	<b>Тракийски университет – Стара Загора</b> <b>Педагогически факултет</b>		Издание: 1.1
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## SPECIAL PEDAGOGY

### Bachelor's degree

1. Qualifications and competencies
2. General and specialized training
3. General and specific skills
4. Opportunities for professional realization

#### 1. Qualifications and competencies

The bachelor's programme "Special Pedagogy" is based on the socio-educational model to explain disorders. It is aimed at maximum approximation to the European standards in the field of education of people with special needs, in response to the social and educational needs of society.

The programme responds to the need for radical changes in theory and practice regarding people with specifics in development, training and rehabilitation, based on important contemporary educational paradigms and principles:

- Recognition and tolerance of differences;
- Cooperation and teamwork;
- Encouraging communication;
- Changing the relationship between teacher and student;
- Independent stimulation of creative abilities for objectification of qualitatively acquired knowledge by means of interactive discovery of facts, ideas, hypotheses and concepts,.


**Purpose of the training under the programme.** The programme aims to prepare specialists with a high degree of general pedagogical and psychological training, with theoretical knowledge and practical and methodological skills for working with children and adults with special educational needs. The training of bachelor's students includes knowledge, skills and competencies from fields related to special pedagogy, such as: biological and medical sciences, psychological sciences, pedagogical sciences, linguistics and other sciences. The training is in accordance with the state requirements for obtaining a bachelor's degree through training in core, elective and optional courses.

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The necessary logical connections and relations have been achieved in the various types of training – in-class and out-of-class studies, as well as between the core, elective and optional courses included in the curriculum, which is an important prerequisite for achieving the overall goal of the programme.

## 2. General and specialized training

The Special pedagogy programme, Bachelor's degree, is characterized by adequate broad-based training reflecting the needs of society and, accordingly - with the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies acquired by graduates.

The **tasks of the Special Pedagogy Programme**, Bachelor's Degree, are to create a system of:

- **knowledge** of the scientific status of special pedagogy, the different categories of people with special educational needs, the nature of the new educational policy in relation to them, the basic concepts, methodological concepts of particular importance to the scientific field, the main differences between defectology and special pedagogy, the system of principles and effective methods for training and rehabilitation of different categories of people.
- **skills** to determine the special educational needs of individuals, to select specific approaches adequate to individual needs, methods and techniques for rehabilitation and training, to compile and implement individual or lesson-based plans and programs, to critically evaluate their implementation, to identify the important components and structure a supportive environment, to work in a team.
- **competencies** in the field of special pedagogy. The graduate of the bachelor's programme in special pedagogy is competent to identify and work with people with special educational needs studying in a natural learning environment (kindergartens and schools), as well as in specialized learning environment (special kindergartens and schools). Graduates will have the necessary competencies for conducting individual lessons and class work. They will be competent in terms of rehabilitation and training of elderly people with special educational needs.

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### 3. General and specific skills

Students' training in the bachelor's programme aims at:


- Comprehension and actual transition from defectology to special pedagogy.
- Understanding the ideas of integrated, integral and inclusive education in different areas and aspects.
- Orientation in the new roles and functions of special pedagogues and their ability to motivate children, parents and the public to accept differences, communicate actively and build positive relationships.
- Mastering integral models for successful rehabilitation and socialization of people with special needs.
- The special pedagogue has the skills to understand the special educational needs typical for different categories of people.
- He/ she can distinguish between disorders similar in some of the symptoms exhibited, as well to detect significant individual personality traits in the course of training and rehabilitation.
- The special pedagogue, on the basis of the socio-educational model, can work in a team to assess the special educational needs of pupils, their strengths and weaknesses.
- He/she can comprehend the assessment of special educational needs, carried out by other specialists.
- Based on an assessment of the needs of pupils with special educational needs, the special pedagogue can structure a supportive environment for them.
- He/she can select effective pedagogical approaches, technologies, methods and means, adequate to individuals' educational needs, and use them in specially arranged conditions - in special kindergartens or schools, in the conditions of inclusive education or in institutions working with adults.
- The special pedagogue can perform various types of work (lesson-based, individual rehabilitation classes, out-of-class and extracurricular activities, etc.).

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- He/she can participate in teamwork for the preparation of individual training programs or for the development of people with special needs.
- He/she has the skills to work with the families of people with special educational needs.
- He/she can carry out research activities related to the rehabilitation and education of individuals with special educational needs as part of a team.

#### **4. Opportunities for professional realization**

Successful graduates acquire a bachelor's degree with a professional qualification "special pedagogue".

Graduates of the Special Pedagogy Bachelor's Degree Programme can find professional realization as:

- special pedagogues in kindergartens, rehabilitation centres and in general education schools, in which children and pupils with special educational needs are educated and integrated (included), according to the regulations of the Ministry of Education;
- resource teachers at resource centres to support children and pupils with special educational needs in the implementation of inclusive education;
- special pedagogues in special schools;
- special pedagogues in day care centres for children with disabilities;
- special pedagogues in social institutions - homes providing medical and social care for children; homes for raising and educating children deprived of parental care; homes for children with disabilities; homes for the elderly with disabilities;
- special pedagogues in NGO practices related to children and adults with special needs;
- special pedagogues in private centres and offices;
- in other structures in which a job for a special pedagogue is provided.

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