

## **ACADEMIC STANDARD**

### **FORENSIC MEDICINE AND DEONTOLOGY**

Forensic medicine (*medicina legalis*) is a medical science that studies and help solving medico-legal issues that may arise in the work of judicial authorities (pre-trial proceedings and court). These medical issues may arise during the investigation and trial of criminal, civil, and administrative cases. An inseparable part of forensic medicine is the science of Deontology, which studies the proper conduct of medical professionals in the performance of their duties, as well as their rights and responsibilities.

#### **Objective of the Training**

The main goal and qualification characteristic of the medical specialty “Forensic Medicine and Deontology” is the development and application of medical methods to solve legal and medical issues. Achieving this goal requires a combination of medical and legal knowledge, based on the unique principles of this specialty. These principles are essential for clarifying and presenting evidence to establish facts and objective truth in the field of law.

The aim of the training in forensic medicine is to equip graduating medical students (Master’s level) with the necessary set of relevant knowledge and practical skills to handle forensic cases in their practice. In the discipline of “Deontology,” students acquire practical skills related to the proper conduct of medical professionals, including legal requirements.

Training also provides bachelor’s and master’s students from the Faculty of Public Health and the Medical College – Plovdiv with basic knowledge in “Deontology” within the course “Medical Ethics and Deontology.” More specifically, the objectives include:

Defining the knowledge and skills students must acquire after completing the course

***Immediate, intermediate, and long-term (perspective) learning goals***

Specific objectives for each teaching unit (lecture, exercise, seminar, etc.)

Requirements for learning objectives:

Relevance – aligned with learners’ needs and goals

Logical consistency – no contradictions

Precision – avoidance of ambiguous terms

Feasibility – according to time, resources, and conditions

Measurability – clear evaluation criteria

Observability – ensuring reliability of learning outcomes

Each learning objective includes the competency to be achieved, the conditions for performance, and evaluation criteria.

***Key training goals:***

After completing the course and passing the exam, students should acquire basic theoretical and practical knowledge to address tasks arising in forensic and legal practice.

Students should become familiar with key issues in deontology and elements of medical law.

Students should gain essential knowledge and skills in forensic medical practice.

## **REQUIRED COMPETENCIES**

**Theoretical knowledge:**

Basics of forensic medical expertise procedures in Bulgaria

Advanced knowledge in:

forensic traumatology

thanatology

toxicology

deontology and healthcare legislation

**Practical skills:**

Participation in crime scene investigation involving a deceased person

Death verification

Proper documentation of medical records in trauma cases

Recognizing signs of death and estimating time of death

Initial classification of mechanism, cause and manner of death

Appropriate interaction with law enforcement authorities

Identification of medical malpractice cases

**Course Content**

The course is taught in the 5th academic year at the Medical University – Plovdiv:

Dentistry students: 9th semester

Medical students: 10th semester

Teaching hours:

Medicine: 45 hours lectures + 30 hours practicals

Dentistry: 15 hours lectures + 15 hours practicals

Public Health & Medical College: according to approved curriculum

Weekly workload:

Medicine: 5 hours

Dentistry: 2 hours

Teaching is conducted in Bulgarian and English. The program includes lectures and practical training and is updated annually.

Main priorities:

Development of personal qualities

Encouraging initiative and self-learning

Acquisition of broad knowledge and practical skills

## **Prerequisites**

Successful training requires prior knowledge from theoretical and clinical disciplines. The course is part of the final stage of medical and dental education and integrates medical knowledge from the perspective of the field of law.

## **Academic Resources**

The department staff meets the university requirements. Lecturers have:

Relevant qualifications

Practical experience

Motivation to teach

Teaching staff includes professors (lectures) and assistant professors (practical training).

## **Material Resources**

The department provides:

Classrooms and audiovisual equipment

Facilities for independent supervised work

Clinics and autopsy rooms for real-case training

Teaching Methods

### ***Lectures:***

Multimedia presentations based on pre-announced topics

### ***Practical training:***

Conducted in student groups

Strong practical focus

Includes tests to assess preparation and results

Students may also prepare:

Reports

Essays

Presentations

Participation in real forensic activities is included when possible.

***Seminars:***

Pre-assigned literature

Teamwork and discussions

Topics defined in curricula

## **Learning Resources**

Main literature includes works by:

Ivan Doychinov, Petko Lisaev, Nikolay Stanchev, Stansislav Hristov. Forensic medicine and deontology, Siela, 2006

Ivan Doychinov, Kostadin Popov. Forensic medicine for dental students, 1999

Stoycho Radanov. Forensic medicine- Practical handbook, 1999

Svetlozar Spasov. Chosen questions in the field of forensic deontology and medical law, 2015

Svetlozar Spasov. Modern forensic deontology, 2018

Pavel Timonov. Forensic pathology- lectures and MCQ's. Laxbook.

Vincent Di Maio. Forensic Pathology 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2021

Bernard Knight. Forensic Pathology, fourth edition, 2004

## **Assessment**

Types of assessment:

No entry test (due to course specificity)

Ongoing assessment /during the semester/ through practical tests

Midterm (colloquium) in forensic traumatology

Final exam includes:

Test

Written exam

Oral interview

Students receive continuous feedback.

## **Independent Work**

Conducted to motivated students, aiming to attract future specialists and PhD candidates.

## **Student–Teacher Collaboration**

Includes:

Individual support

Consultation hours

Participation in scientific groups

Involvement in research projects

## **Grading System**

Excellent (6) – deep knowledge, analytical thinking, practical application

Very Good (5) – strong knowledge with minor gaps

Good (4) – basic knowledge, limited independent thinking

Satisfactory (3) – minimal required knowledge

Fail (2) – insufficient knowledge

Final Grade Calculation

Final grade is based on:

Continuous assessment, colloquium, assignments (25%)

Entry test (25%)

Written exam (25%)

Oral exam (25%)

Formula:

**Final Grade = K1 + K2 + K3 + K4**

**If any component is Fail (2), the final grade is Fail (2).**

Additional Notes

Exams are graded anonymously

Students may request review

Exam materials are available for review within 7 working days

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