



SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY "NEOFIT RILSKI"

FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY

DEPARTMENT: MANAGEMENT OF EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Doctoral program: Management of Education

Information package ECTS

SCIENTIFIC FIELD	PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES
PROFESSIONAL DIRECTION:	1.1. THEORY AND MANAGEMENT OF EDUCATION
DOCTORAL PROGRAM:	MANAGEMENT OF EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION:	RESEARCHER
TRAINING PERIOD:	3 /three / or 4 /four/ YEARS
FORM OF STUDY	REGULAR (FULL-TIME) / PART-TIME / INDEPENDENT FORM OF STUDY

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

This qualification characteristic defines the professional purpose of the graduate of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 1.1. Theory and management of education.

In accordance with Art. 6. (1) of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, a person with a master's degree may apply for the educational and scientific degree "doctor". The examination of the preparation of candidates for doctoral students from non-pedagogical professional fields is guaranteed by an exam outline. It is prepared by the scientific unit that offers the doctoral studies and is approved by the Faculty of Education. The right to regular (full-time) and part-time study in the relevant educational and scientific degree under the current curriculum is granted to a master who has successfully passed the competitive exams with a grade not lower than Very Good (5.00). Candidates for doctoral students in an independent form of preparation do not take a competitive exam, but present to a scientific unit responsible for the

professional field a developed scientific thesis and completed research work covering at least half of the necessary research according to the specifics of the subject of research chosen by them.

The curriculum is standard and outlines the framework for training, as well as the activities that need to be carried out to achieve the approval and defense of a dissertation in the field of educational theory and management.

The doctoral program in professional field 1.1. Educational Theory and Management is necessary to prepare researchers who can carry out:

- Research activity in the field of educational theory and management.
- Scientific and teaching activities in the field of educational management, including in higher education institutions.
- Management and expert activity in the system of socio-pedagogical, state and private institutions, state administration, mass media, non-governmental organizations.
- Consultancy in the field of the system of educational research and educational services in public practice.

2. GOALS OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

The doctoral student in the professional field 1.1. Theory and Management of Education must acquire: a rich professional culture and skills in the field of scientific communication; a high degree of development of scientific research abilities and cognitive thinking; personal information awareness and established professional contacts with Bulgarian and foreign scientists.

The doctoral student's training, as well as the research and pedagogical activities included in his plan, must ensure the acquisition of professional qualities and competencies for:

- selection, comparison, analysis and qualitative assessment of research in the field of methodology and tools of educational management;
- successful development of a concept and implementation of research in line with the requirements of scientific research in the field of educational sciences;
- effective use of the tools of scientific, pedagogical and specialized research in the field of management of socio-pedagogical institutions;
- interpretation of scientific theses from management theories and their implementation in educational practice;
- use of a foreign language and information technologies in the work process;
- work in scientific-research teams;
- adaptability and competitiveness in the educational services market.

3. GENERAL QUALIFICATION AND PROGRAM SPECIALIZATION

In the process of his training, research and pedagogical activities, the doctoral student in the professional field 1.1. Theory and Management of Education is prepared for:

- independent research activity in the field of educational theory and management;
- scientific and teaching work in higher education institutions and centers for the qualification of pedagogical staff in academic disciplines, projects and activities related to the theory and management of education;
- permanent enrichment and improvement of educational practices through dissemination and implementation of results of own research on the mechanisms of their management;

- management activity in the educational system requiring rich observations and comparative analyses of modern approaches and new methods in management technologies;
- expert and advisory activities in the design and implementation of projects and activities improving the management of the education system at various levels.

4. ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCES ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

4.1 Knowledge (theoretical and/or factual)

- possesses and uses specialized and systematized knowledge to perform critical analysis and synthesize new ideas in the field of management sciences for education;
- masters the methods of scientific research in the field of educational theory and management;
- has the ability to expand and modify existing knowledge in the field of educational management, as well as its interactions with border scientific fields;
- possesses knowledge of the highest degree of complexity and conducts original research in the field of educational management theories and practices;
- presents knowledge and understanding at the highest level, not only in the field of theories and technologies for educational management, but also in related scientific fields;
- demonstrates and expresses knowledge through the degree of complexity of conducted, understood and substantiated scientific research in the field of educational management.

4.2. Skills (cognitive and/or practical)

- possesses skills to create and lead networks or teams, to allocate time and manage human and financial resources, to solve complex problems through new technological methods and tools in the field of educational management;
- quickly finds, extracts, arranges, synthesizes and evaluates necessary information from various print and online-based sources;
- has the skills to solve and overcome critical problems in the field of research and/or innovation, to improve standard models and approaches, to develop innovative solutions by combining various original strategies and technologies, to manage unsuccessful attempts and move forward, to improve standard models and approaches when working in the field of management of educational institutions and their system at different levels of management;
- masters methods and means to anticipate changes and problems, to abstract from the environment and think innovatively, to develop and set a rational plan in order to bring new ideas to a fruitful end, to quickly acquire new qualities and skills, to anticipate technological and creative development, to write and present scientific and technical documents (scientific articles, summaries, reports, figures, graphs, etc.);
- to communicate through different media to different audiences on topics related to the management of education in our country and abroad;
- possesses skills such as endurance, enterprise, toughness, exactingness, adaptability, and intellectual flexibility.

4.3. Independence and responsibility

A graduate of the doctoral program in educational management is able to:

- creates and interprets new knowledge through own research or other scientific activity in the field of educational management at the level of an individual educational institution and the system as a whole;
- through the new knowledge achieved, demonstrates skills in expanding the scope of the previously known scientific field and assesses the need for current publications in it;
- has the ability to self-assess the achievements of research work;
- demonstrates criticality and high sensitivity regarding copyright protection and all forms of plagiarism;
- possesses the ability to design and implement a modern research process using modern research methods and methodologies that ensure scientific credibility and stability, but also provide opportunities for the development and improvement of both theory and educational practice.

4.4. Learning competence

Demonstrates the capacity to systematically acquire and understand a significant amount of knowledge from the most recent scientific achievements and from the field of professional management practice in the educational sphere.

4.5. Communicative and social competences

has developed a scientific style of presentation in oral and written presentations of products of his creative activity;

masters the academic standards for preparing various types of products of their scientific, theoretical and research activities;

possesses the qualities of a scientist and possesses transferable skills requiring the manifestation of high personal responsibility, independent initiative in complex and unpredictable circumstances, as well as in a professional or equivalent environment;

demonstrates general abilities to conceptualize, design and implement scientific and educational projects to generate new knowledge, apply or understand the most modern achievements, as well as to adapt the project design to unforeseen circumstances in the field of educational activities;

fully communicates (oral and written) in some of the most widely used European languages and can fully participate in scientific forums in our country and abroad.

4.6. Professional competencies

has the ability to conduct research in the field of educational management at increasingly complex levels, contributing to the development of new models, ideas, approaches, technologies and techniques;

possesses knowledge and skills to organize and conduct scientific research and complex academic studies in the field of educational theory and management;

provides scientifically based opinions, assessments and statements on complex issues in the field of educational management;

presents his ideas and conclusions clearly, reasoned and effectively to various audiences of specialists and non-specialists.

5. AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL REALIZATION

The graduate of the doctoral program "Educational Management" can work as a researcher and lecturer in the field of professional direction 1.1. Theory and management of education in higher education institutions and research organizations and units.

In addition, in accordance with the current requirements for career development, he can occupy a number of positions in the secondary education system as a manager of a childcare facility; director of a school, kindergarten, personal development support center; expert in the Regional Department of Education and the Ministry of Education and Science in positions involving research and analytical activities; specialist in quality in education, consultant in education management; organizer of training in the system of continuous education and continuing training. He can participate as an expert in national and international projects in the field of educational management.

CONTENT OF THE CURRICULUM

ACTIVITIES			
EUDCATIONAL ACTIVITY	ECTS credits	RESEARCH ACTIVITY	ECTS credits
Philosophy and methodology of scientific research	7	Preparatory and accompanying activities for the dissertation – research and review of literature	10
Educational management	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
Strategic management	7	Introduction to the procedures for defense of the dissertation	10
Innovation management	7	Discussion of a dissertation (substantially prepared dissertation)	20
Human resources management in education	7	Completion of a dissertation. Approbation.	30
School legislation and administration	7		
Educational marketing and PR	7		
Organization culture, leadership, and management in education	7		
TOTAL:	55		125

SHORT INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSEES

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

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.

EDUCATIONAL 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. Dr Miroslav Terziyski, Department “Management of Education and Special Pedagogy”

E-mail: miroslav.t@swu.bg

COURSE SUMMARY

This course explores the principles, strategies, and challenges in managing educational institutions and systems. It provides doctoral students with a comprehensive understanding of organizational structures, management technologies, and innovative approaches in the educational field. Through a focus on strategic and quality management, students develop analytical skills to evaluate management functions, organizational effectiveness, and the impact of self-assessment practices. The course emphasizes the integration of theory and practice. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the knowledge and tools to critically analyze and apply effective management practices in education.

TEACHING METHODS

Teaching Methods for "Educational Management":

Lectures – including structured presentations on core concepts such as organizational structures, strategic management, and quality assurance in education, etc.

Case Studies – analysis real-world examples of management practices in educational institutions to foster practical understanding and critical thinking.

Assignment of individual research tasks on specific management topics to deepen understanding and encourage critical analysis.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Upon successful completion of the course, doctoral students are expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- *Knowledge and Understanding* - comprehensive knowledge of organizational structures and their application in educational management; a clear understanding of strategic and innovative management principles relevant to education; awareness of quality management practices and trends in evaluation and self-assessment within educational institutions.
- *Skills Development* - ability to critically analyze and evaluate different management approaches in education; proficiency in assessing management functions across various organizational levels; capability to design and implement management strategies tailored to specific educational contexts.
- *Practical Application* - enhanced problem-solving and decision-making skills in educational management scenarios; development of actionable strategies for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of educational institutions; integration of management theory with practical applications in the context of doctoral research.
- *Critical Thinking and Research* - advanced critical thinking skills to address contemporary challenges in educational management; ability to connect theoretical knowledge with the practical demands of educational leadership; preparedness to incorporate management concepts into the dissertation and future academic or professional endeavors.
- *Professional Competence* - readiness to assume leadership roles in educational institutions; confidence in implementing innovative and strategic management practices to enhance educational outcomes a foundation for contributing to academic discourse and research in the field of educational management.

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. Dr. Ivan Todorov

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mariya Paskaleva

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 Preparation 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 "Project development and 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.