



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

**MASTER'S PROGRAMME
PEDAGOGY OF GIFTED CHILDREN**

Field of higher education:	1. Pedagogical sciences
Professional area:	1.2. Pedagogy
Degree level:	Master's
Professional qualification:	Master - pedagogue specialized to work with gifted children
Period of education:	Two semesters
Form of education:	Regular and extramural

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

The master's program "Pedagogy for gifted children" enables pedagogues who have completed a bachelor or master's degree in majors from the professional area "Pedagogy" to specialize in working with gifted children. The instruction aims at preparing experts with professional parameters, which offer them an opportunity for fulfilling career in the educational environment of school and out-of-school institutions working with gifted children.

The growing need of supporting, stimulating, diagnosing and encouraging the development of gifted children as a professional duty to the society determines the necessity of preparing highly qualified professionals to work with these children.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The curriculum and syllabi are developed in accordance with the requirements of the higher education policies in Bulgaria.

The duration of the program is 2 (two) semesters. The curriculum provides 480 academic hours and 60 ECTS credits. The ECTS credits are divided equally in the two semesters according to the State requirements (article 44a of the Law for change and complementing the Law for higher education – Official Gazette, vol. 48/04.06.2004 and Regulation № 21/30.09.2004 for the application of the system for credit transfer in institutions of higher education– Official Gazette, vol. 89/12.10.2004).

The structure of the programme includes compulsory, elective and facultative courses.

The compulsory courses guarantee an in-depth theoretical and specialized instruction for working with gifted children through acquiring knowledge of interdisciplinary nature in the field of pedagogy, psychology, methodology and innovation management as well as specialized knowledge in the field of heuristics, casuistry, deontology, psychology of creative work, etc.

The elective courses provide an extension and build on the theoretical and specialized training in the field through mastering specific knowledge and competences.

The optional courses enable students to acquire new skills and knowledge in areas that are interesting to them, but that are not part of the curriculum.

Students are to graduate after they successfully pass their final exam or defend their master thesis. For that final part of the master's programme they gain 10 ECTS Credits (article 10 of Regulation № 21/30.09.2004).

EDUCATIONAL MOBILITY AND INTERNATIONAL COMPATIBILITY OF THE EXPERTISE GAINED

The curricula contents, the programme structure, ECTS, the quality of education and the qualification gained give students a competitive edge on the labour market as special education specialists or resource teachers or allow them to continue their education in Bulgaria or abroad.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students who have successfully completed the instruction in the master's program "Pedagogy for gifted children" receive the professional qualification "master-pedagogue for working with gifted children". They can perform specialized pedagogical work in school and out-of-school environment. The graduates can perform research, applied research and artistic activities and advance in positions such as experts, consultants, pedagogues (teachers and tutors), working with gifted children as follow:

- Teachers in pre-schools and schools at all stages and levels of school education;
- Teachers in elective disciplines in all areas of science, arts and sports;
- pedagogues /heads/ of clubs in the extracurricular and out-of-school activity;
- pedagogues /heads/ of schools and arts and sports sections in community centres, centers working with children, etc.;
- consultants (pedagogical counselors) in schools, educational and preventive institutions and non-governmental organizations;
- teachers in daylong schools, orphanages, preventive institutions;
- teachers and consultants in schools for gifted children and adolescents in the area of science, arts and sports;
- teachers and consultants in the specialized schools for children with special educational needs;
- experts in centers working with gifted children and creativity.

Graduate students with a master degree have a future opportunity to:

- specialize in different forms of continuing education and lifelong learning;
- proceed with their education in Ph.D degree

Curriculum

AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION: 1. PEDAGOGY

DEPARTMENT: 1.2. PEDAGOGY

QUALIFICATION: MASTER OF ARTS

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION: PEDAGOGUE SPECIALIZED IN WORKING WITH
GIFTED CHILDREN

FORM OF EDUCATION: REGULAR AND EXTRAMURAL

First year			
First semester	ECTS credits	Second semester	ECTS credits
1. Preparing the pedagogues to identify and develop the talents of gifted children.	5.0	1. Methods of developing interest in literature	2.0
2. Psychology of gifted children and adolescents.	5.0	2. Methods of developing creative thinking through mathematics.	2.0
3. Postmodern Pedagogy	5.0	3. Developing skills in extracurricular and	2.0
4. IT in educating gifted students	5.0	extramural activities	
5. Elective course (I group)	5.0	4. Parental counseling for gifted children and families	2.0
6. Elective course (II group)	5.0	5. Language and Literacy of Gifted Children	2.0
		6. Elective course	1.5
		7. Elective course	1.5
		8. Internship	2.0
		10. Graduation	15.0
Electives (students choose one elective)		Electives (students choose one elective)	
Group 1 1. Organization of creative mathematical activities 2. Developing children's exploration interest 3. Developing of speech and creative activity in kindergarten 4. Legal Education		Group 3 1. Mathematical education and development of gifted students 2. Optimal algorithms in graphs and nets in extracurricular activities. 3. Creative writing 4. Developing speech and communicative skills in students.	
Group 2 1. Diagnostics and Development of Musical Ability 2. The art of speech and performance for gifted children 3. Natural Science and the gifted children 4. Selection and prognosis of the children's sports abilities		Group 4 1. Developing painting and fine arts ability 2. Types of drawing and expressive means in the work with gifted children 3. Developing technical skills and abilities 4. Professional orientation and career development for gifted students	
	Total: 30		Total: 30

TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDITS FOR ONE ACADEMIC YEAR: 60 CREDITS

METHODS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' INTEREST IN LITERATURE

ECTS credits: 2,0

Form of assessment: exam

Methodical guidance:

Department Pedagogy

Faculty of Pedagogy

Professors:

Dr. Nevena Apostolova Chimeva

Hours per week: 2+1

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The training in the academic discipline complies with the specifics of the school subject in the Bulgarian schools. It includes questions related to: studying the nature and structure of the literary characteristics of the students in the different age groups, getting acquainted with the various methods of diagnosis in this direction; mastering the main methodical technologies for the development of individual structural components of the literary abilities.

The goal of the course is to help students master skills in order to transfer their knowledge in psychology, theory of literature and fiction for children and adolescents onto the organization; planning and carrying out of the teaching process in the field of literature so that they can diagnose and develop the literary skills of the students.

Tasks:

The course aims at forming professional notions among the students regarding the role of the research activity, the methodology for its investigation, its diagnosis as well as the pedagogical approaches to its determination, the ambiguity and contradiction of the social context of its development during pre-school and elementary school.

Content of the academic discipline:

The curriculum looks at the cognitive processes, phenomena and conditions in the context of the idea for creativity and gift, its early stimulation, protection and development.

Technology of instruction:

The lecture course lays down the theoretical foundations of the training in this academic discipline. The practical exercises illustrate the didactic problems in an applied practical aspect. Tests are held during the semester and students write papers and engage in interactive methods of instruction.

METHODOLOGY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVE THINKING IN STUDENTS' INSTRUCTION IN MATHEMATICS

ECTS credits: 2

Form of assessment: exam

Methodical guidance:

Department of Pedagogy

Faculty of Pedagogy

Professors:

Dr. Angelina Filipova Manova

Department of "Pedagogy"

Hours per week: 2+0+0

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The training in the discipline “Methodology of the development of creative thinking in students’ instruction in mathematics” includes studying the nature and specifics of the provisions for progressive instruction in mathematics, the substantial characteristics of the creative thinking as well as the means and techniques for achieving it. Students get to know the methods for the development of creative thinking and the practical skills for their implementation at school.

Goal

The aim of the academic discipline is to help students gain lasting knowledge of the language ontogenesis. The concrete results that are expected are the formation of complex professionally important skills; mastering the diagnostic aspect of the learnt material and striving for competitive innovation in their work.

Content of the academic discipline:

Lectures and seminar exercises on the problems associated with the nature and specifics of the methodology for the development of the creative thinking aspect in students’ instruction in mathematics at the elementary school.

Technology of instruction:

The lectures are held in the classical way of gradually acquainting students with the provided material. Direct questions, dialogue with the more active students and argumentation of their standpoints are envisioned. They are well illustrated with visual and verbal material, presented via tables, diagrams, video-films and recordings.

PREPARATION OF QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS FOR WORKING WITH GIFTED CHILDREN

ECTS credits:5.0**Type of the course:** compulsory**Hours per week:** 2 lectures, 1 seminars**Assessment form:** exam**Leading department:** Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Pedagogy**Lecturer:** prof. Dobrinka Todorina, Department of Pedagogytel: 0886417105, e-mail: todorina@swu.bg**Annotation:**

The aim of the course is to provide motivation as well as the theoretical and practical training of qualified professionals for the identification and development of the "golden children of the society."

Content of the course:

The training focuses on strengthening specific areas: the motivation of the future professionals to work with gifted children and adolescents (a sore problem for gifted children and adolescents in our time; possible solution – development of approaches to identifying the problem and developing children's talent); theoretical orientation of students in the problem of working with gifted children and adolescents (thesaurus of the most important concepts in dealing with gifted children, setting the indicators of giftedness, abilities and talents identification, techniques and technologies for the development of gifted students); practical training of students for work with gifted children and adolescents (training that focuses on the characterization of gifted children and adolescents, training in the diagnosis of gifted children and adolescents as well as training of specific techniques and technologies for the development of gifted children and adolescents).

PSYCHOLOGY FOR GIFTED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

ECTS credits: 5,0

Academic hours per week: 2+1

Form of evaluation: written exam

Department of Psychology

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Maria Mutafova, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology

Annotation:

The psychology of gifted children and adolescents occupies an important place in the overall training of graduate students. Significant patterns and psychological conditions for the formation of the talented personality of children and adolescents are revealed. The future professionals examine the psychological mechanisms of self-knowledge in the process of training as a construct of the enhancement of the gifted children's creative potential.

Content of the course:

The course focuses on studying the cognitive processes, phenomena in the context of the idea of creativity and talent, its early stimulation and development.

Teaching technology:

The course lays down the theoretical foundations of the discipline. The seminar exercises illustrate the practical aspect of the problems that are being studied. Tests are conducted during the semester, students write papers and engage in interactive methods of learning. The examination includes discussion and analysis of two theoretical topics. The final grade is based on assessment of the written projects plus the results of the exams.

POSTMODERN PEDAGOGY

ECTS credits: 5,0

Academic hours per week: 2+1

Form of evaluation: written exam

Department of Pedagogy

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Veska Gyuviiiska, Ph.D.

Annotation:

The course is designed to introduce students to the postmodernism as a concept with far-reaching consequences for education. It focuses on the basic ideas, authors and practices associated with postmodernism and its messages to the world such as text, discussion, event, and situation. The key tenets of postmodernism in education are defined as decentralization, fragmentation and focus on personality and discourses that lead to an entirely new educational paradigm. The course outlines the main educational highlights such as its changing nature – i.e. its transformation to a cultural and linguistic phenomenon. The postmodernism's potential for innovation and critical thinking is also underlined.

Content: The course offers a system of ideas and authors in the context of postmodernism and electoral issues. It defines the key notions of postmodernism and offers possible educational solutions. The radical interpretation of education stimulates the innovative thinking and facilitates the work with gifted children.

Teaching Technology: Exhibitions, lectures and discussions, which are carried out in the conditions of interactivity and dialogue, team and organizational activities, curricular research projects, implementation of a variety of interactive methods, case studies, etc.

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY OF GIFTED CHILDREN

ECTS credits: 2.0

Academic hours per week 2+0+0

Form of Evaluation : written exam

Department of Pedagogy

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Mariana Balabanova, Ph. D.

E-mail: mariana56@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Language and Literacy of Gifted Children" is one of the fundamental professional and educational bases for the future pedagogues. Speech is a socially significant phenomenon; it plays an important role in the system of higher mental functions, in the formation and development of the personality of the child and the adolescent. It is essential that future teachers be well-acquainted with the speech norms in order to make a better use of the possibilities for faster development of the gifted children.

Content of the course:

Lectures and seminars on the problems of the theory of speech and speech activities, methodology for studying the language, speech and communication competence of the child.

Teaching Technology:

Lectures are held in the classical way and students are gradually introduced to the course material. The topics are actively discussed with students and the latter are asked to defend their statements. Different means of visualization are largely used during the course.

SELECTION AND DIAGNOSTICS OF THE SPORTING ABILITIES OF CHILDREN

ECTS credits: 5

Academic hours per week: 2 +1

Form of Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Departments involved:

Department of Education

Faculty of Education

Lecturer:

Prof. M. Glushkova Dr. Sci.

Annotation:

The course "Selection and diagnostics of the sporting abilities of children" is consistent with the recent advances in the area of biometrics for the identification of gifted children. This elective topic also complies with the high demands of the modern sport for early selection and forecasting of the sporting development of future athletes.

The course aims at:

- Enabling the future professionals to acquire knowledge from experts in the field on the importance of sports and technology selection
- Introducing them to the athletic performance of children in their pre-sports training

- Acquiring knowledge about children's age, morphological, functional, motor, orientation, social (behavioral) and other characteristics at the time of their selection for a number of sports
- Acquiring knowledge about the test specifications for evaluating various aspects of development depending on the requirements of specific sports;
- Acquiring skills in organizing and conducting the testing of children with different sets of tests, standardizing and objectifying the study and treatment of systematic empirical material and preparing individual (and integrated) analytical evaluation of children, diagnostics and personal profiles;
- Forming educational competencies for working with gifted children.

Content of the course:

Lectures and seminars on topics, such as the state and dynamics of the functional capabilities of the children, the physical work capacity, the aerobic and anaerobic capacity, as well as characteristics of the effective work and recovery of the children.

Teaching technology:

Lectures are held in the classical way and students are gradually introduced to the provided material. Direct communication, dialogue with students and active justification of their opinions are also envisaged. They are complemented with visual and verbal material, presented in tables, charts and videos.

DEVELOPMENT OF SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

ECTS credits: 1,5

Academic hours per week: 2

Form of assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Departments involved:

Department of Education

Faculty of Education

Lecturers

Associate Prof. Mircho Georgiev

Annotation

The program puts emphasis on the educational content of the theory and practice of teaching in order to develop pupils' speaking skills. The theoretical part focuses on issues such as speech skills as well as the nature and typology of speech exercises as the main teaching method. Students learn about the nature of language as a phenomenon and the mechanism of formation of communicative skills. The training is based on the knowledge that students have gained in Methods of Teaching Bulgarian Language, Modern Bulgarian Language Literature for children and speech techniques.

The program is suitable for students who have a master degree in Education with a focus on working with endowed children. They can further solidify their theoretical knowledge and enhance their practical skills.

The endpoint of the lectures and practical exercises is for students to gain knowledge and skills for the selection and structuring of content, the study of certain linguistic phenomena and skills for effective oral expression. Students will also receive assistance in understanding the tasks, principles and methods of training.

The basic teaching methods are lectures, discussions of certain problems or advances that have taken place during the lecture or monitoring, self- work / development courses and syllabus plan lessons / exercises for the formation of language skills.

The expected outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course students should be able:

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

ECTS credits: 5,0

Form of Assessment :exam

Departments involved :

Department of Education

Faculty of Education

Lecturers

Associate Prof. Milena Levunlieva

E-mail: levunlieva@swu.bg

Academic hours per week : 2+1

Type of exam : written

The course includes lectures and teaching practices; it aims at enabling students to gain theoretical knowledge of major problems of the modern language teaching within a semester; It prepare students for mastering the methodical modern conception of learning a foreign language, in accordance with the realities and European standards;

Combining theory and teaching practice, and building upon the courses of general education and psycho-pedagogical cycle, this course enhances students' professional skills/structural, organizational and communicative/ that they will need in their future work. Last but not least, it helps them develop their individual concepts and strategies for working with gifted children and students in terms of teaching and learning a foreign language.

THE ART OF SPEECH AND PERFORMANCE

ECTS credits: 5,5

Form of Assessment: exam

Departments involved:

Department of Education

Faculty of Education

Lecturers

Associate Mariana As. Balabanova

E-mail: mariana56@swu.bg

Weekly classes : 2+1

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course is a particularly relevant part of the professional-educational program for training specialists in the field of preschool education. This is explained by the social significance of communication and speech in the formation and development of the child's personality. The course curriculum includes learning about the nature of verbal communicative competence of children based on the communicative approach, which leads to the development of children's speech in the preschool period. The focus is on improving the development of text/dialogue and monologue/ as a necessary and extremely important element in the overall speech development. The specifics of the verbal creative activity of the child, achieved in related forms of monologue speech are also analyzed. The Module cross-references with other disciplines - modern Bulgarian language children's literature, anatomy and physiology, psychology and pedagogy.

Goal

The main goal is to give students specific research skills to diagnose discursive abilities of children and the techniques to stimulate children's fantasy discourse.

Course content:

Lectures and seminars on the problems of the theory of speech and speech activities, methods for studying the language and communicative competence of the child.

Teaching:

Besides classical problem solving and lectures, the training provides an analysis of children's texts, development of algorithms for structured teaching situations of pedagogical interaction and discusses specific methodological approaches and game techniques.

OPTIMAL ALGORITHMS IN GRAPHS AND NETS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ANNOTATION

The proposed curriculum covers a graph theory and discrete optimization. It presents algorithms for finding structural and numerical characteristics of the countable objects. The basic concepts and results in graph theory are emphasized as well as the algorithmic approach.

Focus is also placed on the many algorithms in networks - algorithms of finding spanning trees, shortest paths, flows with a maximum magnitude, flows with a minimum price, placement of objects, the optimal routes (tasks for the Chinese postman, salesman traveling for appointments) and others. The basic methods of analysis and search boxes, and the question of the complexity of the proposed algorithms are also touched upon.

This is a practical application course, which allows out-of-classroom activities, work with students interested in science, material preparation for competitions and Olympiads.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Suggestions for having separate lectures in two relatively different modules. The first of these topics to include 1, 2 and 3. The goal of the studied subjects is to acquaint students with basic concepts, objects and some basic theoretical results in Graph Theory, the way countable structures describe mechanical problems and types of practices, which can be described in the language of Graph Theory – connected and strongly connected components of the graph, based on the graph, tree structures and others. The main task is to provide the student with the opportunity to understand the model of discrete structures. The expected results are related and stem from the goal and objectives. The second largest component of this unit comprises topics 4 to 13. The main goal is for students to learn some basic symbolic algorithms associated with search boxes and develop their algorithmic thinking.

The main task is to enable students to implement the proposed computer algorithms after they complete their studies.

This lecture course attempts to build on the knowledge covered in other disciplines such as

programming and data structures, optimization, applied mathematics and to offer teaching opportunity in practice to use them.

The expected results are for students to improve their programming skills, the ability to model discrete processes as well as their algorithmic culture.

TYPES OF DRAWING AND EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES WHEN WORKING WITH GIFTED CHILDREN

ECTS credits: 1,5

Weekly classes: 2+1+0

Form of exam: written

Departments involved:

Department of Education

Faculty of Education

Lecturers:

Prof. Emil Kukov

e-mail: emil_kukov@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course aims at providing comprehensive knowledge and skills to the future teachers involved in the arts education of gifted children. Many of the problems in the theory and practice of painting in this program are touched upon and interpretation is suggested to those applicable in teaching gifted children up to the age of ten.

Teaching:

The course puts an emphasis on theoretical knowledge. Practical exercises are used mainly to illustrate the practical application aspect of the studied educational problems. Tests are conducted during the semester, students write papers and develop projects, and engage in interactive learning activities.

PAINTING AND FINE ARTS IN THE WORK WITH GIFTED CHILDREN

ECTS credits: 1,5

Weekly classes : 2+1+0

Form of exam: written

Departments involved:

Department of Education

Faculty of Education

Lecturers:

Prof. Georgi Drachev

Annotation:

The topics in the discipline program "Development of skills in the art of painting" are divided into general and practical training. The specific focus and content helps producing specialists for schools with advanced study of art (painting), art schools, workshops and more. The general training provides knowledge about the basics of art (painting) - arts, expressions, techniques and materials. Special attention is paid to children's pictorial activity – its characteristics and development.

Along with the theoretical training, the program includes art and practical pictorial activity, the main and the additional means of expression, materials, techniques and types of painting.

The **purpose** of the course "Developing skills in painting art" is mastering the system of knowledge, practical skills and habits of Fine Arts (painting) as a necessary complementing element of the system of the educational work. The course takes place in the fourth semester of the second year, with a maximum saturation of the curriculum with the theoretical and practical application content.

Teaching:

Lectures are held in the classical way and students are gradually introduced to the provided material. Direct communication, dialogue with students and active justification of their opinions is envisaged. These are further complemented with visual and verbal material, presented in tables, charts, videos.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT IN MATHEMATICS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

ECTS credits: 1.5

Weekly classes: 2

Form of Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Departments involved:

Department of Education

Faculty of Education

Lecturers

Associate Prof. Dimitar G. Dimitrov

Annotation and Objectives:

The aim of the course is to introduce graduate students to the theories and concepts of developing students' thinking and knowledge of mathematics and others. It is designed for students in the master's program "Education for gifted children" and structured thematically in response to the qualification characteristics that need to be gained by the MA students as well as the need to obtain specific knowledge about the education of gifted students in mathematics.

Teachers' knowledge of various theories for optimal implementation of the relevant curriculum methods and techniques of teaching is extremely important for providing the best instruction to students. Therefore, students seeking master's degrees should comply with them.

Course content:

Lectures alternate with seminars on issues of educational theory and development in mathematics for gifted students and competence of the child.

Teaching methods:

Lectures are held in the classical way and students are gradually introduced to the provided material. Direct communication, dialogue with students and active justification of their opinions are envisaged. These are further complemented with visual and verbal material, presented in tables, charts and videos.

PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

ECTS credits: 1,5

Form of Assessment: exam

Departments involved:

Department of Education

Faculty of Education

Lecturers

Associate Dimitar Iskrev

E-mail: iskrev@swu.bg

Weekly classes: 1+0

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course defines the purpose, objectives and aspects of guidance. It also reveals the dynamics of the main scientific and theoretical concepts of career development and behavior of the individual. The remaining part is devoted to the psychological determinants and patterns of career development, social and educational factors in the choice of profession and their characteristics for gifted students. Focus is placed on the practical approaches, principles and stages of career guidance as a socio-pedagogical process and career development of gifted students.

Objective: The course is aimed at developing the psychological and pedagogical foundations of guidance of gifted students by integrating social activity. The technology of guidance through social and educational institutions directly involves the gifted students.

Course content:

Lectures alternate with seminars on specific issues. Lectures, seminars, group discussions, problem solving, case studies, thesis.

Teaching methods:

Lectures are held in the classical way and students are gradually introduced to the provided material. Direct communication, dialogue with students and active justification of their opinions is envisaged. These are further complemented with visual and verbal material, presented in tables, charts, videos and recordings.

Annotation of course

Course Description: to define the purpose, objectives and aspects of guidance. It reveals the dynamics of the main scientific and theoretical concepts of career development and behavior of the individual. The remaining part is devoted to psychological determinants and patterns of career development, social and educational factors in the choice of profession and their characteristics for gifted students. Focus is placed on the practical approaches, principles and stages of career guidance as a socio-pedagogical process and career development of gifted students.

Purpose and objectives of the course: The course is aimed at developing psychological and pedagogical foundations of guidance of gifted students by integrating social activity. The technology of guidance through social and educational institutions directly involves the gifted students.

Methods of teaching: lectures, seminars, group discussions, problem solving, case studies, thesis.

Expected results: Students learn specific methods, forms and means of vocational guidance and career development of gifted students. They also become familiar with the components, structure and function of socio-educational vocational guidance and career development of the gifted students.

DEVELOPING TECHNICAL SKILLS AND ABILITIES

ECTS credits: 1.5

Weekly classes: 1+0

Form of Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Departments involved:

Department of Education

Faculty of Education

Lecturers

Associate Sashko Plachkov

E-mail: pla4kov@swu.bg

Annotation

The course provides an opportunity of acquiring new knowledge, design and implementation skills in a meaningful way both for students and for future professionals who will engage with developing the technical skills and abilities of gifted children and adolescents. It also focuses on understanding the psychology of creative personality. The emphasis is on the nature, significance, role and place of creative thinking in the technical performances of gifted children. A comprehensive analysis of the process of technological creativity further complements the course. It deals with the specific psycho-pedagogical and didactic conditions for bringing to the fore and developing the technical intelligence of gifted children. Special attention is paid to the structure and mechanisms of the formation and manifestation of technical skills and abilities. The main factors stimulating creative activity, the ways and

means to improve the efficiency of the practical-minded students are analyzed. These refer to effective approaches, models and solutions for inducing expression and targeting of technical skills and abilities of gifted children – using creative games, computerized and mechanized toys and methods for solving technical problems creatively. The course relies on the knowledge and collaborates with other disciplines, builds upon undergraduate courses and workshops, which provide the basis and design of the highly specialized master profile.

The **aim** of the course is to reveal specific features of the technical performances of thinking in gifted children and familiarize students with the structure and components of their technical skills and abilities.

The main tasks include:

- Understanding the main features of the technical components of creativity and the creative process;
- Understanding the psychological and didactic characteristics and specific conditions to control and transfer the technical skills, performance and development of gifted children and adolescents.
- Understanding the technology of preparation and implementation of technical sessions and technological activities with gifted children and adolescents in family, school and extracurricular environment.

Course content:

Lectures alternate with seminars on issues of creativity and technical components of the creative process.

Teaching methods: Teaching is carried out through the following main methods: a summary, direct communication, lectures, exercises, discussions, demonstrations, interactive dialogue.