

LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES



**STUDY AREA OF REHABILITATION
PROGRAMME OF FIRST CYCLE**

***PHYSICAL THERAPY* (National code – 612B31002)**

SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

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A. V.

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Kaunas
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Profile of the Study Programme

Study programme	Physical Therapy
National code	612B31002
Type of higher education	University studies
Cycle of study	First cycle
Form of studies (duration)	Full-time (4 years)
Volume of the programme in credits	240 ETCS
Degree and qualification awarded	Bachelor degree in Rehabilitation, qualification of Physical Therapist
Beginning of the programme implementation	2004-02-17

The self-evaluation group and members' responsibilities

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIKOS	Open Information, Consultation and Orientation System
DEKC	Teachers' Educational Competence Centre
ECTS	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
ENPHE	European Network of Physical Therapy Education
EU	European Union
LSMU	Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (since September 1, 2010)
LSMUL KK	Hospital Kaunas of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (Kaunas clinics) (since 1 January, 2011)
LR	The Republic of Lithuania
LSMUSIS	Study Information System of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
LVA	Lithuanian Veterinary Academy
MA	Medical Academy (of LSMU)
MES	Ministry of Education and Science
NF	Faculty of Nursing
PT	Physical Therapy
PTP	Physical Therapy Programme
RS	Regulation of the Studies - Regulation of the First Cycle and Second Cycle Studies and Part-Time Studies at the LSMU
SIS	Study Information System (of LSMU)
SPC	Studies Programme Committee
SSA	Students' Scientific Association
WCPT	World Confederation for Physical Therapy

INTRODUCTION

1. The Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (hereinafter - LSMU) was established in 2010 through the merger of Kaunas University of Medicine and the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy.
2. It now forms the largest institution of higher education that offers studies in the area of biomedicine. The University includes academies, faculties, research institutes, the Practical training and experimenting centre, departments, clinical departments, veterinary clinics, and research laboratories. There are also other functional units, which provide assistance in studies, research, health care, social, cultural, and other areas.
3. Medical Academy and Veterinary Academy are the basic units of LSMU. There are five faculties in Medical Academy: the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Odontology, the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Faculty of Public Health, and the Faculty of Nursing. All units of LSMU are an integral part of research, education, and health care; they are interconnected and united by the same structure of management, planning, and function. A sufficient number of highly-qualified researchers, teachers, and health care practitioners ensures the quality of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral studies in the biomedical field.
4. Teaching staff of LSMU consists of 153 professors, 223 associate professors, 296 lecturers, and 477 assistant professors (by December 31, 2013). This entire staff provides qualitative studies of the first, second, and third circle in biomedical field.
5. The University offers 29 study programmes. Over 6339 students, including 573 foreign students from more than 35 countries, are studying in these programmes.
6. The Faculty of Nursing (NF), as a unit of Medical Academy, was established in 1992 and consists of six departments: the Department of Nursing and Care, the Sport Institute, the Clinical Department of Behaviour Medicine, the Clinical Department of Geriatrics, the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation, and the Clinical Department of Children Rehabilitation.
7. The Faculty offers four bachelor's (first cycle) study programmes: *Nursing*, *Midwifery*, *Physical Therapy*, and *Occupational Therapy*, and four master's (second cycle) study programmes: *Clinical Nursing*, *Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation*, *Health Rehabilitation through Physical Exercise*, and *Art Therapy*. The latter is designed by joint study programme of Vilnius Art Academy and LSMU.
8. Bachelor's study programme of *Physical Therapy (hereinafter - PT)* -was registered in the Study Training Programmes and Qualifications Register, on the 17 of February, 2004. The admission to the study programme was commenced on the 1st of September, 2004. The first graduates were awarded diplomas in June, 2008. Currently, 183 students study in the PT Programme (hereinafter – PTP).
9. The Self-evaluation Report presents the development of the first cycle of the PTP of the study area - Rehabilitation. After completing the studies, students obtain a bachelor's degree, which corresponds the sixth level of the National Qualification Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning, and a professional qualification – physical therapist.
10. The Self-evaluation Group of the PTP was established by the LSMU Rector's Order¹. All members of the group shared responsibilities and worked according to the schedule of activities. The group members and their responsibilities are presented in Table 1.

¹LSMU Rector's Order No.V-331, 13 March, 2014 „Regarding external assessment of studies“.

Table 1. The scope of work and responsibilities of the Self-evaluation Group of Physical Therapy Programme

SELF-EVALUATION GROUP			
	Surname, name	Activities in the group	Areas of responsibilities
1	Daiva Petruševičienė	Head of self-evaluation group	Development of final self-evaluation, coordination, administration
2	Inesa Rimdeikienė	Coordinator of self-evaluation group	Preparation of self-evaluation documents, analysis. Objectives of the Programme and intended learning outcomes. Appendix 1 (Study descriptions) Appendix 4 (Final work)
3	GražinaKrutulytė	Member	Programme design Programme management
4	ErnestaSendžikaitė	Member	Teaching staff Appendix 2 (Teachers' CV) Appendix 3 (Teachers' list)
5	Aušra Stuopelytė	Member	Study process and its evaluation Appendix 1 (Study descriptions) Facilities and learning resources
6	Ema Lašinytė	Member	Study process and its evaluation
7	Edita Želvienė	Member	Facilities and learning resources

11. Self-evaluation of the study programme is performed according to the methodology developed by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education and is in compliance with the law and legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania (LR): The Law on Higher Education and Research² the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania ‘On the Approval of the Description of General Requirements for Degree-Awarding First Cycle³ and Integrated Study Programs⁴. The Order of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment “The Methodology for Evaluation of Study Programmes”⁵; The Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania “Procedure for the External Evaluation and Accreditation of Study Programmes”⁶.

12. The development of Self-evaluation Report was started on the 18th of March, 2014. To discuss the process of development, the regular appointments with group members were held. The Self-evaluation Report was presented for discussion to the Faculty Board on the 9th of October, 2014 (protocol No. SLF-14-09).

²Official Gazette, 2009, No. 54–2140

³Official Gazette, 2010, No. 44–2139

⁴Official Gazette, 2010, No. 88–4676

⁵Official Gazette, 2010, No. 156-7954

⁶Official Gazette, 2009, No. 96–4083; Official Gazette , 2009, No. 134–5862; Official Gazette, 2009, No. 152–6860

SELF-EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME

1. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

1.1. The aim and objectives of the Physical Therapy Programme

13. The aim of the first cycle of the PTP –to train highly-qualified physical therapists who are capable of applying modern scientific knowledge and making a critical analysis while applying these knowledge to prevention and treatment in all health care, educational and health promotion institutions.

14. The objectives of the PTP:

- 1) To assist to acquire theoretical knowledge and train personal and social skills that are necessary for physical therapist's professional activity associated with treatment, personal health education, health care and health enhancement;
- 2) To form the practical skills necessary for the development, maintenance or restoration of motion or other optimal functions related to age, trauma, disease or environmental factors;
- 3) To train competences necessary for work in health care, educational and health promotion institutions.

1.2. The purpose, mission and validity of the Physical Therapy Programme

1.2.1 Demand of professionals in labour market

15. With the growth of aging society and an increase in longevity, Lithuania faces the consequences of severe diseases, serious traumas, and progression of chronic diseases. Thus, a complex rehabilitation, which is orientated to a more rapid return to work of these patients, accelerates integration of disabled people into the society and aims to achieve their physical, mental and functional wellbeing. Also, increased need for health promotion and active life make the need for physical therapists in the society.

16. According to the data of the State Health Care Accreditation Agency under the Ministry of Health⁷ so far, healthcare providers' stamps have been issued to 1,568 physical therapists in Lithuania. The comparison of the number of physical therapists per 10,000 population in Lithuania and other countries has shown that this number in Lithuania is several times smaller than in other EU countries. Considering such demographic changes as the aging of the population, emigration, and the progress of the science and practice of medicine, the demand for these specialists is likely to increase. Currently, Lithuania needs ca. 5,000 physical therapists.

17. After completion of the PTP, graduates are able to provide health care services to individuals at all levels of health care, social rehabilitation and abilitation, educational, care, health promotion institutions, and sport clubs. The programme offers an opportunity to work not only in Lithuania but also in the EU labour market.

1.2.2 Validity of the PT programme and links to mission

18. The aim, objectives and learning outcomes of the PTP comprehensively describe graduates' preparation for professional activity and correspond to the mission of the programme –to train professionals, who are capable of working with specialists from other medical fields and are able to ensure care of public health. The competences of the programme and learning outcomes comprising generic and functional competences acquired during the studies are discussed and approved in the Study Programme Committee and are presented in Table 2.

19. According to the character of knowledge and its application, competencies of practical activity as well as special abilities, the PTP objectives and learning outcomes meet the first cycle and the 6th level requirements established by legal acts of LR (Paragraph 19) and EU.

⁷<http://www.vaspvt.gov.lt/files/Spaudai/Kineziterapeutai.pdf>

20. Information regarding the PTP, its objectives, learning outcomes and type of the studies is available on the LHUS official website (<http://lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/lsmu-studiju-programos/>), The PT study programme is introduced to future school graduates and their teachers by organising visits to secondary schools and gymnasia and by participating at fairs of higher education institutions, thus introducing not only the study program, but also a relatively new profession in Lithuania. Traditionally, the LSMU organises *Open Doors* days, distributes booklets, and publishes information in the press.

Table 2. Competences of the Physical Therapy Programme and intended study outcomes

Generic Competences	Results of Study Program/ Learning outcomes of the programme
1. Professional communication	1.1. Ability to communicate in writing and orally in their native and foreign language, to use information and communication technologies. 1.2. Ability to communicate with colleagues and members of other profession, to work in multidisciplinary teams.
2. Scientific analysis	2.1. Ability to think abstractly, to collect, analyze and organize information, plan, organize and execute scientific research, process, analyze the results, draw conclusions.
3. Professional experience	3.1. Will gain know ledge in the subject area, be able to put this knowledge into practice, will be able to solve problems and make decisions in new situations and critically evaluate their professional practice. 3.2. Will understand the importance of lifelong learning.
4. Self-development	4.1. Ability to learn, organize and plan activities, develop new ideas, to adapt to new situations. 4.2. Ability to be socially responsible and civic-minded, critical and self-critical personality, to protect the environment, appreciate the diversity and multiculturalism, respect equal opportunities and the principle of tolerance.
Subject-Specific Competences	Results of Study Program/Learning outcomes of the programme
5. Knowledge of Physical therapy	5.1. Will know the principles and tools of assessment of functional status, activity and participation in individuals of different ages. 5.2. Will have knowledge of a healthy lifestyle, a variety of diseases, disorders, injuries and their prevention. 5.3. Will know the principles, methods and tools of physiotherapy in patients with various diseases. 5.4. Ability to integrate and use the knowledge of biology, medicine, humanities, psychology, social, technical and physiot sciences.

6. The process of physical therapy and professional/clinical reasoning	<p>6.1. Will select and apply appropriate physiotherapy theories, practice models and methods for patient/ client in order to improve functional status and quality of life.</p> <p>6.2. Will collect, analyze and interpret the patient/client-related information, will implement physiotherapeutic examination, make a physiotherapy diagnosis.</p> <p>6.3. Will define goals and objectives; draw up an individual physical therapy intervention plan.</p> <p>6.4. Periodically and critically evaluate the effectiveness of physical therapy intervention; make adjustments if and when required.</p> <p>6.5. Advise the patients / clients about physical activity, fitness, and disease prevention issues.</p>
7. Professional relations and partnership	<p>7.1. Will cooperate with the patient/client, and will focus on his/her needs in the physical therapy field.</p> <p>7.2. Will follow the principles of equal opportunities, diversity recognition, ethics and professional responsibility.</p> <p>7.3. Consult and advise the rehabilitation team members, other professionals and patients/clients for physical therapy issues.</p>
8. Professional autonomy and accountability	<p>8.1. Fill, keep and revise the physiotherapy documentation.</p> <p>8.2. Follow the local /regional / national/ European policy, professional standards and employers' rules.</p> <p>8.3. Follow the ethical principles and medical norm of physiotherapist, respect the patient/client.</p> <p>8.4. Demonstrate self-confidence, self-awareness and know the range of their professional competence.</p>
9. Physical therapy / scientific research and development	<p>9.1. Demonstrate the skills of scientific literature search, selection, and analysis.</p> <p>9.2. Ability to organize scientific research and provide analyze, process, and discuss the results of scientific research.</p> <p>9.3. Will be able to present research results, participate in a scientific discussion.</p>
10. Physical therapy management and development	<p>10.1. Understand and implement the principles of physical therapy management services that include cost-effectiveness, administration of material resources and equipment, and working out of physical therapy protocol.</p> <p>10.2. Engage in the process of physical therapy service evaluation and quality improvement.</p> <p>10.3. Take into account the development of health and social care, the needs of the society and the existing legislation of physical therapy services at national and local level.</p>

1.2.3. Periodicity of study outcomes revision and involvement of stakeholders

21. Regular reassessment of the learning outcomes increases the competitive superiority of the study programme with respect to other similar programmes. The Study Programme Committee analyses the collected information about the correspondence of the expected learning outcomes to the current scientific progress, evaluates the shortcomings of the study programme that emerge during the studies and, if needed, recommends methods for the elimination of those shortcomings. The conclusions and the recommendations of the Committee are discussed at the Faculty Board, and respective resolutions are made. Changes in the curriculum and the contents of the study programme are made with the participation of all departments, also taking into account students' and graduates' opinion and in cooperation with social stakeholders and employers.

22. Social partners (joint stock company “Pirmas žingsnis”, the hospital of the LSMU Kauno klinikos, Kaunas Clinical Hospital, sanatorium “Versmė”, sanatorium “Tulpė”, close corporation “Teida”, “Pimonows Fund Sheltered Accommodation”, Viliampolė Social Sheltered Accommodation, etc.) positively evaluate the knowledge and abilities of the specialists educated in the study programme. The FN Dean’s Office invites students and graduates to take part in quality improvement of the study programme through participation in the activity of the Study Programme Committee and the Faculty Board, in the preparation of the self-evaluation report, in the defence of the graduation theses, etc. Remarks and suggestions are discussed at the next meeting of the Study Programme Committee.

1.2.4 Compliance of the learning outcomes with legal and other documents

23. Learning outcomes of first cycle of the PTP are in compliance with the general requirements of study programmes descriptions approved by the Ministry of Education and Science, and corresponds the National Health Care Conception⁸, Lithuanian Health Programme⁹ and LR Laws and Legal Acts^{10,11,12,13,14}. The aim of the study programme is compliant with the mission of the LSMU and the strategic aim set forth in the LSMU strategic action plan for 2013-2015 and the LSMU development guidelines for 2011-2016¹⁴. The graduates of the PT study programme may perform the functions of an occupational therapist defined in the medical norm of an physical therapist, including the provision of qualified PT services, cooperation with other employees and specialists in personal healthcare, public health, nursing, and social care, promotion of healthy lifestyle and health preservation, adhering to professional ethics, protection of patients’ rights, and other responsibilities defined by the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania.

1.3. The results of global research on professional activity validating the relevance of the expected learning outcomes

24. Learning outcomes of first cycle of the PTP are in compliance with the guidelines of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, 2013 (<http://www.wcpt.org/policies>), the recommendations and documents of the European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education (ENPHE) (<http://enphe.org/>), which aim to develop, improve and expand high standards of training of Physical Therapists worldwide, and design new study programmes.

1.4. Links of the study programme to other programmes of the same field

25. Study programmes of LSMU fall into several fields:

- 1) Medicine and Health (programmes – Medicine, Odontology, Pharmacy, Oral Hygiene, Public Health, Nursing, Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy);
- 2) Life Sciences (programmes – Medical and Veterinary Genetics, Medical and Veterinary Biochemistry);
- 3) Veterinary and Agriculture (programmes – Veterinary Medicine, Food Science and Animal Science).

26. The LSMU MA has prepared four study programmes in the field of study of Rehabilitation; the programmes have been listed in the Study, Training Programmes and Qualifications Register: two first-cycle programmes (*Occupational Therapy* and *Physical Therapy*) and two second-cycle programmes (*Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* and *Health Promotion and Rehabilitation through Physical Exercise*).

⁸The National Health Care Concept of Lithuania. Adopted by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania by the resolution No.I-1939, 30 October, 1991

⁹Lithuanian Health Programme. Adopted by the resolution of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, No.VIII-833, 2 July, 1998. Official Gazette No. 64-1842, 1998

¹⁰Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Resolution Approving the Description of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework No.535, 4 May, 2010

¹¹The Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania ‘On the Approval of the Description of General Requirements for Degree-Awarding First Cycle and Integrated Study Programs’ No.V-501, 9 April, 2010

¹²Health for all in the 21st century. Health Care Ministry of the Republic Lithuania, 1999

¹³The Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania No.XI-242, 30 April, 2009

¹⁴<http://ismuni.lt/lt/apie-universitet14/a/svarbus-dokumentai/>

27. Upon completion of the first-cycle PT study programme, the students will have the possibility to continue their studies in a second-cycle study programme. Graduates with a Bachelor's degree and the professional qualification of physical therapist, occupational therapist, or a specialist in rehabilitation of the disabled may enter the second-cycle study programme *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Art Therapy* or *Public Health* at our university. In addition to that, they may also study in Master programmes at other universities.

28. Thus, the graduates of the first-cycle PT study programme acquire a higher professional qualification and may work as teachers at other higher education institutions (subsequently – HEI) or continue their education in doctoral studies at the LSMU or other Lithuanian or foreign universities.

2. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

2.1 The curriculum design

2.1.1 Suitability of the study volume

29. Duration of the studies of the first cycle of the PTP is four years; volume - 240 ECTS credits, form of the studies – full time. The study programme is implemented during eight semesters, the volume of each semester is equal to 30 credits. The study duration corresponds to the Regulations of the Minister of Education and Science (MES) of the Republic of Lithuania¹⁵ and the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) on the study duration, structure and objectives for training of physical therapists.

30. The study programme of the first cycle for 2014-2015 years consists of:

- General university subjects – 40 credits (1066 hours);
- study field subjects – 200 credits (5332 hours); of these, the graduation thesis makes up 12 credits (320 hours);
- practical training - 45 credits (1200 hours);
- elective courses – 15 credits (400 hours).

31. Study subjects are presented consistently; subjects and themes do not overlap.

32. The volume of theoretical and practical subjects corresponds to the requirements approved in the Order of the Minister of Education and Science (MES) of the Republic of Lithuania 'On the Approval of the Description of General Requirements for Degree-Awarding First Cycle and Integrated Study Programs'¹⁵ and its subsequent edits¹⁶.

33. The ratio of contact hours to self-study hours is approximately 2.5:1. Time for lectures and practical works is sufficient to acquire fundamental knowledge. The number of contact hours for practical work, during which clinical skills and competencies are developed, makes up approximately 50% of total student workload required for learning a subject.

34. A detailed programme structure for 2014-2015 years is presented in the study curriculum, Table 3 (13 p). Curriculum of the updated Physical Therapy study programme are presented in Appendix 8.

2.1.2 Consistency of study subjects

35. The consistency of the PTP teaching process is based on logical links and sequence of the study programme structure. The consistency of the study programme and links allow students to acquire knowledge and abilities defined by the requirement, create the optimal conditions for correct understanding and perceiving the core of subjects taught. In order to equal competences and skills that are necessary for students' profession, the volume of credits of elective courses was reduced and the number of study field subjects was increased in the study curriculum for 2014-2015 years.

36. Thus given students' opinion and request, the SPC made a decision to include as compulsory subjects the following: Fundamentals of Radiology (3 credits), Pharmacology (3 credits), and Aquatic Physiotherapy (3 credits). The study programme also included the following subjects: Physical Therapy

¹⁵Official Gazette, 2010, No. 43-2139

¹⁶Official Gazette, 2010, No. 44-2139; Official Gazette, 2012, No. 21-977

for Elderly (4 credits), Kinesiology of Muscle Chain (3 credits), Motor Control (3credits). To optimize teaching process, the study subjects Physical Therapy in Internal Medicine(6 credits) and Physical Therapy for Surgical Patients (4 credits) were combined and named as Physical Therapy in Internal Medicine and for Surgical Patients(6credits).

37. Study subjects within semesters are arranged from general subjects to field subjects according to their complexity. General university subjects and study field subjects needed for further studies are included in the first semesters.

38. During the first year of the studies, students acquire fundamental knowledge and abilities by studying general university education subjects: Introduction to Studies, Professional Language, Fundamentals of Education, Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology, Psychology; and by study field subjects: Anatomy, Physiology, Cytology and Genetics, Personal Health Education, First Aid, Communication; students also study Fundamentals of Physical Therapyin the second semester.

39. Fundamental subjects needed for development of clinical thinking and evidence-based practice are introduced to the second year of studies; students have practice (9 credits) in the fourth semester.The second year of studies include general university subjects: Professional Language and Pharmacology; subjects of fundamental study field: Biomechanics, Kinesiology, Pathology, Fundamentals of Ergonomics; and professional subjects of Physical Therapy: Physical Therapy Methods and Practice.Students may choose two electivecourses.

40. During the third year of the studies students apply acquired knowledge and abilities to the study of professional subjects, they develop clinical thinking and evidence-based practice; elective courses enable students to broaden and deepen their knowledge. Students also have a course of one general university subject: Social Medicine and Health Care Management. There are study subjects that are attributable to a group of subjects of professional education: Neurologic Physiotherapy, Physical Therapy in Internal Medicine andfor Surgical Patients, Rehabilitation, Motor Control, Fundamentals of Radiology, Kinesiology of Muscle Chain, Physical Therapy for Elderly, Physical Therapy of Orthopaedic and Trauma Patients, Aquatic Physiotherapy.Students may choose two electivecourses, and there is practice in Spring semester.

41. During the fourth year, students study general university subject: Informatics and Methodology of Scientific Research and the following professional subjects: Physical Factors, Massage, Physical Therapy in Pregnancy and Gynaecology, Paediatric Physical Therapy. Volume of practice is 27 credits. Elective course is present in Autumn semester. Students are allowed to defence graduation (Bachelor's) thesis which they prepare during Autumn and Spring semesters, if they completed all study programme.

42. Arrangement of elective courses during the second, third and fourth years of the study programme allows students to develop their professional abilities, clinical thinking and evidence-based practice. Elective courses are available in SIS of the LSMU.Students choose them according to the LSMU' Regulation of the Studies.

43. The arrangement of the subjects allows the students to prepare appropriately for writing the graduation (Bachelor's) thesis. The students acquire knowledge about the methodology of the organisation of scientific research, the main principles of conducting scientific studies, and research techniques and their application for achieving concrete aims. Such sequence of the study subjects allows for a suitable preparation for professional practice.

2.2 The curriculum design

2.2.1. Compliance of programme content to legal acts

44. The development of the PTP is based on strategic documents and are in compliance with the following legal acts:

- European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement¹⁷;
- European Core Standards of Physiotherapy Practice¹⁸;

¹⁷[European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement](#)

¹⁸[European Core Standards of Physiotherapy Practice](#)

- European Physiotherapy Service Standards¹⁹;
- The National Health Care Concept of Lithuania²⁰;
- Lithuanian Health Programme²¹;
- The Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania²²;
- The Law amending the Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania²³;
- The Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania ‘On the Approval of the Description of General Requirements for Degree-Awarding Firstcycle and Integrated Study Program²⁴ ;
- MS 12:1996 Medical Standard of Rehabilitation Institutions (units)²⁵;
- Statute of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences²⁶;
- The Regulation of the Studies of the First and Second Cycle and Integral Studies at the Lithuanian University of Health Science²⁷;
- Decision of the LSMU Senate, 7June, 2013²⁸.

2.2.2 Exhaustivenessgreat and rationality.

45. The programme curriculumand Descriptions of Study Subjects are oriented to the programme learning outcomes. Study subjects are comprehensive and complement that ensures a complex achievement of the programme learning outcomes. Methods of communication of knowledge and formation of skills depend on specificity of particular study subjects.

46. In order to achieve the programme learning outcomes, different teaching methods are applied: during the first year, the didactic methods such as interactive lecture, self-reflection, work in groups involve an active students’ participation in the study process. In further studies, students are encouraged to be more active: methods of creative tasks, case analysis, problem solution are applied.

47. The curriculum of study subjects, teaching methods, a proportion with intended learning outcomes are comprehensively described and presented in Descriptions of Study Subjects (Appendix 1).

48. The volume of the programme meets the requirements for achievement of learning outcomes, the curriculum of study subjects corresponds the type and cycle of studies. The links between the PTP learning outcomes and subjects are presented in Appendix 5.

2.2.3 Requirements for students’ graduation theses

49. The graduation (Bachelor’s) theses of the first-cycle PTP are prepared in compliance with the Regulation of the Studies of the First and Second Cycle and Integral Studies at the Lithuanian University of Health’and the LSMU MA NF the Regulation of Preparation and Defence Procedure of Bachelor Thesis²⁹. The graduation thesis is prepared during the 7th – the 8th semester; several students may prepare a single thesis as well.

50. The student should know the peculiarities of the planning and the methodology of scientific research, should be able to formulate the hypothesis, the aim, and the objectives of scientific work, to form the studied sample, to select appropriate type and method of the research, to be able to perform the analysis of scientific literature, to prepare the plan of the research work, and to have the knowledge in mathematical statistics as well as the ability to apply this knowledge.

¹⁹[European Physiotherapy Service Standards](#)

²⁰The National Health Care Concept of Lithuania. Adopted by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania by the resolution No. I-1939, 30 October, 1991

²¹Lithuanian Health Programme

²²The Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania. No. XI-242, 30 April, 2009

²³The Law amending the Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania No. XI-1281, 17 March, 2011

²⁴The Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania ‘On the Approval of the Description of General Requirements for Degree-Awarding First cycle and Integrated Study Programs’ No. V-501, 9April, 2010

²⁵MS 12:1996 Medical Standard of Rehabilitation Institutions (units)

²⁶Statute of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (the Resolution of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania No. XI-973, Appendix 2, 30 June, 2010)

²⁷The Regulation of the studies of the first and second cycle and integral studies at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. Approved by LSMU Senate, 7June, 2013

²⁸The Regulation of the studies of the first and second cycle and integral studies at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. Approved by LSMU Senate, 7June, 2013

²⁹http://lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/1282/bakalauro_reglamentas_spausdinti_2.pdf

Table 3. The programme of first cycle studies of physical therapy – Study plane 2014/2015 m. m.

Subject	Semester Work																												Atsakingas dėstytojas							
	I				II				III				IV				V				VI				VII					VIII				Total:		
	Lec t..	Pr.	Ind..	Credit	Lect.	Pr.	Ind..	Credit	Lec t..	Pr.	Ind..	Credit	Lec t..	Pr.	Ind..	Credit	Lec t..	Pr.	Ind..	Credit	Lec t..	Pr.	Ind..	Credit	Lec t..	Pr.	Ind..	Credit		Lec t..	Pr.	Ind..	Credit			
	Hr.	Hr.	Hr.		Hr.	Hr.	Hr.		Hr.	Hr.	Hr.		Hr.	Hr.	Hr.		Hr.	Hr.	Hr.		Hr.	Hr.	Hr.		Hr.	Hr.	Hr.			Hr.	Hr.	Hr.		Hr.	Hr.	Hr.
I. General subjects of university (40 ECTS credits)																																				
Compulsory subjects																																				
Introduction to studies	16	44	20	3																												80	3	E.Butrimė		
Professional language		60	20	3		60	20	3		60	20	3		60	20	3																	240	9	V.Kraujalienė B.Briaušienė	
Fundamentals of Educology	16	44	20	3																												80	3	V.Šveikauskas		
Philosophy, Ethics	48	72	40	6																												160	6	G.Urbonas		
Sociology					25	35	20	3																									80	3	R.Kaminskas	
Psychology					10	30	40	3																									80	3	G.Širvinskienė	
Social medicine and health care management																	20	60	54	5													134	5	A.Kriaučeliūnas	
Informatics and basics of scientific research																												20	60,5	53	5			133,5	5	R.Jurkonienė
Pharmacology									22	38	20	3																					80	3	E.Svitojūtė	
II. Study field subjects (128 ECTS credits)																																				
Compulsory subjects																																				
Personal health promotion	36	84	40	6																													160	6	A.Daunoravičienė	
Communication	20	40	20	3																													80	3	V.Grigaliūnienė	
Anatomy	20	100	40	6																													160	6	A.Dabužinskienė	
Cytology, genetics					17,5	42	21,5	3																									81	3	L.Kajokienė	
Physiology					40	80	40	6																										160	6	V. Giedrimas
Fundamentals of physical therapy					20	124	96	9																										240	9	B.Siparytė
First aid					12	48	20	3																										80	3	E.Krikščionaitienė
Biochemistry									20	40	20	3																						80	3	P.Čižas
Fundamentals of Health Care and Nursing									15	45	20	3																						80	3	V.Bulikaitė
Biomechanics									39	61	60	6																						160	6	G.Krutulytė

3. TEACHING STAFF

3.1. STRUCTURE

51. Out of 113 teachers of PTP programme, 10 are professors (9%), 27 – associated professors (24%), 35 – lecturers (31%), and 41 are professor assistants (35%). All teachers hold master's degree and 52% of teachers hold doctoral degree (PhD).

52. During the last five years, the mean age of the programme teachers was 45.7 years (34% of teachers were in the group of age 25-39 years, 43% - 40-54 years, and 23% - 55-67 years). The youngest teacher was 25 years old, the oldest – 69 years of age. The study programme involves competent teachers of different ages with different experience that is sufficient for achievement of programme aims and learning outcomes. Such structure ensures dissemination of good practice in study process, development of the programme structure and application of newer and various teaching methods. The study programme involves practitioners with physical therapist's, physician's, educator's qualifications.

53. The majority of the teachers of the study programme are well-experienced: 69.4 % of the teachers have 10 or more years of pedagogical experience, 63.5 % of the teachers have 10 or more years of research experience, and 64.5% of the teachers - 10 or more years of professional experience.

54. During the academic year of 2013/2014 and 2013/2014, the mean duration of the teachers' research experience was 14.1 years, the mean duration of pedagogical experience – 13.9 years, and the mean duration of professional experience – 16.3 years.

55. Workload of the programme teachers is optimal to ensure teaching, research or other activity. The volume of contact hours of the programme teachers corresponds with the Order No. 1026 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 May 2009 'On Approval of the Description of Full-time and Part-time Studies'.

56. The list of the programme teachers' qualification, experience and subjects taught is presented in Appendix 2.

3.1.1. Technical staff

57. The LSMU PTP ensures a sufficient number of technical personnel. Each LSMU subdivision (department/institute) has an administrator of studies who is responsible for the organisation of the study process. The LSMU also has a Centre of Information Technologies whose employees ensure the maintenance of computers and software. When needed, the services of the technical personnel are available to all teachers and students.

3.1.2. Teacher turnover

58. Turnover of the PTP teachers is low and mainly due to retirement, maternity leave and upon the expiry of an employment contract, and does not affect the programme quality, since teaching is taken over by other teachers with an adequate experience in teaching, scientific, and practical fields.

3.1.3 Student-teacher ratio

59. In the PTP implementation the student-teacher ratio is ensured in all types of activities according to the requirements of Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania (Labour Code No. IX-926 of the Republic of Lithuania approved in 4 June, 2002). The standard group size in the PTP study programme is 14 students.

60. The ratio of the number of students preparing their graduation theses and the number of scientific supervisors is optimal: one supervisor has not more than 3-4 students preparing their graduation theses. Each student who is preparing his or her graduation (Bachelor's) thesis has the right to choose a scientific advisor and/or a consultant.

61. Over the last five years the mean student-teacher ratio (first and fourth year) was 124:113. The number of teachers is relatively large, but when evaluating this ratio, one should consider the fact that

LSMU MA teachers work in ca. 20 first-cycle, second-cycle and integrated study programmes as well as in 58 residency programmes and in postgraduate refresher courses. The majority of the teachers work in several study programmes.

3.2. Description of teachers' activity

3.2.1. Competence and professional development

62. Teachers are accepted to work in compliance with the requirements of the legal acts: the Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania³⁰, the order of the organisation of acceptance competitions and performance evaluation of the LSMU teaching and research personnel^{31,32,33}, and the principles of the selection and evaluation of the LSMU personnel³⁴. The teachers' pedagogical, scientific, and practical experience is assessed during the performance evaluation procedure organised every five years.

63. A single employment contract is used for employing teachers for work with students of different cycles and study programmes. The teachers' workload is regulated by the Order of the Minister of Education and Sciences of the Republic of Lithuania³⁵ and the resolution of the LSMU Senate³⁶ (not more than 30 working hours per week). The remaining time is spent for research activity, preparation for lectures, etc. The head of the Department sets the proportions of the structural parts of the working position, ensuring the performance of the studying process and the activity of the department, and creating suitable conditions for the teachers to meet the requirements of the order of the organisation of acceptance competitions and performance evaluation of the LSMU teaching and research personnel during their tenure. The current system of the teachers' performance evaluation effectively ensures high qualification of the academic staff and its compliance with formal requirements.

64. The main selection criterion of the teachers in this study programme is their competence in respective fields, allowing for achieving the aim of the programme and its learning outcomes. The teachers of the programme are not only experienced pedagogues, but also competent researchers and experts in clinical practice.

65. Teachers involved in the development of the students' practical skills have sufficient experience in practical work. Subjects in the field of PT are taught by teachers who have the professional qualification of Physical Therapist and work as Physical Therapists. The majority of the teachers participate in clinical work at the LSMU Hospital Kauno klinikos and in other state and private health promotion, treatment, and rehabilitation institutions, which allows for achieving the aims of the studies. When working at these institutions, the teachers accumulate sufficient practical knowledge for teaching the respective subjects and for rendering and development of practical skills. Descriptions of teachers' activity are presented in Appendix 2.

3.2.2. Participation in scientific activity, projects, directly related to the study programme

66. The PTP teachers take part in national and international projects: 'Strengthening Social Capacities for the Utilisation of e Health Technologies in the Framework of Ageing Population – ICT for Health'; 'Functional State Evaluation System with Distributed Intellect for Elderly and Disabled Persons –E! EDFAS'; 'Arterial Hypotension Episodes Forecasting Technological Innovation System Development'; ESF/2004/2.4.0-03-312/BPD-100/7: 'Realization of Innovative Teaching (Learning) Methods and Forms in Nursing, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Study Areas' and others.

³⁰Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania / Official Gazette, 2002, No. 64-2569; Official Gazette, 2002, No. 71.

³¹Teaching Staff and Research Staff Acceptance to the Positions Procedure (approved by the LSMU Senate on 23 December, 2010, resolution No. 4-3, amended by the resolution of the LSMU Senate No. 21-08 on 30 May, 2012.

³²Procedure of Acceptance to the Same Positions of the LSMU Teaching Staff and Research Staff for the Second Term in Succession (approved by the LSMU Senate on March 21, 2014, resolution No.43-06).

³³Order of the Determination of Qualification and Acceptance Requirements for Teaching and Research Staff Positions, the Announcement, Organisation, and Execution of Open Competitions for Teaching and Research Staff Positions, and the Acceptance of Teaching and Research Staff. Approved by the LSMU Senate on 20 June 2014, resolution No. 47-03

³⁴Principles of the LSMU Staff Acceptance and Performance Evaluation (approved by the LSMU Senate on March 29, 2012, resolution No.19-09).

³⁵Order of the Minister of Education and Sciences of the Republic of Lithuania, No. V-2538, "Recommendations Regarding the Work Duration and the Workload Composition of Teachers of Higher Education Institutions", 23 December, 2011

³⁶"Regarding the Duration of the LSMU Teachers' Working Week", resolution of the LSMU Senate No. 2-08, 29 February, 2010.

67. The study programme teachers are members/peer reviewers of national and international scientific journals ('Medicine' with IF, 'Education. Physical Training. Sport', 'Nursing Education Practice and Research', 'Polish Annals of Medicine', 'Polish Journal of Rehabilitation Research'); authors of scientific publications and authors/co-authors of textbooks and teaching books. The results of scientific research are presented in scientific journals of Lithuania and foreign countries as well as at national and international conferences (Appendix 2).

3.3. Academic staff exchange

68. The University has agreements with a number of foreign universities concerning students' and teachers' exchange programmes; teachers were presenting the University, giving lectures, discussing the possibilities of collaboration in different foreign universities. Since themes for international exchange are linked to the subject taught, it ensures not only professional and educational development but also scientific interests. Data on teachers' visits in 2010 - 2014 years are presented in Table 4.

69. Teachers of other higher education institutions have also visited our University and delivered lectures to teachers and students. Over the last five years, foreign teachers who participated in the PT study programme were representatives of: Mainz, Ulm, Gutenberg, (Germany), Barcelona (Spain), Skopje (Macedonia), and Milwaukee (USA). The topics of teachers' international exchange programmes are related to the subjects taught, which ensures the teachers' professional development and links with the subjects and scientific interests. Guy Somoneau – Professor of the Department of Physical Therapy, Marquette University, Milwaukee (USA) taught the course Orthopedic Physical Therapy at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences in period 27.05.2013 to 21.06.2013.

Table 4. Number of outgoing teachers

Year	Number of visits	Country, institution	Outgoing teachers
2013-2014	6	Spain, Barcelona University	2
		Germany, Flensburg University of Applied Sciences	2
		Germany, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz	2
2012-2013	9	Netherlands, Windesheim University of Applied Sciences	1
		Spain, Barcelona: Barcelona University	2
		Germany, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz	2
		Macedonia, Ss. Cyril and Methodium University in Skopje	1
		Norway, Bergen University College	2
		Belgium, Thomas More Kempen University	1
		Belgium, Limburg Catholic University College	1
2011-2012	13	Finland, Turku University of Applied Sciences	2
		Norway, Buskerud University College	2
		Spain, Barcelona: Barcelona University	4
		Germany, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz	2
		Sweden, Malardalen University	1
		Turkey, Acibadem University	1
2010-2011	7	Spain, Barcelona University	2
		Germany, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz	2
		Belgium, Limburg Catholic University College	1
		Denmark, University College of Northern Denmark	1
		Finland, Turku University of Applied Sciences	1

3.4. Possibilities for the professional improvement of the staff

70. The LSMU has created favourable conditions for the professional improvement of the staff. To develop educational competence, the Centre of Teachers' Educational Competence (DEKC) has been established at the LSMU. The Centre is engaged in continuous monitoring and improvement of educational competence, in compliance with the Order of the Assurance of Teachers' Educational Competence³⁷. Seminar cycles are organised, including "The Systems and Didactics of Higher Education", "The Peculiarities of Changes in the Paradigms of Teaching and Learning in the Context of the Bologna Declaration", "Organisation of Students' Independent Work", etc. The DEKC provides information about the courses, the topics, and the schedule of the classes in the LSMU website and the weekly "Ave Vita". The DEKC receives finances for the development of teachers' educational competence from the LSMU budget.

71. The improvement of educational competence is achieved through various methods – through teacher participation in educational competence improvement courses, seminars and conferences at the LSMU and other national and foreign universities, through preparing presentations and scientific articles on topics of education, through preparing and conducting refresher seminars, and through participation in the activity of the LSMU structures for the organisation of the study process (the Senate, the Rectorate, the Faculty Board, etc.).

4. MATERIAL RESOURCES

4.1. Facilities and learning resources

72. In order to effectively use the present university-shared auditoriums and teaching classes, the Study Centre distributes the general University infrastructure between study programmes at University.

73. Since 2012, the PTP has been carried out mainly in the Centre of Physical Therapy (Kalniečių g. 231). In the centre an auditorium equipped with a board and multimedia for 70 students is used. For practical work the classes of pre-clinical training of skills are available, and are equipped with coaches and all necessary physical therapy aids. For students' convenience, during these practical works no more than 1-2 groups are studying simultaneously. On the second floor of the centre there is the multifunctional auditorium for 60 students, premise for health promotion, and two teaching rooms for seminars that are equipped with computers and multimedia.

74. After reconstruction of Teaching Laboratory Building, premises for teachers' rooms, teaching classes including class for training of pre-clinical skills will be enlarged (Appendix 6). Currently, a project of a new building of the Faculty of Nursing is being developed, where the Faculty of Nursing will have separate spacious and modern premises (Appendix 7).

75. In total, for the study programme 15 university shared auditoria are used. The studies are carried out in Teaching Laboratory Building, Kaunas Vydunas School, in Pathologic Anatomy Clinics, Endocrinology Clinics, at the University unit in Jankaus str. 2, at the campus of the VA, Kaunas Adult Teaching Centre and Kaunas Childrens' Socialization Centre. The premises used for the studies meet the regulations of work safety and standards of hygiene. In the LSMU Library and Health Sciences Information Centre the following computer software MS Office, SPSS, Statistica, Epi Info 2000 and ESET NOD32 AntiVirus programmes are introduced.

76. While preparing the graduation (Bachelor's) theses or performing research, students have an access to equipment in scientific research centres and research institutes at LSMU. Furthermore, they can use diagnostic equipment in the Hospital of Lithuanian University Health Sciences Kaunas Clinics and consult with scientists and practitioners about scientific research planning and performance.

³⁷ Order of the Assurance of Teachers' Educational Competence. Approved by the LSMU Senate on 21 January, 2011, resolution No. 5-07.

4.2. Centres for practice

77. Practice is conducted according to the Order of Practice Organization Approved by the Council of the Faculty of Nursing (No. SLF-13-10, 9 October, 2013)³⁸.

78. The Clinical Department of Rehabilitation is responsible for conduction of four clinical practices that are included in curriculum of first cycle PTP. Practices are within semesters as follows: in IV semester (1.5 months), in VI semester (1 month), in VII semester (1 month), in VIII semester (3 months), totally 1200 hours (45 credits).

79. The University has agreements with 18 health care and health promotion institutions, however, students are allowed to choose their own institution, then, a tripartite agreement is carried out. To ensure a wide range of practical skills, practices are conducted in different departments.

80. In the renovated Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation students are acquainted with the newest methods of physiotherapy as well as work organization in the Hydrotherapy Department, and perform research; students also are able to use sport laboratories in Sport Institute.

81. The LSMU Carrier Centre offers voluntary practices and provides better conditions for practical skills assisting in students' employability³⁹. During 2013-2014, voluntary additional practice was chosen by 18 students of PTP.

4.3. Methodical resources required for the study programme located at the University library, reading-rooms and methodical rooms, access to electronic publications, etc.

82. The LSMU Library and Health Sciences Information Centre corresponds all academic requirements. The library is open on weekdays from 7.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., on Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m., and on Sundays from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. There are 4 reading rooms with 332 workplaces; out of which 56 are computerized, 3 group learning classes (problem-based), a room with 8 workplaces and multimedia, a computer training class with 12 places, seminar and conference rooms.

83. Students and academic staff are trained to use scientific information databases. The system of book delivery and receiving is automatic and fully computerized. There is a sufficient number of teaching materials for all biomedical study programs that are implemented at LSMU.

84. There are 142 places in computer classes, in which subscribed electronic databases such as InformaHealthcare, MEDLINE, PUBMED, EBSCO, Up To Date, BMJ Journals, MD Consult and others (totally 29) are available. The subscription to these databases also provides access to scientific journals in physical therapy, including Rehabilitation Science: Occupational Therapy; Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine Source; Physical Therapy in Sport, Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy (JOSPT), Physiotherapy Theory and Practice.

85. The resources of the university library are constantly renewed according to the needs of teachers and students. All teaching and other materials available for the program implementation in the library are indicated in descriptions of subjects.

86. Since June of 2012, *First Class* intranet system has been introduced at LSMU. Intranet is used for studies as well as for communication between units or between teachers and students. Teaching material is placed in the system. Students may place their performed tasks, have discussions with teachers or address a question to any University unit.

87. According to the investment project 'Implementation of Public Health, Nursing and Rehabilitation Practical Teaching Centre' No. VP1-2.2-MES-07-K-01-066, a simulation class, in which students may learn virtual analysis of person's activity, was established. The simulation class software offers a possibility to evaluate patient's condition according to chosen criteria or classification systems, such as the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), International

³⁸<http://ismuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4102/studentupraktikuvykdymotvarka.pdf>

³⁹<http://karjera.ismuni.lt/praktikos-blog>

Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health as well as tests used in rehabilitation and nursing (Barthel index, Functional Independence Measure and others).

5. STUDY PROCESS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT ASSESSMENT

5.1. Admission of students

88. Students are accepted to the study programme in compliance with the general provisions of the rules of the general admission to first-cycle and integrated studies at higher education institutions (HEI) of Lithuania⁴⁰ and Rules of Admission to the LSMU⁴¹, which are approved by the Senate on a yearly basis.

89. The main criterion for the admission to the study programme is the competition score; the principles of its composition are provided in the Rules of Admission to the LSMU for the year 2015⁴².

90. One of the main disadvantages of the general admission to higher education institutions is the limited number of state-funded places for students in the field of biomedicine. This impedes the admission of students who are highly motivated for a concrete study programme because the PTP is competing against other highly prestigious specialities (Medicine, Odontology, and Pharmacy). In 2010, 4 students supported by the state were admitted to the Physical Therapy Programme; in 2011 – 5 students; in 2012 -3 students; and in 2013 – 3 students. Indicators of applicants are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Indicators of applicants to the Physical Therapy Programme

No.	Indicators of applicants to the Physical Therapy Programme	2010	2011	2012	2013
1	Number of the programme applicants	1141	1674	1637	1785
2	Number of admitted	41	43	53	58
3	The highest competitive grade	20.08	20.12	23.20	21.40
4	The lowest competitive grade	11.06	16.70	16.06	16.76
5	Means of competitive grades of admitted	17.07	17.79	17.25	17.27

91. An increasing number of applicants to the PTP indicates an increasingly growing popularity and demand of the profession.

5.2. Student dropout rate

92. The motivation of the students admitted to the PT study programme to seek good results is indicated by low student dropout rates. The most common reasons for student dropout are academic under-achievement, students own wish to withdraw from studies or a wish to choose other study programmes at LSMU. In 2010-2011, 1 student was excluded from studies due to poor academic achievement, in 2011-2012, 1 student dropped out due to academic failure. In 2012-2013, 5 students did not finish studies (2 students did not start studies after academic leave; 2 students- due to academic failure; 1-at student's own request). In 2013-2014, 3 were excluded (2 to academic failure; one re-entered another study programme).

5.3. Links between student achievement and competitive grades

93. A monitoring system of student achievement involves student attendance and analysis of the results of intermediate and final evaluation. After every semester, the Dean of NF presents a report on studies at LSMU Rectorate and the Faculty Board.

⁴⁰<http://www.lamabpo.lt/>

⁴¹ Rules of Admission to the LSMU. <http://lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/priemimo-taisykles/>

⁴² Order of the calculation of the competition score in 2015. <http://lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/konkursiniai-balai/2015-m-konkursinio-balo-skaiciavimo-tvarka.html>

5.4. Study process

94. The implementation of the PTP and achievement of learning outcomes are assured by the study process. The study process is regulated by the study curriculum (Table 3, p. 13) and study timetable.

95. The schedule of the studies meets the current general requirements for studies set by the Ministry of Education and Science and by the resolution of the LSMU Senate (No. 43-08, 2009-06-30). During the semester, some subjects are taught in cycles, while other compulsory and all optional subjects continue throughout the semester, and thus the examinations distribute evenly throughout the semester, which helps to avoid excessive workload at the end of the semester.

96. At the end of each semester, one week is given for the elimination of academic debts; during this week, students who due to reasons indicated in the LSMU Regulation of Studies⁴³ could not write control tests or pass examinations on time are allowed to eliminate their academic debts.

97. The organisation of the study process ensures appropriate implementation of the study programme and achievement of the learning outcomes, and the schedule of the studies is compiled so that it ensures the compatibility of the students' possibilities for class work, independent work, and free time.

5.5. Academic mobility

98. According to the 'Description of the Procedure for Changing a Study Programme for a Person Studying in a State-Funded Place' approved by Resolution No. 1266 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 7 October, 2009, University students as well as students of the other higher education institutions whose studies are funded by the state have the right to change a study programme. In 2010-2014 there were no students who changed the Physical Therapy Programme, in 2013-2014 two students changed the other study programmes and chose the PTP.

99. Students have the right to suspend studies due to justifiable reasons; and students who discontinue studies due to disease, pregnancy or child care are granted an academic leave after providing necessary documents.

100. According to the ERASMUS student exchange programme, the PTP students may choose studies in Denmark, Norway, Italy. The data about student mobility are presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Participation of students of Physical Therapy in exchange programmes

Years of studies	Number of students	Institution, country	Mobility type
2009-2010	4	Norway, Bergen University College	Studies
2010-2011	3	Norway, Bergen University College	Studies
2011-2012	4	Norway, Bergen University College	Studies
2012-2013	2	Norway, Bergen University College	Studies
	1	Casa dio Cura S. Anna S.P.A.	Practice
	1	Sankt Gertrauden Krankenhaus (Akademisches Lehrkrankenhaus der Charite)	Practice
2013-2014	4	Norway, Bergen University College	Studies
	4	University College Nordjylland	Studies

5.6. Social support

101. Financial support to students is implemented via scholarships granted by the University Scholarship Commission (a student may be granted only one scholarship) according to the regulations of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania⁴⁴ and legal acts of LSMU.

102. A memorial scholarship may be awarded for active participation in academic activity or because the student requires social support (to students who have lost parents or foster-parents, who have

⁴³The regulation of the first- and second-cycle and integrated studies at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. Approved by the LSMU Senate, resolution No. 32-33, 7 June, 2013

⁴⁴Official Gazette, 2009-12-31, No. 158-7187

parents with disability, or are from large families). To participate in a competition for a memorial scholarship, a student should submit a short curriculum vitae, documents (copies) proving his or her achievements, and a certificate about the mean evaluation score of studies approved by the Dean; the mean evaluation score of studies should not be below 8. In 2010-2014, six PTP students were granted Carol Martin Gruodis and prof. Kazys Ozelis special scholarships.

103. A social grant may be awarded to students whose families or they themselves have the right to or receive financial social support, to students with 45% or lower working capacity or with severe or moderate disability, as well as to students who while being underage were in foster care or whose parents (or a sole parent) have died.

104. The University has five student hostels belonging to the Medical Academy, and four – belonging to the Veterinary Academy, where students from various study programmes live. Rooms in the hostels are given in compliance with the LSMU Regulations of Student Hostels. The rooms are given only to students who are not residents of Kaunas city. The 19 students of the PT study programme lived in the LSMU student hostels in 2009-2013 year.

5.7. Academic support

105. Academic support is provided according to LSMU Study Regulation, which presents interim assessment, assessment criteria, deadlines, student rights and responsibilities. Academic support to students is ensured during all study period.

106. Information about career opportunities is available on the website of LSMU Career Centre⁴⁵. During LSMU Career Days held annually students are able to meet their prospective employers. Information about the Career Days is posted on the website of the University, FC and disseminated via departments. The PTP study begins with the course of 'Introduction to Studies', in which first year students are introduced to study peculiarities and the programme specificity, objectives, learning outcomes and assessment of learning achievements.

107. Information about curriculum and timetable is posted on the website of LSMU. Students may also find useful information on the website of Student Association www.lsmusa.lt. and in a column 'Students to students', which was developed by the faculty students.

108. The programme promotes students' scientific interest and invites to participate in LSMU SSA (Student Scientific Association) as well as in the Scientific Society of Physical Therapists, which was established in 2013. Every year the Scientific Society of Physical Therapists organizes conference 'Healthy movement', during which the students present results of their research or analysis of literature on relevant issues of PT.

109. Students are able to receive psychological support (the Youth Room, in which volunteers and psychologists work together). Students may do different sports at 'Sport Centre' of University. Students who wish to participate in artistic activities choose the choir 'Neris' or the folk dance ensemble 'Ave Vita'.

5.8. Principles of student academic achievement assessment

110. Student achievement assessment is directly associated with learning outcomes; assessment principles are approved by LSMU Regulations of students' and are described in course descriptions. Guidelines for cumulative index are defined by LSMU Senate documents. Three types of assessment are applied to determine students' learning outcomes: diagnostic, formative and summative. Cumulative index is a part of summative assessment; its structure and calculation formula are defined by a department responsible for subject teaching. This information is available in SIS of LSMU. Reports for clinical practice (it starts in the second year and lasts to final practice of the fourth year) are filled in the reports and diaries and presented to the head of Student Clinical Practice.

⁴⁵<http://karjera.lsmuni.lt/>

111. The Dean of the Faculty reports study outcomes to the LSMU Rectorate and the Faculty board twice a year. Learning outcomes are analysed in the Study Programme Committee and discussed with teachers involved in the programme and students. The feedback between students and teachers is ensured by regular meetings with the programme teachers, the SPC and the faculty administration. The SPC considers all students' comments and, if possible, modifies the study programme.

112. *Methods to ensure students' honesty during studies.* Teachers responsible for the course or/and module and members of Student Association take part in examinations. According to the new LSMU Regulation, which has come into force since 2014-01-01, it is obligatory for a student to sign a paper, in which he/she ensures not to cheat during examination.

113. *Students' possibilities to choose courses or modules according to their needs.* Students have the possibility to choose the preferred optional subjects that are offered by various LSMU subdivisions in the LSMU Study Information System - ismusi.lsmuni.lt. Elective courses offer possibilities to deepen knowledge in the areas of humanities, social sciences and specialty. According to the LSMU Study Regulation, students are able to study by individual timetable if special circumstances occur. So far, the possibility to study (semester) according to individual timetable has not been used.

114. The FN Board approves the "Regulation for the Preparation and Defence of Graduation Theses at LSMU MA Faculty of Nursing Bachelor Study Programmes", which is then published in the LSMU website in the column of important documents. This document provides detailed, clear, and understandable information about the course of the preparation of the graduation (Bachelor's) thesis, including the selection of the topic, the design of the work, and its presentation at the public meeting⁴⁶. The list of the graduation theses in the OT study programme for the academic years of 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 is presented in Appendix 4.

5.9. Professional activity and employability of the programme graduates

115. To improve the opportunities for employment, the Career Centre was established at LSMU. The Career Centre gives assistance in planning of professional career, contributes to a search of qualitative and useful location for practice, organizes seminars, courses and lectures as well as provides counselling on career and employment opportunities.

116. The Career Centre contributes to professional career planning by organizing useful practical training opportunities are available during summer holidays; duration varies from 40 to 215 working hours.

117. According to the data of the Lithuanian Labour Exchange, in 2014, from January to August 5 graduates of the PTP who graduated from University no earlier than a year ago were registered. During this period there were no employed graduates.

118. In 2012–2013 the Career Centre conducted a survey, in which eight PT participated. Out of eight, 25% of men (N=2) and 75% of women (N=6) were not working since they continued with their studies; 75% (N=6) of respondents were employed. The participants reported that they did not have their own business, but 37.5% (N=3) of them are considering this possibility. The major part of graduates 50% (N=4) were employed during their studies, 25% (N=2) – were employed after 2-5 months of graduation; 25% (N=2) – after 6 or more months. Most graduates (83%) work according to their speciality. With respect to private sector (33%), 67% of graduates were employed in public sector. In order to start their career, 25% of respondents (25%) reported that they did not need to have additional training.

⁴⁶Regulation for the Preparation and Defence of Graduation Theses at LSMU MA Faculty of Nursing Bachelor Study Programmes. http://ismuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/1282/bakalauro_reglamentas_spausdinti_2.pdf

6. PROGRAMMEMANAGEMENT

6.1. STRUCTURE OF PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND DECISION TAKING

Efficacy of the programme management.

119. The PTP management is implemented by the principle of vertical subordination:

- 1) the national level imposes laws adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, orders and directions of the Minister of Education and Science in compliance with the EU legal acts;
- 2) The University level – the LSMU Senate and Rector apply laws adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, orders and directions of the Minister of Education and Science to the LSMU studies; at the University level the LSMU Rector approves an organizational structure of the Study Programme Committee;
- 3) The faculty level of the PTP management includes the administration of the NF and the faculty board. The Dean of the Faculty is responsible for the implementation of regulations and orders of the Senate and the Rector. The Dean organizes and controls the study process of the faculty and provides suggestions for improved quality education to the NF Board, Senate, and the Rector. The NF Board considers and approves study programmes as well as measures for their development, etc.;
- 4) The department level comprises departments, clinics, and institutes of the LSMU. Heads of departments organize the study process and appoint teachers responsible for subject teaching. The teachers prepare and post subject syllabi on the LSMU SIS as well as coordinate study process by discussing it with colleagues. Subject teachers are responsible for the quality of studies, and a renewal of teaching material with the most recent scientific data.

6.2. Measures that ensure the qualitative management of the Programme

120. The quality of studies at LSMU is assured according to external and internal legal acts and documents. The external legal acts and documents:

- the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council ‘On Further European Cooperation in Quality Assurance in Higher Education’ 15 February, 2006;
- Learning outcomes of first cycle of the PTP are in compliance with the guidelines of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, 2013 (<http://www.wcpt.org/policies>), the recommendations and documents of the European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education (ENPHE) (<http://enphe.org/>);
- the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania ⁴⁷;
- the Law of the Minister of the Republic of Lithuania „On the Approval of Evaluation System of Learning Outcomes“⁴⁸;
- the Recommendations of the Minister of the Republic of Lithuania ‘ On the Improvement of the Assessment of Learning Outcomes’⁴⁹.

121. The internal documents:

- ‘The Provisions on Study Quality Assurance of the LSMU’⁵⁰;
- ‘the LSMU Students’ Assessment Regulation’⁵¹;
- ‘The LSMU Regulation on First and Second Cycle and Studies and Integrated Studies’⁵².

122. The documents of the LSMU level provide the actions for the internal quality assurance and are available on the LSMU Study Centre website.

⁴⁷Official Gazette, 2009, No. 54-2140

⁴⁸Official Gazette, 2008, No. 86-3437

⁴⁹The Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania No.16, 5 January, 2009

⁵⁰The Resolution of LSMU Senate No. 17-01, 20 January, 2012

⁵¹The Resolution of LSMU Senate No. 25-07, 14 December, 2012

⁵²The Resolution of LSMU Senate No. 32-03, 7 June, 2013

123. The quality of the LSMU studies is monitored by the Study Quality Assurance and Monitoring Committee⁵³. The assurance of the quality of studies is based on the following:

- 1) The internal evaluation of study programme;
- 2) Cooperation of departments involved in the programme process;
- 3) The analysis of the quality of studies in departments;
- 4) Activity of SPC;
- 5) Cooperation between students and teachers;
- 6) Evaluation and increase of teachers' qualification;
- 7) Accumulation and dissemination of information about studies.

124. The study process and the assessment of students' academic achievements are based on the Regulation of Students Learning Outcomes Assessment, which provides principles for assessment organization, procedure and management of the quality of evaluation. Coordination of the procedure of students' learning achievement assessment and control of quality within the corresponding competence are performed by departments, SPC, the NF administration, the Study Centre, DEKC, and the Information Technology Centre.

6.3. The efficacy of the quality improvement of the programme

125. Assurance of the quality of studies is carried out by the SPC, which is appointed according to the Resolution of the LSMU Senate⁵⁴ and the Rector's Order, 2013⁵⁵.

126. The SPC consists of three teachers of different departments who are involved in the programme, the representatives of administration as well as students and stakeholders. The Study Programme Committee is subordinate to the faculty dean and vice-rector of studies.

127. The SPC is responsible for the study programme management, assurance of the quality of studies and constant improvement. The SPC activity is performed according to the Regulations of the Study Programme Committee and the Procedure of Study Programme Development, Improvement and Management⁵⁶ that defines the principles of development, renewal and improvement of study programmes. The SPC develops action plan, which defines a date of meeting at least once a year to analyse and discuss information about the PTP implementation. The SPC action plan was developed according to the LSMU Senate Resolutions^{57,58}, the Guidelines for the LSMU Developing for 2011-2016, and determined the aims, objectives, measures, deadlines, periodicity, and persons responsible for programme implementation and monitoring.

128. The SPC periodically leads discussions about the study process with representatives of the Students' Board, students and teachers of the programme.

129. The SPC cooperates with the Study Centre and the Study Quality Assurance and Monitoring Committee, the Student Board while preparing timetables and evaluating the quality of study subjects. The benefit of the quality improvement is achieved by considering the programme evaluation at different levels. Learning outcomes during the changes of the programme are presented in the Rector's office once a semester.

130. Information about the quality of studies is presented on the LSMU website. Students are able to receive information via their representatives participating in the activity of committees and councils. Participation or proposals of stakeholders concerning the quality of studies increase the relationship between internal and external partners. Outcomes of the quality of studies are presented in the annual Rector's Report.

⁵³LSMU Rector's Order No. V-636, 1 July, 2013

⁵⁴The LSMU Senate Resolution No. 25-08 „Regulations of Study Programme Committees of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences' 14 December, 2012

⁵⁵LSMU Rector's Order No.SC-1-004 'Regarding the Appointment of the Study Programme Committee 'Physical Therapy' of First Cycle of the Faculty Nursing' 4 January, 2013

⁵⁶<http://ismuni.lt/lt/apie-universiteta/valdymas/senatas/senato-patvirtinti-dokumentai>

⁵⁷The Resolution of LSMU Senate "The Regulation of student's achievement assessment' (No.25-07, 14 December, 2012).

⁵⁸The Resolution of LSMU Senate "The Procedure of study programme development, improvement and management'(No.21-12, 30 May, 2012).

131. *Students' participation in evaluation and improvement of the quality of studies.* Students take part in quality evaluation and process of improvement of the programme through representatives acting in Senate, Rector's office, the faculty boards and committees, and self-evaluation groups. Students are able to ask questions and to present their opinion.

132. *Stakeholders* are involved in the activity of the SPC, participate in Career Days, are members of commissions regarding the defence of final work, and take part in surveys concerning the study process.

133. In order to meet demands of labour market, the Study Programme Committee closely works with the LSMU Career Centre, and regularly has meetings with stakeholders and employers.

6.3.1. Teachers', students', graduates' and employers' opinion about the programme implementation.

134. However, teachers and representatives of stakeholders as an integral part of the University take an active part in decision and proposal making through the faculty board, SPC and other commissions. In 2012, the LSMU Senate approved the Resolution Regarding the Procedure for the Study of Students', Teachers' and Stakeholders' Opinion⁵⁹, according to which employers and/or graduates' opinion about the quality of studies will be studied at least once during two years starting from 2013-2014.

Summary

135. The LSMU has great scientific and teaching potential for suitable training of professionals of Physical Therapy. The system, which is developed at LSMU, unites science, studies and practice.

136. The volume and structure of the programme is designed to achieve learning outcomes and are in accordance with Lithuanian legal acts and European legal acts. Modern evidence-based curriculum design as well as methods of studies allow to achieve the learning outcomes, which are orientated to meet the needs of the Lithuanian society and labour market as well as a perspective of further learning.

137. The infrastructure of all the study and scientific bases of the LSMU as well as the human resources are used for the achievement of the results of the programme. The arrangement of study courses in curriculum is consistent, themes do not overlap, the modern equipment and technologies are used for training of practical skills. Study subjects are taught by highly qualified teachers who have sufficient teaching and scientific experience and increase their qualifications through traineeships courses, conferences and seminars. Foreign teachers are also participate in teaching process, and foreign students are visiting the University according to exchange programmes. With the improvement of University funding, an activity of the development of teachers teaching skills is promoted. New bilateral agreements with other universities allow to increase academic mobility of students in the framework of ERASMUS programme.

138. Since the LSMU was established through the merger of two universities, the University campuses are located throughout Kaunas that affects mobility of students. Therefore, since different campuses are not easily accessible, the timetable of studies is not always rational. After the opening of a new building of the Faculty of Nursing, rational design of timetable and new equipment will assist in better training of practical skills. During practice students will be able to use newly established area of Hydrotherapy; possibilities of distant learning are also considered.

139. The effective system of academic and social support for students is developed at LSMU. The principles of students' learning achievement assessment are in compliance with national legal acts and international legal acts. The effective monitoring of students' academic achievement involves all levels of University academic structure. Study Information System is also implemented.

⁵⁹The LSMU Senate Resolution No. 19-04 'The Procedure for the Study of students', teachers' and stakeholders' opinion' 29 March, 2012

140. The activity of Career Centre should be more effective, however, there will be a possibility to follow the career of graduates for 5 years after graduation from the LSMU. A contributing factor to such activity is the development of the Information System for Career Monitoring according to the State Project.

141. The performance of PTP is assured by clarity of distribution of responsibilities regarding the implementation, monitoring and decision-making. In order to assure the qualitative management of the programme, the analysis of periodically collected data about the implementation of the programme is performed. The system of the quality improvement is achieved by obtaining the results of the programme evaluation at different levels. Internal evaluation as well as involvement of stakeholders contribute to the process of study programme evaluation and improvement.

6.4. Summary of the conclusions regarding the last evaluation

142. The external evaluation of the study programme is performed for the first time. According to The Order of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment, the previous self-evaluation (2008) was accredited until 15 August, 215⁶⁰.

⁶⁰The Order of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment No. 1-73 'The Methodology for Evaluation of Study Programmes', 17 August, 2009
