students to the main types of conflicts and conflict situations in the pedagogical system;
- disclosure of the content of the so-called pedagogical conflicts;
- building skills in students to intervene in conflict situations at school and the opportunities to influence their resolution.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

STRATEGIES FOR ASSERTIVE BEHAVIOR

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiv, Dr.Sc., Department of Psychology**Email:** stoil_m@swu.bg**Annotation:**

The „Strategies for Assertive Behavior“ discipline attempts to find alternative solutions to overcome the confrontational behavior of students and support and reinforce the appropriate behavior.

Content of the course:

This discipline is oriented towards two conceptual frameworks - social-personal aspects of behavior and pragmatics of communication skills. In the practical classes, cognitive-behavioral interventions are advocated to influence students' behavior.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR VERIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF
TEACHER'S WORK****ECTS credits:** 3**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** II**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D, Department of Psychology**Email:** teodor@swu.bg**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The curriculum focuses on the following:

- Revealing the need to choose criteria by which to check and evaluate the pedagogical activity;
- Clarification of the essence of the pedagogical style - an object of verification and assessment;
- Justification of the role of emotional responsiveness and pedagogical tact in pedagogical activity;
- The persons carrying out pedagogical activities must possess certain business and moral qualities.

Content of the course:

The educational discipline „Psychological criteria for verification and assessment of teacher's work“ is aimed at making the students understand the criteria by which they can carry out their pedagogical activity and check the merits of the teacher's work.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and

accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.