



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

Lietuvos sveikatos mokslų universiteto
VISUOMENĖS SVEIKATOS VADYBOS STUDIJŲ
PROGRAMOS (621A60004)
VERTINIMO IŠVADOS

EVALUATION REPORT
OF MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (621A60004)
STUDY PROGRAMME

at Lithuanian University of Health Sciences

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Išvados parengtos anglų kalba
Report language - English

Vilnius
2014

DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	<i>Visuomenės sveikatos vadyba</i>
Valstybinis kodas	621A60004
Studijų sritis	Biomedicinos mokslai
Studijų kryptis	Visuomenės sveikata
Studijų programos rūšis	Universitetinės studijos
Studijų pakopa	Antroji
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	Nuolatinė (2 metai), iššęstinė (3 metai)
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	120
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	Visuomenės sveikatos magistras
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	2002 m. birželio 14 d.

INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	<i>Management of Public Health</i>
State code	621A60004
Study area	Biomedical Sciences
Study field	Public Health
Kind of the study programme	University studies
Study cycle	Second
Study mode (length in years)	Full-time (2 years) and part-time (3 years)
Volume of the study programme in credits	120
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Master of Public Health
Date of registration of the study programme	14 June 2002

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The Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LUHS) is the only university offering the Master of Management of Public Health (MMPH) study programme in Lithuania. The programme was launched in 1997. It was developed with great international support (International TEMPUS project, with cooperation with the French National School of Public Health, the Nordic School of Public Health (Sweden), Tampere University School of Public Health (Finland), Kaunas University of Technology, Hospital of KUM).

The study programme was assessed by the Centre of Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC) in 2003 and 2007 and peer reviewed by the Association of Schools of Public Health of the European Region (ASPHER) in year 2003. MMPH study programme was given full accreditation by SKVC evaluation team in year 2007. Even though some recommendations were provided however it was concluded that the programme meets the needs of the field and the international standards. Since then the programme has been developed according to recommendations of evaluation teams and the general strategy of LUHS, competencies for public health field worked out by ASPHER and needs of the labour market.

Faculty is seeking for the international accreditation of APHEA in the nearest future. The Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA) is an independent body established as an international non-profit association, with the purpose of accrediting Master of Public Health Programmes (or their equivalent). According to the administrative staff such accreditation is essential in order to become open to the world not only to Europe and provides good opportunities for benchmarking.

The present review has been carried out under the guidelines and procedures of SKVC. This assessment report is based on the self-evaluation report (SER) and on a site visit which took place on the 4th of March 2014. During the site visit, the team had the opportunity to discuss the programme with faculty administration, self-assessment group, teaching staff, students, graduates and social partners. The review panel also visited the library, classrooms and offices associated with the programme. After the visit, the panel held a meeting in which the information gathered during the evaluation process was discussed and this evaluation report represents the opinion of the whole group.

II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

1. Programme aims and learning outcomes

The aims and learning outcomes of the study programme are clear, suitable for the second cycle study programme as well as publicly accessible. They are available on different webpages of LUHS as well as in the national information data base AIKOS.

In the SER the aim of the study programme is clearly described as „...capacity building for the health care system through training specialists in public health management practice, research and teaching.” The provided learning outcomes declare general skills and competencies that students have to obtain during study process. During discussions with administration and self-assessment team the internationalization was mentioned as one of the most

important aims for future development of the programme. For this reason, it would be useful to set more detailed programme outcomes including internationally applicable managerial knowledge, skills and competences. It could emphasize uniqueness of the programme better.

The objectives of the MMPH programme meet the requirements for master's studies in the area of public health but special learning outcomes on management issues should be set in certain study subjects such as Management, Leadership in Health Care, Human Resources Management, Management of Changes etc. The union of public health and management of this programme should be also more strongly emphasized in the learning outcomes.

During the meetings with different target groups the title of the programme was also discussed. Presently there are two programs awarded the degree of Master of Public Health at the same faculty: Master program of Management of Public Health and the Master program of Public Health. In order to emphasize managerial part *Health (care) management* or *Health (care) administration* was offered as possibility for change of the title in the future. These terms are better related to the main study area as leadership, management and administration of public health system and health care system.

Students, graduates and social partners are involved in the process of updating the aim and learning outcomes of the study programme. For example, they participate in the regular round table discussions organized by the faculty (the nearest meeting of stake holders was said to take place in May when the internationalization and distance learning issues will be discussed). Close relations with social partners (including teachers' and students' participation in the projects, research, practice etc) creates favourable environment for reciprocal feedback and can be regarded as one of the main strengths of the programme.

Evaluation team was informed about recently performed study on the demand of public health specialists in the labour market in Lithuania (carried out in 2011 by the Institute of Hygiene). Results showed a considerable need for these professionals in different public health institutions, personal health care institutions (health centers, hospitals, and public health bureaus), territorial health insurance funds, administrative bodies of municipalities, governmental institutions, different local and international nongovernmental organizations and agencies and other private and public institutions.

Though the following comments on the strong areas and areas for improvement might be made:

- *Study programme has exceptional features which should be more clearly stressed in the study programme learning outcomes.*
- *Opportunity to acquire both managerial and public health competencies was identified as one of the main strengths of the programme by students, graduates and social partners.*
- *Graduates possessing combined knowledge and skills in management, public health and research are needed in the job market.*

2. Curriculum design

The content of the study programme is based on national and international requirements for public health and second cycle study programmes. The curriculum design is in line with legal requirements of the Republic of Lithuania and corresponds to the international criteria as well as the European core competences for public health professionals developed by ASPHER.

Full time master studies takes 2 years (4 semesters), part time – 3 years (6 semesters). The scope of the study programme is 120 ECTS. In the programme first three semesters are devoted for studies in public health and management, with a gradual increase in the activities of research work. The last semester is devoted exceptionally for master thesis writing. Not more than 5 study subjects are delivered in every semester. Students are free to choose the elective study subjects; however, number of electives is small. The elective courses are offered at 2th and 3th semester and students are able to choose only from two offers. The option of more elective study subjects is desirable.

The structure and content of study programme provide necessary professional knowledge and skills. The programme has been continually improved. Some new study subjects such as Leadership in Health Care, Patient Safety and Risk Management have been introduced since the last external evaluation. Regular modifications within study subjects regarding content and study methods are also being implemented if the teachers feel there is a need for it.

Significant changes have been also introduced in the practice organization. Since the academic year 2013-2014, tripartite contracts among the student, the University and the hosting practice institution are signed for the whole period of practice. The contract defines the purpose of practice, the expected results, the practice time and duration, the parties' rights, obligations and other conditions and procedures. The practice is performed in the autumn semester in the first study year according to the students' choice. However during discussions with social partners and graduates they emphasized the necessity to have even stronger links between theory and practice.

It is declared that the programme has two aims: a) to prepare good practitioners; b) to prepare graduates for doctoral studies. However it seems that study programme is too much research oriented. In the curriculum there are 49 ECTS dedicated to the research work in total: 3 ECTS in the first semester, 9 ECTS in the second semester, 7 ECTS in the third semester and 30 ECTS in the fourth semester. In the second semester also the research oriented study subject "Applied epidemiology, biostatistics and qualitative research methods" is provided in the volume of 6 ECTS. For ensuring the strong research orientation the master students choose topics for the final theses already in the first semester. The majority of students work in the public health field and the topics of their master thesis depend on their professional orientation. A change of the thesis topics is very rare and the general quality of the thesis is satisfactory.

Although research orientation of the programme is in line with the strategy of the University to train new researchers and teachers, existing practice requires employees with good managerial skills. The students and graduates generally are satisfied with content and length of the study subjects however they expressed a wish for more practical training. This corresponds with expectations of employers as well. Considering what have been already mentioned, the balance between research work and public health management theory and practice should be improved in the programme.

However in the MMPH programme all study subjects include some practical assignments. In addition, during the first semester a total of 84 hours in the full-time programme and 48 hours in the part-time programme are provided for practice in health care management. Students may choose a place for the practice; it can be either individual or group practice. The last form of group practice was introduced recently by taking into account the students' proposals. During discussions the students expressed their satisfaction with the increased amount of practice. As the benefit it was found the opportunity to find the job during the practice time.

The review team confirms that scope and content of the programme is sufficient to ensure achievement of learning outcomes. In general, the list and content of the study subjects in the master programme is not repeating the study subjects from the first-cycle Public Health programme, and the programme corresponds with the international standard. Study subjects and covered topics are comprehensive, complement to each other, do not overlap. It was also confirmed by the students. An example of *Leadership* study subject was given claiming that topics covered in bachelor and master studies are different. Furthermore, students claimed that *Public Health* study subject in the first semester of master studies was useful even for those who graduated bachelor programme in Public Health from the same University.

Since the last evaluation the amount of the contact hours has been reduced but it is still high and demands better balance between class work and self-study. For example, the programme team could discuss devoting more time for practice instead. An intranet communication platform which is in place at University could be used for enhancing student independent study. According to the teachers they are ready for changing this situation but not the students who still feel more comfortable working in the class. Students (including those who had experience of distance learning during their Erasmus studies) usually are not in favour of distance education as well and describe it as „cold”. However the programme team is going to reduce number of contact hours from the next semester and it is welcomed by the review panel.

Overall, the content and implementation of the study programme ensures its sustainable development and it also reflects the general development of sciences, democratic society and labour market demands. The future vision of the study programme is implemented by taking into account the multiple views of students, employers, professional organizations and also country interests and international development.

Though the following comments on the strong areas and areas for improvement might be made:

- *The curriculum meets both national and international requirements for second cycle and public health study programmes.*
- *The curriculum design is aimed at giving both – management and public health knowledge and skills and research skills; however stakeholders expressed a wish for more practical training. The review panel suggests that having both orientations of the programme is a benefit however a balance should be achieved to ensure they are equally represented in the curriculum.*
- *By introducing modern teaching methods amount of contact hours could be reduced enhancing student independent study. More elective study subjects are desirable.*

3. Staff

The programme is delivered by highly qualified teachers who hold a scientific degree and have adequate teaching and practical experience, who are engaged in scientific research in thematic areas. They are selected on the basis of a competition which enables to choose best candidates. The turnover of the teachers is insignificant and their number is sufficient to achieve the intended learning outcomes. At the beginning the programme involves Academic staff from two different universities – LUHS and Kaunas University of Technology (KTU).

On the site it was explained to the review panel that due to the legal setbacks the exchange of teachers among different universities in Lithuania is rather complicated. Therefore the staff members dealing with managerial study subjects were trained gradually and currently all teachers, who are involved in MMPH program, are employed at LUHS. Some of them have affiliations not only with LUHS, but also with KTU. This cooperation of universities will last by developing *Health informatics* study programme in future.

In total, 26 teachers are involved in the programme, among them 21, 81% have a PhD degree. There are 9 professors (35%), 8 associate professors (31%), 4 lecturers (15%) and 5 assistant professors (19%). Social partners – field experts as part time teachers has been involved in teaching and practical research, that ensure closer ties between theory and practice. Teachers use real life examples in their lectures which makes studies more attractive for students.

Graduates from the programme are also involved in the teaching process as lecturers. According to the programme team there is a tradition in Lithuania that the majority of people working in the field of public health have medical background. Faculty put efforts in order to grow its own teachers and the number of young lecturers with public health background has been growing consistently and it is welcomed by the review panel.

Different forms and methods are used in systematic improvement of the teacher's qualification. Training of trainees is performed at University level and also using international collaboration. A special emphasis has been dedicated for obtaining modern methods of teaching as problem-solving, case studies, e-learning, etc. Teachers regularly participate in different research projects, seminars, and conferences locally and internationally. The academic staff's key research directions coincide with the study courses they deliver at master study programme. Academic staff also cooperates with various institutions to do common scientific research projects, guides research projects or are invited as experts. Research results are published in the peer-reviewed scientific journals and also in nationally and internationally available publications.

Though the following comments on the strong areas and areas for improvement might be made:

- *Staff of the programme meets legal requirements, it was evident from SER and was stressed by students and social partners.*
- *Teachers are involved in the international research projects, mobility, acting as field experts nationally and internationally.*
- *Teaching skills are improved on regular bases by participation in courses and research conferences.*

- *Teachers regularly improve their educational competencies, availability and accessibility of lecture materials have increased considerably. Teachers' training and usage of modern teaching methods, and technologies should be supported in future as well.*

4. Facilities and learning resources

Studies in the M MPH programme are organised according to the LUHS regulations and its timetable approved by the LUHS Study Centre. The major study courses take place at the FPH temporary premises at Vydūnas campus, Šiaurės av. There are classroom for different numbers of students. Classrooms are in good condition, equipped with white boards, computers and multimedia projectors and furniture that can be rearranged for work in groups. The students of master's programmes are provided with 3 computer labs or totally 47 workplaces with MS Windows, MS Office, SPSS, Statistica and Epi Info 2000 software. Master's study students are usually studying in smaller classrooms adjusted for team work.

The students of full time master's studies attend lectures in the afternoon, whereas part-time studies are delivered combined via distance learning and face to face training once or twice per month.

Presently distance learning is more used as a system of distributing learning materials; further development could introduce its use in diminishing contact hours and the development of personal learning skills of students.

The University is planning to build a new modern building for the FPH. The review panel has possibility to see the plan of the building. The new premises are expected to be finished by year 2015.

Students perform practice in public health centres and bureaus, municipalities, primary health care centres, territorial health insurance funds or other health care facilities and institutions.

In 2007 a modern LUHS Library and Information Centre was opened. Their facilities and services ensure attainment of learning outcomes and create a positive learning environment. A wireless network is set up in the Library premises. The majority of publications required for the students of the programme are available at the LUHS Library. The teachers of the FPH constantly renew and prepare new methodological publications and textbooks on various issues of public health. New books according to needs are permanently purchased. The LUHS Library subscribes all Lithuanian medical journals and the main international periodicals and databases. However for some students reading books and other materials in English is rather complicated due to insufficient language knowledge.

The University Intranet system is used for communication between academic staff and students and among teachers. Via Intranet system departments can share information and provide students with lecture materials and facilitate discussions on the topic of interest. Since last accreditation a new information system (LSMUSIS) to store information about students' academic achievements has been launched at the University.

Though the following comments on the strong areas and areas for improvement might be made:

- *The facilities and learning resources meet minimal requirements. However the FPH will move to the newly built premises in the nearest future.*
- *The learning facilities have been improved on regular bases, according to available financial resources.*

- *Distance learning should be considered to be improved in the future especially for part time students and for the expansion of the programme to the international market.*
- *Promotion of student's English language knowledge and skills could improve utilization of the resources that the university offers.*

5. Study process and student assessment

Students with different backgrounds are enrolled in to this MMPH study programme. According to the program team in the year 2013, out of 20 applicants to the part-time programme, 11 (55%) had biomedical degree and 9 (45%) – other degrees; but in the full-time programme 20 (76.9%) out of 26 applicants had biomedical degree and 6 (23.1%) – other degrees. These who come from other fields must take additional subjects in the first semester which should help them to catch up with their colleagues. On the one hand, having students with different backgrounds in the class can be regarded as an advantage because students analyze the same issues from the different points of view and share their experience. On the other hand, this has raised the issue of harmonizing the preexisting knowledge in some study subjects.

Selection of the candidates is based on a competitive score. The mean competitive score to be admitted to both the full-time and part-time study programmes in period from year 2007 till 2013 were ~ 10,6 (maximum- 15). The number of students enrolled into the part-time programme in recent years decreased due to the larger number of state-funded places in the full-time programme, but still the number of self-paid students in the parttime programme in year 2013 was 20 students. Amount of students' dropout in MPH programme is comparatively small.

The full-time studies take place every day from 3 p.m. This enables working students to combine work and studies. The part-time studies are organized as intensive one-week sessions, i.e., students come to study this programme for one week (3 times per semester). Since the beginning of current study year attendance of lectures is obligatory. Students are not allowed to miss more than 20% of contact hours of the subject without providing well founded reasons for absence.

Final assessments take place at the end of the study subjects. The cumulative marks are usually used. The last semester is fully dedicated for the writing and defense of the master's thesis. Although students choose topic for their final thesis during the first semester and their choice in many cases depends on the field they are employed in. Relevant academic and social support is offered for students.

In order to stress importance of research in MMPH programme students are urged to take part in research, social and other activities. For this purpose, there are a few organizations at the University, like the Society of Public Health Students, the public health section of the LUHS Students' Scientific Society (SSS). Students are involved in decision making in all levels- from senate up to boards of faculties.

Students have opportunities to participate in mobility programmes. However mobility rates are low probably because of poor English language skills and employment of both full and part time students. In order to improve English communication skills the review team suggests mixing the local and international students at least for separate topic, course or lecture. However, representatives from the faculty informed the team that National law has restrictions regarding the language use – all lectures and compulsory reading materials should be given or translated in Lithuanian. The texts in foreign languages may be only recommended but the lectures delivered in foreign language must be translated, and this causes an additional financial burden to the faculty.

Students mentioned such motivational factors for choosing this Public Health Management programme like good reputation both of the programme and University, a high quality of studies, good career prospects etc. After discussions with graduates and employers the review team is sure that professional activities of graduates correspond to the aim and objectives of the programme. Presently following the career of graduates are based on personal contacts however some surveys, regular monitoring and creation of graduates data base could improve overview of potential job market and help to create strong Alumni community.

Though the following comments on the strong areas and areas for improvement might be made:

- *The number of students enrolled in the program is not big but this allows individual approach to education. The number of state financed study places has been increased recently.*
- *The enrollment of students with different background has raised the issue of - harmonizing the knowledge when entering the study programme; this should be solved with some additional elective subjects in the first semester.*
- *The study process and student assessment is well organized. The organisation of the study process allows students combine studies and work. Good relationships between teachers and students.*
- *International exchange opportunities are available for both students and teachers; although student participation in the international exchange programmes is low.*
- *Monitoring system of graduates' careers should be improved.*

6. Programme management

The management of the study programme is shared by 3 different organisational levels: University, faculty and unit/department. The Senate is responsible for approving study programmes, the fund of studies, suggesting structural reforms, setting the regulations of study programmes and the principles for internal quality assurance etc. At Faculty level, programme management decisions are made by the Faculty Council. Studies are administered by the Dean of the Faculty and his administration. Faculty Administration is responsible for the relationship between structural units of the Faculty and outside the Faculty. The Administration plans, organises and controls study process. Students are represented in all levels of management. Students' representatives are authorized to make proposals on different issues and to take personal responsibility for the implementation of such proposals. Social partners also are involved in the management of the programme. Two social partners are members of the Study Programme Committee of the MMPH programme.

Students' opinion about the quality of studies and study programme is assessed at 3 different levels: surveys on assessment of subject, surveys before graduation and graduates' survey. The surveys on study subjects are performed at the end of every semester but it is online based and supervised by the Information Technology Centre at LUHS. Therefore it is too standardized, not always suitable for particular improvement of particular study course. What is more, it is very difficult to convince all students to fulfil the questionnaire. The expert team was informed that Dean's Office organizes the paper based questionnaire surveys after each course and at the end of the MMPH programme as well.

The processes of programme improvement involve the teachers, students, graduates, and employers. The review panel confirms that the involvement of social partners is very high

however the panel encourages strengthening relations with employers and graduates further because they are essential for the development of the programme.

The following strengths and areas for improvement are defined:

- *Programme management is very well organized, responsibilities are clearly distributed.*
- *Social partners are actively involved in the programme's development, however this collaboration (especially for harmonizing practical and theoretical parts of the programme and organizing practice for students) should be strengthen further.*
- *Mechanisms for gathering feedback from students and graduates should be improved.*

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Despite that the content of the programme is of good international standard, review panel would like to suggest supplementing learning outcomes of the programme with more detailed description of managerial knowledge, skills and competences students acquire. It would help to emphasize uniqueness of the study programme among other programmes in public health and to keep balance between practice and research.
2. Teaching methods should be continuously improved by involving more time for student self-study and problem solving activities. This should include review of distribution of contact hours and balance between theory and practice. Teachers need to be supported in a systematic way to do this.
3. Number of credits devoted for research work should be reconsidered and harmonized with the international standards; more elective courses and practical training would equalize the differences in students' background during enrolment in the programme.
4. Distance learning should be more developed to meet the needs of learners and promote the recruitment of international students in accordance with future plan for the Faculty of Public Health.
5. Mechanisms for gathering feedback from students need to be more systematic and comprehensive than current voluntary method. The improvement of students' English knowledge should be promoted. It would facilitate students' international exchange and better usage of existing resources. In order to improve English communication skills review panel would like to suggest mixing local and international students at least for separate topic, course or lecture.
6. Links with employers and graduates should be further developed to gather systematic feedback which could benefit to the development of the programme.

IV. SUMMARY

The MPH program is the only program of public health management in Lithuania. It was established as an inter-university program in a close cooperation with Kaunas University of Technology. Now there are stable staff members of the study program and a strong vision of its internationalization. Development of the program is strongly related with the implementation of the recommendations of ASPHER and of highly qualified teaching staff, many of whom are graduates of the faculty working as teachers now.

Curriculum is designed according to local market needs and national and international regulations. Distant learning approach as a method for training is recognized as a task for future development for faculty members. Faculty has strong research orientation, good cooperation with practice and advisory expertise for the Ministry of Health. From the last evaluation the amount of the contact hours has been reduced but it is still too high and better balance between class work and self-study is needed. The recently carried out research shows, that there is a need for public health managers in the labour market, although studies should be more practice oriented. Thus, it is necessary to reconsider the balance between research work and theory and practice in the future.

The quality assurance system is established in the University including online based questionnaires for students though feedback system should be improved and students should be encouraged to fill in questionnaires more actively. The feedback from the graduates working in public health field has been obtained by organizing common conferences and practice for students however it could be improved by establishing Alumni organization and involving graduates into the development of the program more.

Generally students and graduates are happy with studies. Teachers give enough information before entering course and during study process, material resources are sufficient. The majority of students and graduates choose studies at this particular program because of its perceived quality and reputation and belief for better career development. The review team reviewed progress on the recommendations in the previous report and concluded that considerable effort has been directed towards curriculum development.

After analysing the program according to the criteria for the evaluation provided by SKVC the inference can be made that the program is of high quality. All deficiencies identified by the review team can be eliminated easily.

V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme *Management of Public Health* (state code – 621A60004) at Lithuanian University of Health Sciences is given **positive** evaluation.

Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.

No.	Evaluation Area	Evaluation Area in Points*
1.	Programme aims and learning outcomes	3
2.	Curriculum design	3
3.	Staff	4
4.	Material resources	3
5.	Study process and assessment (student admission, study process student support, achievement assessment)	3
6.	Programme management (programme administration, internal quality assurance)	3
	Total:	19

*1 (unsatisfactory) - there are essential shortcomings that must be eliminated;

2 (satisfactory) - meets the established minimum requirements, needs improvement;

3 (good) - the field develops systematically, has distinctive features;

4 (very good) - the field is exceptionally good.

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**LIETUVOS SVEIKATOS MOKSLŲ UNIVERSITETO ANTROSIOS PAKOPOS
STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS *VISUOMENĖS SVEIKATOS VADYBA* (VALSTYBINIS
KODAS – 621A60004) 2014-05-28 EKSPERTINIO VERTINIMO IŠVADŲ NR. SV4-262
IŠRAŠAS**

<...>

V. APIBENDRINAMASIS ĮVERTINIMAS

Lietuvos sveikatos mokslų universiteto studijų programa *Visuomenės sveikatos vadyba* (valstybinis kodas – 621E40001) vertinama **teigiamai**.

Eil. Nr.	Vertinimo sritis	Srities įvertinimas, balais*
1.	Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai	3
2.	Programos sandara	3
3.	Personalas	4
4.	Materialieji ištekliai	3
5.	Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas	3
6.	Programos vadyba	3
	Iš viso:	19

* 1 - Nepatenkinamai (yra esminių trūkumų, kuriuos būtina pašalinti)

2 - Patenkinamai (tenkina minimalius reikalavimus, reikia tobulinti)

3 - Gerai (sistemiškai plėtojama sritis, turi savitų bruožų)

4 - Labai gerai (sritis yra išskirtinė)

<...>

IV. SANTRAUKA

Visuomenės sveikatos vadybos magistrantūros programa yra vienintelė visuomenės sveikatos vadybos programa Lietuvoje. Ji buvo sukurta kaip tarpuniversitetinė programa glaudžiai bendradarbiaujant su Kauno technologijos universitetu. Šiuo metu suformuotas stabilus studijų programos personalas, turima tvirta jos tarptautinimo vizija. Programos plėtojimas yra glaudžiai susijęs su ASPHER ir labai aukštos kvalifikacijos dėstytojų, kurių daugelis patys yra baigę studijas fakultete ir dabar dirba dėstytojais, rekomendacijų įgyvendinimu.

Programos sandara sudaryta vadovaujantis vietos rinkos poreikiais, nacionaliniais ir tarptautiniais reikalavimais. Pripažįstama, kad nuotolinis mokymas kaip mokymo metodas yra ateityje fakulteto narių laukiantis plėtojimo uždavinys. Fakultetas yra itin orientuotas į mokslinę veiklą, praktiniais klausimais glaudžiai bendradarbiauja ir konsultuojasi su Sveikatos apsaugos ministerija. Po paskutinio vertinimo kontaktinių valandų skaičius sumažintas, bet vis dar yra per didelis, todėl reikia užtikrinti geresnę auditorinio darbo ir savarankiško mokymosi pusiausvyrą. Iš neseniai atlikto tyrimo matyti, kad darbo rinkoje trūksta visuomenės sveikatos apsaugos vadybininkų, nors studijos turėtų būti labiau orientuotos į praktiką. Todėl ateityje reikės pakoreguoti mokslinės veiklos ir teorijos bei praktikos pusiausvyrą.

Universitete sukurta kokybės užtikrinimo sistema, studentai taip pat pildo klausimynus internete, nors atsiliepimų sistemą reikėtų patobulinti, o studentus raginti aktyviau šiuos klausimynus pildyti. Visuomenės sveikatos srityje dirbančių absolventų atsiliepimai renkami organizuojant bendras konferencijas ir mokomąją praktiką studentams, tačiau šią sistemą būtų galima patobulinti įsteigiant absolventų organizaciją ir juos aktyviau įtraukiant į programos plėtojimo veiklą.

Apskritai studentai ir absolventai yra patenkinti studijomis. Dėstytojai kursų pradžioje ir studijų metu suteikia pakankamai informacijos, materialinių išteklių užtenka. Dauguma studentų ir absolventų pasirenka šios konkrečios programos studijas dėl kokybės ir gero vardo, kuriais ji garsėja, ir lūkesčių dėl geresnių karjeros galimybių. Ekspertų grupė išanalizavo, kaip vykdomos ankstesnėje ataskaitoje pateiktos rekomendacijos, ir padarė išvadą, kad plėtojant programos struktūrą įdėta nemažai pastangų.

Išanalizavus programą pagal SKVC vertinimo kriterijus galima daryti išvadą, kad programa yra aukštos kokybės. Visus ekspertų grupės pažymėtus trūkumus galima lengvai pašalinti.

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III. REKOMENDACIJOS

1. Nors programos turinys atitinka tarptautinius geros programos kriterijus, ekspertų grupė norėtų pasiūlyti programos studijų rezultatus papildyti išsamesniu studentų įgytų vadybos žinių, įgūdžių ir kompetencijos aprašu. Jis padėtų pabrėžti studijų programos unikalumą, palyginti su kitomis visuomenės sveikatos programomis ir išlaikyti praktikos ir mokslinės veiklos pusiausvyrą.
2. Mokymo metodus reikėtų nuolat tobulinti, numatant daugiau laiko studentų savarankiškam mokymuisi, problemoms spręsti. Tuo tikslu reikėtų pakoreguoti kontaktinių valandų paskirstymą bei teorijos ir praktikos pusiausvyrą. Dėstytojams reikia sistemaiškai padėti to siekti.
3. Reikėtų persvarstyti už mokslinę veiklą skiriamų kreditų skaičių, suderinti jį su tarptautiniais standartais; didesnis pasirenkamųjų dalykų skaičius ir daugiau praktinio mokymo galimybių išlygintų į programą stojančių studentų turimo išsilavinimo skirtumus.
4. Reikėtų labiau išplėtoti nuotolinį mokymą, kad būtų tenkinami besimokančiųjų poreikiai, skatinti, kad būtų pritraukiami tarptautiniai studentai remiantis Visuomenės sveikatos fakulteto ateities planu.
5. Studentų atsiliepimų rinkimo mechanizmai turi būti sistemiškesni, visapusiškesni negu dabartinis savanoriškas metodas. Reikėtų skatinti studentus stiprinti anglų kalbos žinias. Taip būtų palengvinti tarptautiniai studentų mainai, būtų geriau išnaudojami turimi ištekliai. Siekdama, kad būtų tobulinami bendravimo anglų kalba įgūdžiai, ekspertų grupė norėtų pasiūlyti bent kai kurių temų per kai kuriuos kursus arba paskaitas vietas ir užsienio studentus mokyti mišriomis grupėmis.
6. Reikėtų dar labiau stiprinti darbdavių ir absolventų ryšius, kad būtų galima sistemaiškai rinkti atsiliepimus, – jie būtų naudingi plėtojant programą.

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Paslaugos teikėjas patvirtina, jog yra susipažinęs su Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso 235 straipsnio, numatančio atsakomybę už melagingą ar žinomai neteisingai atliktą vertimą, reikalavimais.

Vertėjos rekvizitai (vardas, pavardė, parašas)