



Факултет по обществено здраве

Катедра „ХИГИЕНА“

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Faculty of Public Health

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ACADEMIC STANDARD OF SUBJECT “HYGIENE AND ECOLOGY” FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

1. Aim of Hygiene course

The programme of Hygiene and Ecology allows students to acquire knowledge and skills in the basic concepts of Hygiene as a basic preventive medical science. The aim of the programme is the application of hygiene theoretical knowledge and practical ability in the clinical medical practice.

This objective correlates with the:

- university mission and vision;
- discipline’s contents and credit rating, both made apparent in the curriculum;
- qualification characteristics of the specialty;
- academic degree (master).

The objective is entirely consistent with the place of the discipline within the overall curriculum in terms of discipline’s importance and timing in the curriculum.

2. Course content

The topics and the hours for lectures and practical exercises are posted on the website of Medical university of Plovdiv.

Learning content is organized chronologically in such a way that each consecutive lection and related practical classes use previously studied topics and terms. Thus, unnecessary overlap between "related" disciplines is avoided.

The university's priority objectives, such as developing the students' personal qualities, encouraging their initiative, creating habits for self-education and self-learning skills, acquiring key competencies and skills, are reflected in the curriculum of the discipline, which is in agreement with the respective objectives.

3. Prerequisites

The medical student must have a basic knowledge of biology and chemistry which are present in the education programs in high schools, in disciplines from first- and second-year medical university educational programs, and in basic clinical disciplines, on which the student must build on and upgrade their profilactic knowledge and skills.

4. Academic resources

Habilitated and non-habilitated lecturers from the department participate in the training of students.

The lectures are led by a habilitated lecturer with an educational and scientific degree (PhD or DSc) in the respective doctoral program. If necessary, at the discretion of the head of the department up to 30% of the lectures can be assigned to lecturers holding a PhD degree.

Practical classes (laboratory, seminar and on-site) are held by habilitated and non-habilitated teachers at the department.

5. Material resources

The lecture course (theory and practice) for students is held in the Auditorium Complex of MU-Plovdiv and in the halls of the department. The Department of Hygiene has 5 laboratory and 3 scientific laboratories, provided with equipment supporting multimedia presentations. The department's laboratory facilities include general and specialized scientific equipment. About 30% of the practical exercises are field-based.

6. Lecture training

Lectures are prepared and given in the form of multimedia presentations. Lectures' content and format are chosen by the leading lecturer.

7. Laboratory/practical classes

Methodological guidelines, manuals, reagents and consumables for the practical (laboratory) task are provided for every particular practical task within a practical class (seminar). Tasks can be assigned individually for each student or they may require working in groups.

8. Information resources

All lecturers keep developed lectures, practicals, training tests, and other course materials in the discipline, which are also available in electronic format.

Basic literature:

1. Hygiene and Medical Ecology (Textbook for medical and dental students) edited by Prof. P. Gatseva, Lax Book Plovdiv, 2016. ISBN: 978-619-189-042-2
2. Hygiene and Ecology (Handbook for practical exercises for medical students) edited by Assoc. Prof. P. Gatseva, Medical Publ. House VAP Plovdiv, 2011. ISBN: 978-954-8326-47-6
3. Lecture and Practical Course in Hygiene, provided by the lead reader and other teachers

Recommended literature:

1. Environmental Health – Hygiene. Edited by L. Ševčíková. Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, 2015. ISBN 978-80-223-3930-8
2. Environmental and Occupational Medicine: Textbook for RSU foreign students. Edited by J. Dundurs. Rīga: Rīga Stradiņš University, 2014. ISBN 978-9984-793-62-7

9. Control assignments

Students are occupied dynamically and intensively. Ongoing control can be performed through tests and oral discussions. Tutors should control student progress at least twice in the semester – two colloquia in the winter semester and two more in the summer semester. The students who

receive a grade of “Very good 5” and/or “Excellent 6” from each of the colloquium, are exempted from the written part of the final exam. The other students are provided with timely information and explanations on the control results, which are included as a component in the final exam grade.

10. Independent training and extracurriculum work of the student

The independent work is guided by the teacher (assistant professor) who guides the student both in the literary sources and in the methods of their mastering. Sample training tests are provided for self-study and student exercises.

11. Collaboration between students and the teaching staff

This collaboration consists of:

- The teacher’s commitment to the students’ preparation on current difficulties in learning the subject and the opportunities with an individual learning program.
- Use of meeting hours for consultations.
- Scientific research with outstanding students.
- Including students in teams for scientific tasks, research projects, etc.

12. Exams

Current course grades are given for the student's performance during the practical classes and independent assignments. Mandatory, each student receives at least four grades from the colloquia held during the academic year.

13. Evaluation standards

Standards for the evaluation of the students’ achievements are carefully thought out, and clearly defined so that the student’s assessments are objective and not depended on the lecturer. Clear standards for evaluation are developed as follows:

- **Excellent (6)** – for a good knowledge of information sources, thoroughly mastered essential and additional knowledge and skills, a meaningful and correct understanding of the matter, skills to solve complex cases, own thinking and reasoning of decisions.
- **Very good (5)** – for very well mastered essential and additional knowledge, a meaningful and correct understanding of the material, skills for applying the learned material in complex case studies.
- **Good (4)** – for mastering essential and additional knowledge to solve cases and tasks, but without being able to develop them into independent thinking.
- **Satisfactory (3)** – for mastering essential knowledge and solutions to simple tasks
- **Fail (2)** – for showing scant knowledge and gross errors that cannot be the basis for the next levels of training.

The test is marked based on the relative share of the points awarded for the given correct answers, with the required minimum number of correct answers being 60%. The marks in the discipline reflect the level of preparation and competence according to the learning objectives, as follows: up to 70% – „Satisfactory“, from 71% to 80% – „Good“, from 81% to 90% – „Very good“ and above 90% – „Excellent“.

At the beginning of the classes each semester the students must be informed about the evaluation standards, the procedures for conducting the ongoing control and the opportunities for obtaining a feedback on their progress during the semester.

14. Final grade formation

The final grade determines the extent to which the student has achieved the learning objective set at the beginning of the course. It is multi-component and includes the grades from the written and oral part of the final hygiene exam.

The first component of the final exam is the written part in the form of test consisting of practical and theoretical questions of different levels of difficulty from the syllabus. If necessary, the test will be held in Office 365, Teams and Forms in the controlled electronic environment. The test is evaluated using a points system and subsequently converted into a grade in a six-point scale. To pass the test (Satisfactory 3 or higher) the student must have at least 60% correct answers.

The second component of the final exam is the oral part which is mandatory for all. The students successfully passed the test with a positive grade, continue with the oral exam. Students are allowed to pick up 4 topics requiring short answers from the main hygiene branches. To pass the oral part the student must give at least 3 correct answers.

In the formation of the final grade the leading factor is the student's performance on the exam itself, as well as the student's persistence, reflected in the grades from the colloquia and the ongoing control during practical classes throughout the academic year.

Students who have excellent grades in each of the four colloquia ("Very good 5" and/or "Excellent 6") are exempt from the written part. They are entitled to an oral examination, which is conducted according to the rules described above.

The final evaluation is made by a committee composed of the examiner and two assistant professors.

For each component participating in the final evaluation a coefficient of significance (from 0 to 1) is determined, the total sum of the coefficients must always be 1. The final grade is obtained as the sum of the scores on the six-point system of the various components, multiplied by the corresponding coefficients of significance:

$$Q_{\text{final grade}} = K_1 Q_{\text{written hygiene exam}} + K_2 Q_{\text{oral hygiene exam}}$$

$$K_1 = 0.50; K_2 = 0.50$$

If one of the components of the final grade is "Fail 2", then the final grade is necessarily "Fail 2".

The final grade is entered in the examination protocol and the student's book. Those who do not receive a positive grade have to resit the exam, under the same conditions. If the student fails the resit exam, he/she takes a liquidation exam.

15. Documentation, result storage and control of the assessment procedure

Assessed students have the right and obligation to be informed about the assessment regulation procedures and results, and to make claims and complaints in case of violation of the current rules.

The students' rights, in accordance with the meaning of the preceding paragraph, are guaranteed provided that technical omissions or errors have occurred (e.g. in the calculation or assessment) or that there are reasons for a vast contrast between the knowledge, skills and competencies the student have actually shown and his/her final grade.

Corrections of the grades in cases regarding the provisions of the previous paragraph shall be made in the Student Book, the examination report or the account in the General Registry only by the leader of the discipline.

Potential disagreements and claims on the part of the students should be directed in a written form to the assessment team, whose responsibility is to provide an argued answer by the end of the next working day.

Revealed and proven cases of serious violation of the rights of the student in terms of assessing his/her knowledge, skills and competences are directed with a written complaint to the Vice-rector for quality and accreditation.

Exam materials are preserved, and the students are given information about them. The period during which the students have access to the examination tests and results is up to 5 working days after the announcement of the results.

This requirement shall be met in accordance with the Higher Education Act Art. 56. par. 1, "The members of the academic board shall be obliged to develop and announce in an appropriate way a description of the provided by them course of lectures, including number, titles and sequence of topics of the curriculum, recommended literature, method of evaluation of the mark and form of checking of knowledge and skills."

ASSOC. PROF. STANISLAVA HARIZANOVA MD, PhD

Head of the Department of Hygiene

The academic standard for the subject “Hygiene and ecology” was approved by the Departmental council of the Department of Hygiene with Protocol № 09/15.09.2024.