

**LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
MEDICAL ACADEMY**



**FIELD OF STUDIES: REHABILITATION
FIRST-CYCLE STUDY PROGRAMME**

***OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY* (national code – 612B32002)**

SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

Rector of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Professor Remigijus Žaliūnas
(signature)

L.S.

Head of the self-evaluation group Associate Professor Daiva Petruševičienė
(signature)

Kaunas
October 2014

Study Programme Profile

Title of the study programme	Occupational Therapy
National code	612B32002
Study area	Biomedicine
Study field (code)	Rehabilitation (B300)
Study programme branch (if applicable)	
Higher education type	University
Study cycle	First cycle
Mode of studies (duration in years)	Full-time (4 years)
Scope of the programme in credits	240 ECTS
Minimal admission requirements	Secondary education
Degree and/or qualification awarded	Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation, qualification of an occupational therapist
Date of the registration of the programme	24 May, 2001

Members of the self-evaluation group

No.	Pedagogical title, scientific degree, name, surname	Position	Phone No. (office, mobile)	e-mail
1.	Assoc. Prof., dr. Daiva Petruševičienė	Associate Professor of the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Nursing	+370 37327234 +37068027117	daiva.petruseviciene@ismuni.lt
2.	Dr. Sigitas Mingaila	Lecturer at the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation	+37037327051 +37068699375	sigitas.mingaila@ismuni.lt
3.	Dr. Kristina Berškienė	Lecturer at the Institute of Sport	+37037320028 +37061169125	kristina.berskiene@ismuni.lt
4.	Dr. Jolita Rapolienė	Lecturer at the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation	+37037327051 +37068688003	jolita.rapoliene@ismuni.lt
5.	Gintarė Norkutė	Assistant teacher at the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation	+37037327051 +37037327051	gintare.norkute@ismuni.lt
6.	Aistė Ciganienė	Representative of social partners (public establishment "Globusta")	+37068041303	aiste.ciganiene@gmail.com
7.	Aurelija Šileikytė	Second-year student	+37065898789	sileikyte.aurelija@gmail.com

Head of self-evaluation group: vice dean of the Faculty of Nursing Assoc. Prof. dr. Daiva Petruševičienė. Phone: work (+370) 37 327234, mobile (+370) 68027117. E-mail: daiva.petruseviciene@ismuni.lt

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ABBREVIATIONS

NF	Faculty of Nursing
OTP	Occupational Therapy programme
SPC	Study Programme Committee
AIKOS	Open information, consultation and orientation system
ECTS	European credit transfer and accumulation system
EU	European Union
HLSMU	Hospital of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Kauno klinikos (since 1 January, 2011)
LSMU	Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (since 1 September, 2010)
LR	The Republic of Lithuania
MA	Medical Academy (of LSMU)
SIS	Study Information System (of the LSMU)
WFOT	World Federation of Occupational Therapists
ENOTHE	The European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education
MES	Ministry of Education and Science

INTRODUCTION

1. The Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (subsequently – the LSMU) is the largest university-level institution of higher education in Lithuania providing education and training of medical specialists. Its traditions of studies and research date back to the time of the Faculty of Medicine at Vytautas Magnus University (later on, the Faculty developed into Kaunas Medical Institute and then – into Kaunas University of Medicine). On 1 September, 2010, after the merger with the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Kaunas University of Medicine became the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. The aims, objectives, fields and principles of activity, and the structure and management of the University are described in the LSMU Statute¹.
2. The University has two collegial management bodies – the Council and the Senate, and a sole-person management body – the Rector, who is elected by the Council. Chancellors and Vice-Rectors provide assistance to the Rector. Medical Academy and Veterinary Academy are the main units of the University, which also includes faculties, research institutes, the University Hospital, Veterinary Clinics, the Centre of Practical Training and Experiments, theoretical and clinical departments, faculty institutes, research laboratories, and other structural and functional units that satisfy the needs for studies, research, health care, and social and cultural life.
3. The teaching staff of the LSMU consists of 153 professors, 223 associate professors, 296 lecturers, and 477 assistant teachers (by December 31, 2013). The entire personnel ensure high-quality studies of the first, second, and third cycles in biomedical sciences.
4. The University offers 29 study programmes. More than 6,339 students including 573 foreign students from more than thirty-five countries are studying in these programmes.
5. The LSMU Medical Academy has 5 faculties: the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Faculty of Odontology, the Faculty of Nursing, and the Faculty of Public Health. The activity of all structural subdivisions is based on the unity of science, studies, and healthcare practice, on integrated interrelations, and on a solid system of management, planning, and activity. The Academy has a sufficient number of highly qualified researchers, educators, and practitioners, which allows for the implementation of high-quality bachelor, master, and doctoral studies in the field of biomedical sciences.
6. The faculty of Nursing (subsequently – the FN) was established in 1992, and currently consists of six subdivisions: the Department of Nursing and Care, the Institute of Sport, the Clinical Department of Behaviour Medicine, the Clinical Department of Geriatrics, the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation, and the Clinical Department of Paediatric Rehabilitation.
7. The mission of the FN is to provide education, training, and continuous professional development to highly qualified specialists in nursing, obstetrics, physical therapy, and occupational therapy through providing knowledge and professional skills, and through forming their system of attitudes and values, to participate in research in the fields of nursing, obstetrics, rehabilitation, gerontology, sports, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, and to participate in the formation and implementation of healthcare policy and strategy. The FN pays special attention to the promotion of international cooperation and student and teacher exchange programmes.
8. The Faculty offers four Bachelor (first-cycle) study programmes - *Nursing*, *Obstetrics*, *Physical Therapy*, and *Occupational Therapy*, and four Master (second-cycle) study programmes – *Clinical Nursing*, *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *Health Rehabilitation through Physical Exercise*, and *Art Therapy*. The graduates of the Faculty acquire high qualification allowing for employment at any healthcare institution of Lithuania.
9. The development of the system of rehabilitation is inseparable from the LSMU, and has deep roots. In order to ensure full-rate functioning of the rehabilitation system based on the teamwork of rehabilitation specialists, the LSMU was the first to start training occupational therapists in 1998 by organising specialised year-long professional studies. With the help of foreign colleagues from

¹ http://lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/74/lsmu_statutas.pdf

Linköping University, the LSMU developed the first-cycle study programme *Occupational Therapy*. In 2001, the first students entered this programme.

10. To conduct self-evaluation of the study programme *Occupational Therapy*, the LSMU Rector created a working group². All members of the working group were responsible for a specific field, and the work was conducted following a pre-specified plan (Table 1).

Table 1. The volume of the work and the responsibilities of the members of the self-evaluation group for the first-cycle study programme *Occupational Therapy*

No.	Name, surname	Function	Responsibility area
1	Daiva Petruševičienė	Head of the self-analysis group	Preparation and coordination of the final self-analysis report
2	Sigitas Mingaila	Coordinator of the self-analysis group	Preparation and analysis of study programme documents, aims and learning outcomes of programme, design of the study programme, study process and its evaluation
3	Gintarė Norkutė	member	Design of the programme Appendix No.1 (Descriptions of subjects)
4	Kristina Berškienė	member	Staff, Programme management Appendix No. 2 (Staff CV)
5	Aurelija Šileikytė	member	study process and its evaluation, Programme management
6	Jolita Rapolienė,	member	Material recourses. Appendix No. 4 (Final thesis)
7	Aistė Ciganiienė	member	Material recourses

11. The self-evaluation of the programme was conducted in accordance with the study programme self-evaluation methodology developed by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC) and in compliance with the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania: the Law on Higher Education and Research³; 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 Cycle and Integrated Study Programs”⁴; The Order of the Director of the SKVC “The Methodology for Evaluation of Study Programmes”⁵; and 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 the self-evaluation report was started on the 18th of March, 2014. Regular meetings of the group members were held to discuss the process of the development of the report. Representatives of all subdivisions participating in the *Occupational Therapy* (subsequently – OT) programme were invited to several meetings of the working group. During these meetings, the participants received a detailed presentation of the purpose and the importance of this self-evaluation, and were informed about terms and forms of document submission. In addition to that, data obtained during the self-evaluation process were discussed. The self-evaluation report was presented for discussion to the Faculty Board on 9 October, 2014 (the protocol No. SLF-14-09).

² LSMU Rector’s Order No. V-334, 13 March, 2014 “Regarding the preparation for the external assessment of studies”.

³ Official Gazette, 2009, No. 54–2140

⁴ Official Gazette, 2010, No. 44–2139 and 2010, No. 88–4676

⁵ Official Gazette, 2010, No. 156–7954

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

ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRAMME

1. AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

1.1. The aims and the objectives of the study programme

13. The aim of the study programme is to educate and train specialists who would have comprehensive knowledge in occupational therapy, the basics of research, and practical skills required for the work of an occupational therapist, for the analysis of a person's occupational performance, and for the formation of the aims and objectives of occupational therapy.

14. The objectives of the study programme are the following:

- 1) To help students acquire theoretical knowledge and to develop their personal and social skills required for an occupational therapist's activity related to the improvement, preservation, and strengthening of personal health and independence;
- 2) To form practical skills required for the professional activity of an occupational therapist;
- 3) To develop competencies allowing for working in personal healthcare, educational, community institutions, and other sectors when solving issues related to personal activity and independence.

1.2. The need, the mission, and the validity of the study programme

15. The need for the OT study programme arises from the changing Lithuanian healthcare system, when the rapidly growing level of knowledge in medical science and practice results in an increasing need for specialists in combined rehabilitation. This need is further increased by the expanding application of OT services, involving not only healthcare institutions, but also educational institutions – especially those working with children with special needs. Besides, occupational therapists are needed in the community (i.e. on the outpatient level) – especially in view of the aging population and the expansion of geriatric services.

1.2.1 Demand for professionals in the labour market

16. According to the data of the ENOTHE, the number of OT specialists in Europe has increased by over 40% since 1996, and currently in Western European countries amounts to 50-70 OT specialists per 100 000 population.

17. According to the data of the State Health Care Accreditation Agency under the Ministry of Health⁷, to date, personal stamps of healthcare specialists have been issued to 339 occupational therapists, which amounts to 11-12 OT specialists per 100 000 population.

18. Considering such demographic changes as the aging of the population, emigration, and the progress of medical science and practice, the need for OT specialists is likely to increase in the future. The professional field of OT specialists is sensitive to ever-changing socioeconomic, technological, and political-legal factors, which entail changes in this field and continuous amendments and improvements of the study programmes.

1.2.2 Validity of the aims of the programme and links to its mission

19. The LSMU Faculty of Nursing is responsible for the OT study programme, and is a member of the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (*ENOTHE*). This study programme is designed for training OT specialists who are not only capable of working in Lithuania, but can also compete in the newly opening labour market of the European Union (subsequently – EU).

20. The learning outcomes set forth in the first-cycle study programme *Occupational Therapy* provided by the Faculty of Nursing (subsequently – FN) include general and subject-based competencies acquired during the studies. The competencies and the learning outcomes of the programme have been discussed and confirmed by the Study Programme Committee (Appendix 5).

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

21. The aim, the objectives, and the learning outcomes of the OT study programme are related to the mission of the programme – i.e. to educate and train specialists capable of working individually and in a team with other rehabilitation specialists to ensure a person’s functional activity and quality of life. The general and subject-based competencies ensure the graduates’ preparation for professional activity in healthcare and educational institutions, sanatoria and rehabilitation centres, and other national or private institutions.

22. The aims of the OT study programme meet the general requirements for university studies. The graduates of the study programme work in an area that, concerning abilities and competencies, requires higher education and professional competence of an occupational therapist. The duration of the studies necessary for achieving the aims of the study programme is 4 years, including 1,000 hours of practical training in OT at various institutions. The structure and the contents of the study programme provide the learner with the general university education and the professional knowledge and abilities necessary for acquiring the professional qualification of an occupational therapist.

23. The OT study programme is introduced to future school graduates and their teachers by organising visits to secondary schools and gymnasias 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. All information about the *Occupational Therapy* study programme is available on the LSMU website⁸.

1.2.3 Periodicity of the revisions of the study outcomes, and the involvement of social stakeholders

24. The necessity of regular reviewing and updating of the expected learning outcomes is related to the changing contemporary scientific and working environment both in Lithuania and in the EU. Because of the novelty of occupational therapy in Lithuania, reviewing of the study programme is especially relevant in order to coordinate national and international requirements and expectations. The first-cycle OT study programme was introduced at the University in 2001, and in 2005 it was improved with major changes, increasing the number of subjects on occupational therapy and removing subjects that had little to do with OT. In 2013, the updated plan of the OT study programme was approved (Appendix 8).

25. 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.

26. Social partners (close corporation “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

27. The learning outcomes of the first-cycle OT study programme are compliant with the requirements set in the Description of General Requirements for Degree-Awarding First Cycle and Integrated Study

⁸ <http://lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/lsmu-studiju-programos/bakalauro-studijos/>

Programs approved by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania.⁹ 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 2011-2016. The qualifications provided by this study programme are also compliant with the National Health Care Concept of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Health Programme, and other laws and legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania^{10,11,12,13}.

28. The graduates of the OT study programme may perform the functions of an occupational therapist defined in the medical norm of an occupational therapist¹⁴, including the provision of qualified OT 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

29. The expected learning outcomes of the first-cycle OT study programme are compliant with the requirements of the minimal standard of the education and training of occupational therapists set forth by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT)¹⁵ and the requirements for occupational therapy study programmes approved in 2008 according to the guidelines of the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE), and the Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC)¹⁶, with the aim of developing, improving, and enhancing high standards of education and training of occupational therapists, and creating new study programmes.

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

30. 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*).

31. The principal aim of the first-cycle study programme *Occupational Therapy* is the development of competencies for professional activities. Occupational therapists acquire skills necessary for performing the analysis of individuals' activity, for identifying issues, advantages and shortcomings in the activity, and for preparing the action plan of occupational therapy.

32. Upon completion of the first-cycle OT 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 an occupational therapist, physical 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*. In addition to that, they may also study in Master programmes at other higher education institutions.

33. Thus, the graduates of the first-cycle OT study programme acquire a higher professional qualification and may work as teachers at other higher education institutions (subsequently – HEI) or

⁹ 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-Cycle and Integrated Study Programs" No. V-1190, 15 July, 2010

¹⁰ The 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

¹¹ Health for all in the 21st century. Health Care Ministry of the Republic Lithuania, 1999

¹² Lithuanian 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

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

¹⁴ Lithuanian medical norm MN 125:2004 "An Occupational Therapist: Rights, Responsibilities, Competency, and Liability"

¹⁵ Revised Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists, Published by World Federation of Occupational Therapists, 2002.

¹⁶ The Reference points for the Design and Delivery of Degree Programmes in Occupational Therapy (ENOTHE and COTEC 2008)

continue their education in doctoral studies at the LSMU or other Lithuanian or foreign universities.

2. THE DESIGN OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

2.1. Curriculum

2.1.1 Suitability of the volume of the studies.

34. The duration of the studies is 4 years (240 ECTS credits), and the form – full-time studies. Such duration is necessary for a successful implementation of the aims and the objectives of the programme.

35. This university-level study programme is composed of 4 parts:

- 1) general university education – 41 credits (1,018 hours);
- 2) field of studies – 145 credits (3,840 hours), of these, the graduation thesis – 15 credits (400 hours);
- 3) practical training – 39 credits (1,040 hours), and
- 4) optional subjects – 15 credits (400 hours).

36. The study programme consists of 8 semesters; the volume of the studies in each semester is 30 ECTS credits. The volume of:

- the first year of the OT study programme is 1,120 contact hours/60 credits,
- the second year – 1,104 contact hours/60 credits,
- the third year – 1,008 contact hours/60 credits, and
- the fourth year – 1,136 contact hours/60 credits.

37. In total, the volume of the studies in this programme is 6,392 hours/240 ECTS credits, of which 4,368 hours are contact hours, and 2,024 hours are allocated to students' independent work.

38. The volumes of theoretical and practical classes are compliant with the requirements presented by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania in the “Description of General Requirements for Degree-Awarding First Cycle and Integrated Study Programs”¹⁷. A detailed composition of the study programme is presented in the plan of the study programme, in Table 2 (p. 12).

2.1.2 Consistency of the study subjects

39. The consistency of the teaching of the subjects in the OT study programme is based on the logical links between the contents of the study subjects and their sequence. The consistency of the study subjects and their associations allow for acquiring the required knowledge and abilities, and create optimal conditions for appropriate understanding of the subjects taught and the effective perception of their essence.

40. The study subjects within semesters are arranged from general subjects to speciality subjects, moving from simpler to more complex subjects. In the first semesters, general university subjects and basic subjects in the study field predominate. During the second year of studies, general (fundamental) subjects of the study field as well as additional subjects predominate; during the third year, most subjects are on occupational therapy, and during the fourth year of studies in addition to studying occupational therapy subjects, the students undergo long-term professional practical training, and write their graduation thesis. During each term of the second and the third years, the students have optional subjects that allow for a purpose-oriented formation of students' knowledge and abilities for a greater specificity of education. The practical training in OT begins from the first year of studies; during the first three years, students undergo practical training in the spring semester, and during the last year – both in the autumn and in the spring semesters.

41. During the first year of the studies, students obtain basic knowledge and skills by studying general university education subjects (Introduction to Studies, Professional Language, Fundamentals of Educology, Philosophy, Ethics, and Sociology), by studying fundamental subjects in the study field

¹⁷ 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-Cycle and Integrated Study Programs” No. V-1190, 15 July, 2010

(Cytology, Genetics, First Aid, Fundamentals of Health Care and Nursing, and Anatomy), and by studying speciality subjects in occupational therapy (Theory and Models of Occupational Therapy I).

42. During the second year of the studies, besides general university subjects such as Psychology or Professional Language, most subjects are fundamental subjects in the study field, including Physiology, Biomechanics, Rehabilitation, Communication, Kinesiology, and Pathology. During the second year of studies, specialty subjects in OT include Teaching Methods in Occupational Therapy and practical training II. In addition to that, during the second year of studies, the students may choose three optional subjects.

43. During the third and the fourth years of studies, subjects from the speciality (OT) education group predominate. These subjects include Ergonomics and Human Occupation, Occupational Therapy in Physical Dysfunction I and II, Occupational Therapy in the Elderly and in Old Age, and practical training III. The group of the basic subjects in the study field includes Fundamentals of Physical Therapy and Psychosocial Rehabilitation in the Community. There is also one general university education subject - Social Medicine and Health Care Management. There is one optional subject in each semester of the third year of studies.

44. During the fourth year, students have one general university education subject - Informatics and Methodology of Scientific Research. There are also two speciality subjects in OT – the module Activity Problems and Occupational Therapy for Patients with Mental Disorders, and Occupational Therapy for Children with Health Disorders, and practical training IV and V. During the fourth year of studies, the students prepare and defend their graduation (Bachelor's) thesis.

45. 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.

46. The optional subjects are taught in the second and the third years of the study programme, which creates preconditions for a purposeful complementation and extension of the students' professional knowledge. The optional subjects are presented in the LSMU information system of studies (SIS). The students select the subjects according to the order set forth in the LSMU Regulation of Studies.¹⁸

2.2 Contents of the studies

2.2.1 Compliance of the contents of the studies with legal acts

47. The OT study programme has been prepared in compliance with strategic documents:

- the National Health Care Concept of Lithuania¹⁹,
- the Lithuanian Health Programme²⁰,
- the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania²¹,
- the Medical norm MN 12:1996 on the activity of rehabilitation institutions (subdivisions), the Lithuanian medical norm MN 125:2004 “An Occupational Therapist: Rights, Responsibilities, Competency, and Liability”,
- the LSMU Statute²²;
- 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-Cycle and Integrated Study Programs”²³.

¹⁸ The 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

¹⁹ The 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.

²⁰ Lithuanian Health Programme. Adopted by the resolution of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, No. VIII-833, 2 July, 1998.

²¹ The Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania. No. XI-242, 30 April, 2009

²² Statute 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).

²³ 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-cycle and Integrated Study Programs” No. V-501, 9 April, 2010.

2.2.2 Exhaustiveness great attentiveness to detail“. Galima pakeisti į „exhaustiveness“)and rationality

48. The first-cycle OT study programme has 7 learning outcomes of general and 28 - of speciality competency, which were prepared in compliance with the recommendations of the ENOTHE and the COTEC. Adherence to these recommendations allows for educating occupational therapists when taking into account the trends of contemporary occupational therapy.

49. The learning outcomes of this study programme are achieved by studying 34 compulsory subjects. The number of the learning outcomes of the study programme depends on the volume of the subject and ranges between 1 and 7. It is noteworthy that the learning outcomes of a subject (see descriptions of the study subjects, Appendix 1) most frequently are much narrower and reflect specific knowledge and skills.

50. The analysis of which learning outcomes are targeted most frequently shows that the learning outcome 5.3. (*Being able to integrate and use relevant knowledge from biological, medical, humanitarian, psychological, social, technological and occupational therapy sciences*) is indicated in as many as 10 subjects, which is related to the fact that the study programme contains numerous fundamental subjects of the study field, providing knowledge necessary for understanding the nature of human activity and the health-determining factors. The learning outcome 2.1. (*Being capable of abstract thinking, analysis and synthesis of information, of performing research at an appropriate level, and being able to search for, process and analyse information from a variety of sources*) is indicated in 9 subjects, which is related to the fact that modern studies are impossible without a survey of the most recent scientific research – and therefore it is important not only to be able to internalise the provided knowledge, but also to make decisions based on critical analysis. The learning outcome 5.2. (*Being able to explain the relationship between occupational performance, health and well-being*) is indicated in 7 subjects, and may be seen as the essential basis of OT that is indispensable in the work of an occupational therapist. More detailed information is provided in Table 3 (p. 14).

51. The contents of the study programme and the contents of individual subjects are oriented towards the learning outcomes of the study programme. The studied subjects are comprehensive and mutually complementary, thus ensuring a complex availability of the learning outcomes.

52. The methods of knowledge conveyance and ability formation depend on the specificity of individual study subjects. The implementation of various teaching techniques is encouraged to achieve the learning outcomes of the study programme. Innovative teaching methods are being gradually introduced into the study programme – e.g. the teaching of the subject “Activity Problems and Occupational Therapy for Patients with Mental Disorders” is based on problem-based learning. The methods of the studies are presented in the descriptions of the subject modules (Appendix 1).

2.2.3 Requirements for students’ graduation theses

53. The graduation (Bachelor’s) theses of the first-cycle OT study programme are prepared in compliance with the Regulation for the Preparation and Defence of Graduation Theses at LSMU MA Faculty of Nursing Bachelor Study Programmes²⁴. The graduation thesis is prepared during the 7th – the 8th semester; several students may prepare a single thesis as well.

54. 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.

²⁴ Regulation for the Preparation and Defence of Graduation Theses at LSMU MA Faculty of Nursing Bachelor Study Programmes, approved by the Council of the Faculty of Nursing on 20 June, 2012, protocol No. SF-12-09

Table 2. First-cycle study programme *Occupational Therapy* STUDY PLAN for the academic year 2013/2014

Subject	Scope of studies per semester																								Total		Responsible teacher								
	I				II				III				IV				V				VI							VII				VIII			
	L	P	S	Credits	L	P	S	Credits	L	P	S	Credits	L	P	S	Credits	L	P	S	Credits	L	P	S	Credits				L	P	S	Credits	L	P	S	Credits
	h	h	h		h	h	h		h	h	h		h	h	h		h	h	h		h	h	h					h	h	h		h	h	h	
I. General University Subjects (41 ECTS credits)																																			
Introduction to studies	16	44	20	3																													80	3	E.Butrimė
Professional language	0	60	20	3	0	60	20	3	0	60	20	3	0	60	20	3																	320	12	V.Kraujalienė B.Briaukienė
Fundamentals of Educology	16	44	20	3																													80	3	V.Šveikauskas
Philosophy, Ethics					48	72	40	6																									160	6	G.Urbonas
Sociology					26	34	20	3																									80	3	J.Kuznecovienė
Psychology									14	46	20																						80	3	G.Širvinskienė
Social medicine and health care management																	22	98	40														160	6	A.Kriaučeliūnas
Informatics and methodology of scientific research																					20	80	38										138	5	K.Jurėnienė
II. Study Field Subjects (145 ECTS credits)																																			
Cytology, genetics	30	60	44	5																													134	5	L. Šalomskienė
First aid	12	78	30	5																													120	5	E.Krikščionaitienė
Theory and Models of Occupational Therapy	10	86	64	6	30	114	96	9																									400	15	S.Mingaila
Fundamentals of Health Care and Nursing	20	80	34																														134	5	L.Spirgienė
Anatomy					36	84	40	6																									160	6	G.Skripkienė
Physiology									40	80	40	6																					160	6	V.Giedrimas
Biomechanics									20	76	64	6																					160	6	J.Rapolienė
Rehabilitation									30	66	64	6																					160	6	L.Servaitė
Teaching methods in occupational therapy									10	38	32	3																					80	3	I.Jarmalavičiūtė
Communication													20	40	20	3																	80	3	V.Grigaliūnienė
Kinesiology													34	84	40	6																	160	6	V.Mauricienė
Pathology													42	78	40	6																	160	6	V.Jurkštienė
Ergonomics and																	27	69	64	6													160	6	S.Mingaila

Table 3. First-cycle study programme *OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY*. Links between learning outcomes and the subjects taught

No.	Code of Subject	Subject	First-cycle study programme <i>Occupational therapy</i> learning outcomes																																
			Main learning outcomes																																
			General														Speciality																		
			1. Professional communication		2. Scientific analysis		3. Professional experience		4. The development of personality		5. Knowledge of Occupational Therapy				6. Occupational Therapy Process and Professional Reasoning				7. Professional Relationships and Partnerships				8. Professional Autonomy and Accountability				9. Research and Development in Occupational Therapy/Science				10. Management and Promotion of Occupational Therapy				
1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	
1.	MF/KEK/ER-P35	Introduction to studies			+																														
2.	VSF/SPK/ER-P01	Fundamentals of Educology				+			+																										
3.	MF/KEK/ER-P36	Professional language	+																																
4.	GTF/BIO/ER-P06	Cytology, genetics													+																				
5.	MF/EMK/ER-P01	First aid	+				+																												
6.	SLF/RE/ER-P151	Theory and Models of Occupational Therapy									+		+				+																		
7.	SLF/SLK/ER-P12	Fundamentals of Health Care and Nursing					+																												
8.	VSF/FES/ER-P21	Philosophy, Ethics				+																													
9.	VSF/FES/ER-P22	Sociology		+		+																													
10.	MF/ANI/ER-P09	Anatomy																																	
11.	SLF/RE/ER-P102	Practice I																																	
12.	VSF/SPK/ER-P02	Psychology																																	
13.	MF/FIK/ER-P06	Physiology				+																													
14.	SLF/RE/ER-P143	Biomechanics																																	
15.	SLF/RE/ER-P142	Rehabilitation																																	
16.	SLF/RE/ER-P149	Teaching methods in																																	

55. The graduation thesis may be defended by a student who has completed the whole study programme and is allowed by Rector's order for public defence. The graduation thesis should reveal the student's ability to apply the knowledge acquired during his or her studies, to select scientific literature and use it (present, analyse, etc.), to apply research methods, to tackle the set tasks independently, to present conclusions and recommendations, and to describe the work in a concise and orderly manner, and in correct language.

56. The student prepares the graduation thesis independently, consulting the scientific supervisor. The preparation of the graduation theses is supervised by the LSMU MA FN qualification committee for graduation theses in first-cycle studies in the rehabilitation study field; the Committee is appointed by the order of the Rector. Students defend their graduation theses at the graduation theses defence committee formed by the Rector of the LSMU.

3. TEACHING STAFF

3.1. Composition and changes of the staff

57. Over the last five years, 89 teachers have been teaching the subjects of the OT study programme or have been scientific advisors of graduation theses. One-half of them (50%) hold doctor's academic degree (PhD). In total, subjects of this study programme have been taught by 6 professors (6.7%), 16 associate professors (18.0%), 26 lecturers (29.2%), and 41 assistant teachers (46.1%).

58. During the academic year of 2013/2014, 84 teachers were teaching students over all four years of studies; of these, 51.2% had doctor's academic degree, 7 were professors (8.3%), 15 (17.9%) - associate professors, 26 (31%) – lecturers, and 36 (42.8%) – assistant teachers. The fields of activity of all teachers in this field of studies completely correspond to the subjects they teach (Appendix 3).

59. Teachers are accepted to work in compliance with the requirements of the legal acts: the Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania²⁵, the order of the organisation of acceptance competitions and performance evaluation of the LSMU teaching and research personnel^{26,27,28}, and the principles of the selection and evaluation of the LSMU personnel²⁹. The teachers' pedagogical, scientific, and practical experience is assessed during the performance evaluation procedure organised every five years.

60. 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 Lithuania³⁰ and the resolution of the LSMU Senate³¹ (not more than 30 working hours per week). Contact working hours compose not more than 30% of the students' total workload. 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

²⁵ Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania / Official Gazette, 2002, No. 64-2569; Official Gazette, 2002, No. 71.

²⁶ Teaching 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.

²⁷ Procedure 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).

²⁸ Order 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

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

³⁰ Order 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

³¹ "Regarding the Duration of the LSMU Teachers' Working Week", resolution of the LSMU Senate No. 2-08, 29 February, 2010.

effectively ensures high qualification of the academic staff and its compliance with formal requirements.

61. The LSMU *Occupational Therapy* study programme 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.

62. Teacher turnover is low in this study programme, and its main reasons are natural turnover (due to maternity leaves) and changes in optional subjects. In such cases, teaching of the subjects is transferred to teachers with suitable pedagogical, scientific, and practical experience. Teacher turnover has no effect on the study programme.

63. The personnel working in the OT study programme consists of competent employees of differing age and experience. Over the period of five years, the structure of the academic staff by age groups has been the following: 31 (34.8%) of the teachers have been younger than 40 years of age, 28 (31.5%) – between 40 and 50 years of age, and 30 (33.7%) – older than 50 years of age. The teachers' mean age has been 46.4 years, the youngest being 26 years old, and the oldest – 69 years of age. The mean age of the teachers who taught during the academic year of 2013/2014 was similar - 45.4 years; 35.7% of the teachers were younger than 40 years of age, and 26% - older than 50 years of age. This ensures the dissemination of good experience during the study process, the improvement of the contents of the study programme, and the application of more variable and modern teaching techniques.

64. The list of the teachers who taught in the OT study programme during the academic year of 2013/2014, and information about their qualification, experience, and subjects taught is provided in Appendix 3.

3.2. Descriptions of teachers' activities.

65. The majority of the teachers of the study programme are well-experienced: 65.9% of the teachers have 10 or more years of pedagogical experience, 60.2% of the teachers have 10 or more years of research experience, and 62.5% of the teachers - 10 or more years of professional experience. During the academic year of 2013/2014, the mean duration of the teachers' pedagogical experience was 13.4 years, the mean duration of pedagogical experience – 13.5 years, and the mean duration of professional experience – 16.9 years.

66. 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.

67. Teachers involved in the development of the students' practical skills have sufficient experience in practical work. Subjects in the field of OT are taught by teachers who have the professional qualification of occupational therapists and work as occupational 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. The description of the teachers' activity is presented in Appendix 2.

3.3. Teachers' participation in applied scientific research, projects, and scientific activity directly related to the analysed programme

68. The teachers of the study programme participate in various national and international projects, are members of editorial boards or reviewers in national and international scientific journals,

publish their articles in scientific, educational, and other journals, and are authors and co-authors of textbooks and teaching books. The teachers of the study programme actively publish the results of their research in Lithuanian and foreign scientific journals, present them at national and international conferences. They also actively organise (alone or in cooperation with foreign partners) scientific or scientific-practical conferences, seminars, and discussions.

69. The teachers of the study programme improve their qualification at state (the conference of the Lithuanian Association of Rehabilitologists “*The Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Techniques and Measures*”- in 2009, 2011, and in 2013) and international scientific conferences (in 2012, two teachers participated in the COTEC, and 1 teacher – in the ENOTHE conference), practical seminars, and in qualification improvement seminars organised by the LSMU Centre for Teachers’ Educational Competence (subsequently – CTEC) and by foreign experts (Appendix 2).

3.4. Teacher-student ratio

70. Over the last five years, the mean teacher-student (1st- through 4th-year) ratio was 89:46 (during the academic year of 2013/2014 - 84:48, respectively). 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, and their pedagogical load in the OT study programme is relatively small. The standard group size in the OT study programme is 14 students. The OT study programme ensures the compliance of the teacher-student ratio in various forms of classes with the Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania.³²

71. 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.

3.5. Academic exchange of the teaching staff of the study programme

72. The LSMU has signed agreement on student and teacher exchange. A number of our teachers have presented our University at various foreign universities, have delivered lectures, and have discussed the possibilities and prospects of cooperation and joint projects. The information about the visits of the teachers of the subjects in this field of studies at foreign universities is presented in Table 4.

73. Teachers of other higher education institutions (HEI) have also visited our University and delivered lectures to teachers and students. Over the last five years, foreign teachers who participated in the OT study programme were representatives of Limburgo PXL University College (Hasselt, Belgium), the Tomas More Kempen University College (Geel, Belgium), and the University College of Northern Denmark (Aalborg, Denmark).

74. 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.

³² Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania, No. IX-926, approved on 4 June 2002.

Table 4. The number of teachers of subjects in the study field who are away for academic work

Academic year	Total number of visits	Country, institution	Number of outgoing teachers
2013-2014	8	Spain, University of Barcelona	2
		Kazakhstan, „Republican centre of children rehabilitation “	2
		Germany, Flensburg University of Applied Sciences	2
		Germany, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz	2
2012-2013	11	Nederland, Windesheim University of Applied Sciences	1
		Spain, University of Barcelona	2
		Germany, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz	2
		Macedonia, The Saints Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje	1
		Norway, Bergen University College	3
		Belgium, Tomas More Kempen University College	1
2011-2012	14	Finland, Turku university of Applied Sciences	2
		Norway, Buskerud University College	2
		Spain, University of Barcelona	4
		Germany, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz	2
		Sweden, Malardalens University College	1
		Turkey, Acibadem University	2
		Belgium, Limburg PXL University College	1
2010-2011	10	United Kingdom, Dundee University	1
		Spain, University of Barcelona	2
		Germany, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz	2
		Belgium, Limburg PXL University College	3
		Denmark, University College of Northern Denmark	1
		Finland, Turku university of Applied Sciences	1

3.6. Possibilities for the professional improvement of the staff

75. The LSMU has created favourable conditions for the professional improvement of the staff. To develop educational competence, the Centre of Teachers' Educational Competence (CTEC) 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 Competence³³. 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 CTEC provides information about the courses, the topics, and the schedule of the classes in the LSMU website and the weekly “Ave Vita”. The CTEC receives finances for the development of teachers' educational competence from the LSMU budget.

76. 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

³³ Order of the Assurance of Teachers' Educational Competence. Approved by the LSMU Senate on 21 January, 2011, resolution No. 5-07.

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. FACILITIES AND LEARNING RESOURCES

4.1. Facilities used for the needs of the teaching programme, and the number of working places there

77. The distribution of the general infrastructure of the University for the implementation of the study programme is the responsibility of the LSMU Study Centre whose aim is an effective use of the available auditoriums and seminar classes at the University. The Centre also coordinates the study process and confirms the time and the place of the lectures. The number of the auditoriums available at the subdivisions of the study programme is sufficient for a smooth organisation of the study process.

78. Compulsory subjects in the OT study programme are taught by various subdivisions – the Department of Languages and Education, the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Department of Disaster Medicine, the Institute of Biology Systems and Genetics, the Department of Nursing and Care, the Department of Anatomy, the Department of Health Psychology, the Institute of Physiology and Pharmacology, the Institute of Sport, the Department of Physics, Mathematics and Biophysics, the Clinical Department of Geriatrics, and (the largest number of subjects) the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation.

79. At the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation, subjects are taught in 3 auditoriums holding 15 places each, and one of them is adapted for training preclinical skills in occupational therapy (imitation of a kitchen, technical equipment, a couch, etc.). Because the group size in the OT study programme does not exceed 14 students, these auditoriums are sufficient for the study process. They are equipped with computers, multimedia projectors, and screens for the demonstration of video material.

80. Lectures at the Institute of Sport (at M. Jankaus str. 2) are delivered in one auditorium holding 50 places, which is also equipped with a computer, a multimedia projector, and a screen for the demonstration of video material.

81. At the Clinical Department of Geriatrics (at Josvainių str. 2), one auditorium is used for the study process. The auditorium has places for 40 people, and there also are 3 seminar rooms for one academic group.

82. The Department of Social Sciences and Humanities uses premises located at Šiaurės ave. and in the building of the Faculty of Pharmacy. Other subdivisions teaching in the OT study programme provide their lectures and practical classes in auditoriums located at the former Vydūnas comprehensive school of Kaunas city, the Clinical Department of Pathological Anatomy, the Clinical Department of Endocrinology, M. Jankus auditorium, the auditorium of the student hostel of the Veterinary Academy (subsequently – VA), and in VA auditorium No. 4. Such significant dispersal of premises is due to the currently ongoing reconstruction of the LSMU Central Building (at A. Mickevičiaus str. 9) and the Teaching Laboratory Building (TLB).

83. The reconstruction of the TLB will increase the size of the rooms for teachers and students, including rooms for seminars and for preclinical skill training (Appendix No. 6). The Faculty of Nursing is going to be located on one floor.

84. Also, the project of a new separate building entirely for the Faculty of Nursing is in preparation, and some construction work has already started. The implementation of this project will ensure modern working conditions for the teachers, and excellent studying conditions – for the students, and will help to avoid unnecessary commuting between different teaching bases located in different parts of the city (Appendix No. 7).

85. All the university-shared auditoriums are supplied with the equipment necessary for high-quality delivery of the lectures. Each year, new teaching aids, textbooks, etc. are procured.
86. Lectures, seminars, and practical classes are organised for a single group of students. These classes take place in the Central Building of the University, in the Teaching Laboratory Building and in auditoriums and training rooms assigned to the subdivisions of the Faculty of Nursing located at the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation and the Institute of Sport. All the premises used for the studies meet working safety and hygiene requirements. The auditoriums are supplied with sufficient numbers of desks or chairs with folding desks, screens, multimedia projectors, and PCs.
87. The software installed in computers located in the LSMU auditoriums, the LSMU library, and the IT centre includes MS Office, SPSS, Statistica, and Epi Info 2000. Virus protection is ensured by the ESET NOD32 AntiVirus software, and thus all computers have a safe access to the Internet.
88. During their practical training and their research activities, students use the equipment of the University subdivisions (including the University Hospital) for the assessment of patients' functional status and the effectiveness of occupational therapy measures.
89. Research centres and institutes of the LSMU provide the students access to the available equipment when preparing their Bachelor's theses or when performing other types of research. Students may also use the cutting-edge base for studies, research and practice and the diagnostic equipment of the LSMU Hospital Kauno klinikos, and may receive consultations from highest-level researchers and specialists in various fields concerning the planning and the performance of scientific research.

4.2. The practical training base of the University

90. The organisation of practical training is in compliance with the Order of the practical training for the students of the LSMU MA Faculty of Nursing, approved by the Council of the Faculty of Nursing.³⁴
91. Students of the first-cycle OT study programme have five clinical training courses, which are the responsibility of the Clinical Department of Rehabilitation. The head of the practical training gives the students a list of healthcare and other institutions with whom the University has made contracts; if a student does not find an institution to his or her liking to undergo practical training, he or she may undergo the training in an institutions of his or her choice upon making a tripartite agreement and in the presence if the required conditions (the clinical instructor should have an appropriate qualification and at least 3 years of experience, and the character of the selected institution should meet the intended aims of practical training).
92. Students should undergo each practical training course at a different institution in order to develop comprehensive practical skills. Students undergo their practical training at the HLSMU KK Division of Neurological Rehabilitation at the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Vilijampolė Social Sheltered Accommodation, and in HLSMU KK subdivisions such as Viršūžiglis Rehabilitation Hospital and Paediatric Rehabilitation Hospital "Lopšelis".
93. To help with the planning of the professional career, the Centre organises additional voluntary practical work. Over the period of 2013-2014, 4 students of the OT study programme participated in voluntary practical work. The additional practical work was organised during the summer, and its duration ranged from 100 to 216 working hours.

The supervisor of additional practical training is a person assigned by an enterprise, an agency, or an organisation in the Republic of Lithuania where additional practical student training is organised;

³⁴Order of the practical training for the students of the LSMU MA Faculty of Nursing. Approved by the Council of the Faculty of Nursing on 9 October, 2013-10-09, protocol No. SLF-13-10.
<http://lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4102/studentupraktikuvykdymotvarka.pdf>

the supervisor provides consultations to the student on questions related to additional practical training, and has a minimum of 3 years of working experience.³⁵

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

94. The LSMU Library and Health Sciences Information Centre meet the highest requirements set for libraries. 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 17.00. The Library has 4 reading rooms with 332 workplaces, of which 56 are computerised; it also has 3 reading rooms for group learning, a multimedia room with 8 workplaces, a computer training room with 12 workplaces, and rooms for seminars and conferences. The students and the academic staff may receive training in the use of search engines. The computer hardware and software is modern and legal. Wireless Internet is also available at the library, and thus the visitors may connect to the Internet from their own computers.

95. The system for the borrowing and returning of books and other sources of information is fully computerised and automated. There is a sufficient number of textbooks and specialised literature for the studies of the basics of biomedical sciences for students of all the study programs of the LSMU.

96. All students may use computer classes in the University Library with 142 places with Internet access and the possibility to use such subscribed electronic databases as MEDLINE, PUBMED, EBSCO, Up To Date, BMJ Journals, MD Consult, RefWorks etc. (in total, 29). Students and teachers may access the above-mentioned databases from computers at the University and the HLSMU KK. The subscription to these databases also provides access to scientific journals in occupational therapy, including Rehabilitation Science: Nursing, Physical therapy, Occupational Therapy; Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy; American Journal of Occupational Therapy.

97. Since June 2012, the *FirstClass* intranet system has been implemented at the LSMU; the system is used for information sharing and communication between the staff, the teachers, and the students. The advantages of this software are the following: when using this system, students from the same group, stream, or the year of studies do not have to create separate e-mail addresses because the system automatically connects students of the same group, stream, or the year of studies into a single large group where they can share relevant information; teachers do not have to fear information leaks when uploading the material of their classes into the *FirstClass* system, and students may use this information for independent learning. The *FirstClass* system also offers more possibilities such as audio records, an easy search for teachers and peers, and interactive calendar (allowing for an expeditious time management), and real-time chats.

98. According to the investment project “Creation of the Practical Training Centre of Public Health, Nursing and Rehabilitation” No. VP1-2.2-ŠMM-07-K-01-066, a simulation internet classroom was equipped where students may learn to analyse personal activity in the virtual environment when simulating practical situations. The software of the simulation classroom allows for a virtual evaluation of a patient’s condition using the selected criteria and classifications such as the WHO International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), and various tests used in rehabilitation and nursing (e.g. the Barthel index, the Functional Independence Measure, etc.).

5. STUDY PROCESS AND ITS EVALUATION

5.1. Student selection

99. 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

³⁵ Additional volunteer practical work at the LSMU. <http://karjera.lsmuni.lt/praktikos-blog>

(HEI) of Lithuania³⁶ and Rules of Admission to the LSMU³⁷, which are approved by the Senate on a yearly basis.

100. 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 2015³⁸.

101. 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 OT study programme is competing against other highly prestigious specialities (Medicine, Odontology, and pharmacy). The data on student admission are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Characteristics of applicants to the *Occupational Therapy* study programme

No.	Characteristics	2014	2013	2012	2011
1	The intention was to take to the study program /admitted	13/14	15/16	13/14	14/16
2	Admitted to study state-funded places/non-funded places	0/13	0/15	1/13	1/14
3	Number of Students' by choice to study programme by all priority	217	324	390	375
4	Maximal competitive score	7.02*	17.28	19.64	19.32
5	Minimal competitive score	3.76*	13.74	13.78	6.60
6	Average of competitive score of admittance	4.85*	15.42	15.29	13.57

* - changing of competitive score calculation

102. Regular student admission rates to the *Occupational Therapy* study programme indicate that the profession of an occupational therapist is becoming well-established in Lithuania, and students have sufficient motivation for studying in this study programme.

5.2. Student dropout

103. The motivation of the students admitted to the OT study programme to seek good results is indicated by low student dropout rates (4 students). The most common causes of dropouts over the last year were students' requests to terminate their studies (2 students); also, one student moved to the *Medicine* study programme, and one student dropped out from the student list because of academic under-achievement.

5.3. The study process

104. 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.

105. 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 Studies³⁹ could not write control tests or pass examinations on time are allowed to eliminate their academic debts.

106. 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.

³⁶ <http://www.lamabpo.lt/>

³⁷ Rules of Admission to the LSMU. <http://lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/priemimo-taisykles/>

³⁸ Order of the calculation of the competition score in 2015. <http://lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/konkursiniai-balai/2015-m-konkursinio-balo-skaiciavimo-tvarka.html>

³⁹ The 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

5.4. Student participation in the academic mobility programmes

107. Individuals who study in State-funded places of the LSMU study programmes may change the study programmes according to the order set by the resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 7 October, 2009, No. 1266 “On the Approval of the Description of Changing the Study Programme by an Individual Studying in a State-Funded Place”. During the academic year of 2010/2014, one student of the OT study programme migrated to the *Medicine* study programme. Over the analysed period, there were no students who migrated into the OT study programme. In case of serious circumstances, students have the possibility to suspend their studies temporarily, and students who cannot continue their studies due to disease, pregnancy or child care and provide documents proving that, are given an academic leave.

108. Students in the OT study programme may leave for studies and practice to Belgium and Norway in the ERASMUS exchange programme. In 2011, two students went to Bergen University College in Norway for 3 month-long studies.

109. In 2012, one student went to Bergen University College in Norway for 3 month-long studies.

110. In 2013, two students went to Bergen University College in Norway for 3 month-long studies, and two students – to Thomas More Kempen College in Belgium for 3 month-long practical training.

111. In 2012, two students from Thomas More Kempen College in Belgium arrived in Lithuania for 3 month-long practical training.

5.5. Support to students

5.5.1. Academic support

112. Upon entering the LSMU, students are introduced to the tutor of the studies, the coordinator of the study programme, the committee of the study programme, and other people responsible for the administration of the studies. The studies begin with the subject “Introduction to Studies”, where first-year students are familiarised with the peculiarities of university studies and the specificity, the aims, and the outcomes of the study programme, as well as with the evaluation of the achievements. The information about the subjects and the schedules is presented in the LSMU website. A lot of useful information is also presented in the website of the LSMU Student Council - www.lsmusa.lt.

113. Continuous support system is ensured throughout the duration of the studies. At the beginning of each studied subject, the students are always familiarised with the aims and the expected outcomes of the subject, the schedule, and the study literature. Personal consultations are organised in departments.

114. The Occupational Therapy Scientific Group of the LSMU Student Research Society started its activity in the autumn of 2010. The principal aims of the circle include pursuing scientific research activity in the field of occupational therapy, developing knowledge and practical skills in the field of occupational therapy, uniting students interested in the field of occupational therapy (because all LSMU students of any year of study can participate in the activity of the Scientific Group), and contributing to the creation and fostering of traditions at the LSMU. The Occupational Therapy Scientific Group is active – it organises various activities, with disabled people at Kaunas Disabled Youth Day Centre, and commemorates such dates as the International Day of People with Disability and the Occupational Therapy Day. The Scientific Group also organises meetings with students who returned from student exchange, presentations of the results of scientific research, meetings with occupational therapy students of other higher education institutions, and seminars.

5.5.2. Social support

115. The order of the distribution of student scholarships and support is regulated by the documents approved by the LSMU Senate. Students may receive social grants that are awarded and

administered by the State Studies Foundation⁴⁰. The LSMU Scholarship Commission may decide to award merit-based scholarships from a fund consisting of finances of the state budget, or from funds designated for student motivation, which are obtained from the state budget for studies used for covering the prices of studies in State-funded places, and from study fees. The merit-based scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrated the best academic achievements.⁴¹ Also, a single merit-based scholarship may be awarded once per semester to students with good academic achievements in cases of distress or in special cases. In total, 93% of the scholarship funds are allocated for merit-based scholarships; 4.5% of the scholarship funds are allocated for single-time merit-based scholarships, and 2.5% - for reserve funds.

116. A memorial scholarship may be awarded for active participation in student activity or because the student requires support (to students who have lost parents or foster-parents, who have parents with disability, or are from large families) in Table 6. 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.

117. 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.

118. 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 number of students of the OT study programme who have lived in the LSMU student hostels and have received scholarships is provided in Table 6.

Table 6. Students of the Occupational Therapy programme who lived in student hostels and received support

Course (2013-2014)	Lived in Hostels	Scholarship	Other support
I	4	2	0
II	5	2	1
III	4	2	3
IV	2	2	2
Total:	15	8	6

5.6. Evaluation of achievements

119. The evaluation of the students' achievements is directly associated with the results of the study programme, and the principles of the evaluation are defined in the LSMU Regulation of Studies, the Order of the Evaluation of the LSMU Students' Achievements, and in the descriptions of each subject. The requirements for the composition of the evaluation score are defined in the documents of the LSMU Senate and are provided in detail in the descriptions of each subject. Students' achievements are evaluated by applying the cumulative score system. This system allows for evaluating students' achievements during the study process, which motivates students to seek better results. Students are directly informed about the results of the evaluation of their achievements,

⁴⁰ According to the resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania "Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Provision and Administration of Social Grants to Students of Higher Education Institutions", No. 1801 (Official Gazette, 2009-12-31, No. 158-7187)

⁴¹ By the resolution of the LSMU Senate No. 11-04, 28 June, 2011.

which can be checked in the Internet database after entering one's ID and password. Twice yearly, the Dean of the Faculty presents the evaluation results at the LSMU Rectorate and the Council of the Faculty of Nursing. The results are also analysed at the Study Programme Committee, and are discussed with teachers of the subdivisions participating in the teaching of the programme as well as with the students.

120. Feedback between students and teachers is ensured during regular meetings with the teachers of the study programme, with the Committee of the study programme, and with the Faculty administration. During these meetings, students express their wishes, expectations, and problems. The Committee of the study programme makes every effort to hear the students' remarks and suggestions, and, depending on the possibilities, tries to adjust the study programme and its organisation.

121. **Ensuring honest studying.** During the examinations, students are supervised by teachers responsible for the subject and/or module, as well by the members of the LSMU Student Council. Since January 1, 2014, when the new LSMU Regulation came into power, students have to sign a document before each colloquium or examination, where they promise not to cheat. Students who are caught cheating are expelled from the University. Over the last five years, no such cases have been registered in the OT study programme.

122. **Students' possibilities to choose subjects and 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 - ismunis.lsmuni.lt.

123. The FN Council 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 meeting.⁴² 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.

5.7. The programme graduates' professional activity and employment possibilities

124. To improve the employment possibilities for the graduates, a Career Centre has been established at the LSMU. The aim of this Centre is to help the students plan their professional career, to assist with high-quality and useful practical training, to help students find places for practical training, and to find employment according to their speciality; the Centre also organises seminars, classes and lectures, and provides consultations on questions related to career and employment.

125. According to the data of the Lithuanian Labour Exchange, during January-August of 2014, 4 graduates of the OT study programme who had completed their studies not later than one year before were registered at labour exchange; one graduate was employed during that period. The graduates receive their diplomas only in June, thus registration at the Labour Exchange is always observed during July-August.

126. The Career Centre organised an inquiry, where 6 graduates of the OT study programme who completed their studies in 2012-2013 took part. The results of the inquiry showed that 33% (N=2) of the OT graduates who participated in the inquiry were working, and 67% (N=4) were working and continuing their studies at the same time. The results of the inquiry also showed that 33% of the respondents were either working in the field of their speciality, or their work was associated with their speciality. None of the OT specialists who worked in the field of their acquired speciality had

⁴² Regulation 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

to study additionally to be successful at their work; all graduates evaluated their theoretical and practical knowledge from 8 to 10 points.

127. The employment possibilities for the graduates of the OT study programme are various. The majority of the graduates find a job within 1-6 months after the completion of their studies. Of all the graduates (2012-2013) of the OT study programme, 50% (N=3) were working in Kaunas city, 17% (N=1) – in the district, and 33% (N=2) – abroad (in Norway (N=1) and Great Britain (N=1)). The inquiry also showed that 17% of the respondents were working in the public sector, and 83% - in the private sector. Given the second possibility to study, 25% of the respondents stated that they would choose the same speciality.

6. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

6.1. The structure of programme management and decision-making

128. The management of the OT study programme is carried out according to the principle of vertical subordination:

- 1) The national level, where the management is based on the laws, orders or regulations passed by the Parliament (the Seimas) of the Republic of Lithuania or the Minister of Education and Science, adjusted according to the EU legal acts.
- 2) The University level – the LSMU Senate and the Rector make resolutions in compliance with the laws passed by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, and the orders of the Minister of Education and Science. The composition of the Study Programme Committee is also approved at the University level (by the LSMU Rector).
- 3) At the Faculty level, the Administration and the Council of the Faculty of Nursing participate in the management of the OT study programme. The head of the Administration of the Faculty of Nursing (FN) is the Dean who is responsible for carrying out the resolutions and the orders of the Rector and the Senate, organises and controls the study process in the Faculty, and submits proposals to the FN Council, the Senate, and the Rector concerning the improvement of the quality of studies. The FN Council considers and approves new study programmes, their improvement measures, etc.
- 4) On the subdivision level, the Clinical Department is responsible for the organisation of the OT study programme. This Department presents suggestions and remarks concerning the plan and the schedule of studies, and has its representative in the Study Programme Committee.

129. The LSMU MA departments, clinical departments, and institutes participate in the implementation of the study programme. The heads of the subdivisions are responsible for the organisation of studies, and appoint teachers responsible for the teaching of the subjects. The teachers in charge compile the descriptions of the subjects in the LSMU SIS database, design and publish the teaching plan (the syllabus) of the subject, and coordinate the study process, discussing it with the colleagues. Teachers of the subjects are responsible for the quality of the studies of the subjects and the supplementation of the teaching material with most recent scientific information.

6.2. Methods of quality assurance of the study programme

130. The quality of the studies at the LSMU is ensured in compliance with external and internal legal acts and documents.

131. The external legal acts and documents include:

- the recommendation of the European Parliament and Council of 15 February, 2006 “On Further European Cooperation in Quality Assurance in Higher Education”;

- the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania⁴³;
- the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Approval of the System for the Evaluation of Learning Outcomes”⁴⁴; and
- the recommendations of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania for the improvement of the evaluation of learning outcomes⁴⁵.

132. The LSMU-level documents define actions necessary for the assurance of the internal quality of studies, and are available at the website of the LSMU Study Centre. The internal documents include:

- the Regulation of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences⁴⁶;
- the LSMU Regulation on the Evaluation of Students’ Achievements⁴⁷; and
- the regulation of the first- and second-cycle and integrated studies at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences⁴⁸.

133. The quality of studies at the LSMU is monitored by the Committee of Studies Monitoring and Quality Assurance⁴⁹. The assurance of the quality of studies is based on the following measures:

- 1) the internal assessment of the study programme at the University;
- 2) cooperation between the subdivisions participating in the implementation of the study programme;
- 3) analysis of the quality of studies in subdivisions;
- 4) the activity of the Study Programme Committee (subsequently – SPC);
- 5) student-teacher cooperation;
- 6) evaluation and improvement of the teachers’ qualification;
- 7) accumulation and dissemination of information about studies.

134. The implementation of the studies and the assessment of students’ academic achievements are based on the LSMU Regulation on the Evaluation of Students’ Achievements, which defines the principles, of the organisation of achievement evaluation, the order of its implementation, and the management of the quality of the evaluation. The process of the evaluation of students’ achievements is coordinated by the subdivisions implementing the studies of the subjects, SPC, FN Administration, Study Centre, CTEC, and the IT Centre. These institutions also ensure quality control within the sphere of their competence.

6.3. The effectiveness of quality improvement of the study programme

135. The SPC helps in ensuring the quality of studies. The composition of the Committee is approved by the resolution of the LSMU Senate⁵⁰ and by the Order of the LSMU Rector of 2013.⁵¹

136. The Committee of the OT study programme includes three teachers from different subdivisions participating in the implementation in this programme, as well as representatives of the administration, students, and social stakeholders. The SPC acts in compliance with the regulations of the study programme committees, and is subordinate to the Dean of the Faculty and the Vice-Rector for Studies. The SPC is responsible for the management of the study programme and the assurance and continuous improvement of the quality of studies. The SPC periodically performs the analysis of the study programme, evaluating the structural contents of the programme and the

⁴³ Official Gazette, 2009, No. 54-2140

⁴⁴ Official Gazette, 2008, No. 86-3437

⁴⁵ Order of the Minister of Education and Sciences of the Republic of Lithuania, No. ISAK-16, 5 January, 2009

⁴⁶ Resolution of the LSMU Senate, No. 17-01, 20 January, 2012

⁴⁷ Resolution of the LSMU Senate, No. 25-07, 14 December, 2012

⁴⁸ Resolution of the LSMU Senate, No. 32-03, 7 June, 2013

⁴⁹ Order of the LSMU Rector, No. V-636, 1 July, 2013

⁵⁰ Resolution of the LSMU Senate No. 25-08, “Regulations of the Study Programme Committees of the Lithuania University of Health Sciences”, December 14, 2012.

⁵¹ Order of the LSMU Rector No. SC-1-006 „Regarding the Formation of the Committee of the First-Cycle Study Programme Occupational Therapy of the Faculty of Nursing“, 4 January, 2013.

appropriateness of the ratio between the time allocated for teaching and independent and contact learning, and provides suggestions.

137. The SPC also regularly updates the study programme and the curricula, reviews the course of the programme and the results of the evaluation of students' achievements, and, if needed, initiates improvements of the subject programmes; it periodically discusses the course of the studies with members of the Student Council, students, and teachers of the programme, and suggests solutions to the emerging problems. The SPC cooperates with the Study Centre, the Committee of Studies Monitoring and Quality Assurance, and Student Council in the preparation of schedules and the evaluation of the quality of the study subjects.

138. The benefit of the actions for quality improvement is to be achieved through the implementation of the results of the programme evaluation obtained on different levels. The learning outcomes resulting from alterations in the study programme are presented at the Rectorate at least once per semester. The results of the internal evaluation of the study subjects are associated with achievements in studies, informing about them responsible subdivisions, the administration of the Faculty, and the Rectorate. The identified shortcomings are eliminated after devising the action plan, and a repeated evaluation is performed following the implementation of this plan.

139. The results of quality improvement in studies are disseminated by presenting them in the University website www.lsmuni.lt and the weekly "Ave Vita". The LSMU SIS database presents data on quality evaluation of individual subjects of the study programme; these data are accessible to teachers and subdivisions in charge. The results of the evaluation of the quality of studies are also included in the Rector's annual report where detailed qualitative and quantitative information is publicly presented concerning the study programmes, the awarded qualifications of higher education, students' opinion about the quality of studies, the evaluations of the University's activity performed by certified institutions, and the graduates' career indices.

140. The OT study programme is extensively presented to foreign partners during visits to their institutions or when receiving foreign guests at the University. The questions related to the quality of the study programme are discussed, and remarks and suggestions are taken into account in order to learn from foreign partners' good experience in the improvement of the quality of the study programme.

141. According to the LSMU Regulation, students have the right to evaluate the quality of the teaching of the study subjects, the material provision of the studies, and the implementation of the study programmes. The Information Technology Centre of the University in cooperation with Student Council is continuously involved in conducting surveys in order to assess students' opinion about the process and the environment of studies, the quality of the subjects, resources, and teaching, and academic support. Students' opinion is analysed and evaluated on a yearly basis.

142. At least once per semester, the Study Programme Committee organises a meeting with all students of the programme where students ask questions related to their studies. In case of any issues requiring solution, the responsible subdivisions, the teachers, and the Dean are informed, and solutions to the problem are proposed. Representatives of the students become involved in the programme improvement processes through participation in the activities of various commissions and committees on all levels of the University. Students are always encouraged to address the heads of the subdivisions responsible for the implementation of the study programmes as well as the Dean, and to present their suggestions concerning the implementation and improvement of the study programme.

143. In 2012, the LSMU Senate approved the Order of the Survey of Students', Teachers', and Social Partners' (Employers') Opinion⁵², which regulates the internal procedures, methods, and measures for quality assurance in studies at the LSMU related to the survey of the opinion of the participants of studies (teachers and students) and social partners (employers, graduates, etc.).

⁵² Resolution of the LSMU Senate "Regarding the Order of the Survey of Students', Teachers', and Social Partners' (Employers') Opinion" (approved on 29 March, 2012) No. 19-04.

According to this order, the employers' and/or graduates' opinion about the quality of studies shall be evaluated at least once in two years since the academic year of 2013/2014.

144. Teachers, graduates, and employers are an integral part of the University and thus actively participate in the decision-making process, evaluating the study programme and presenting suggestions concerning its improvement at the Faculty Board, the Study Programme Committee, and other commissions.

145. *Student participation in quality evaluation and improvement.* Students participate in the evaluation of the quality of the programme and its improvement process through their representatives in the LSMU Senate, the Rectorate, faculty boards and commissions, provisional work groups, and study programme committees. Students may ask questions related to the study programme, and may also express their opinion.

146. When cooperating with the Lithuanian societies of occupational therapists and physical therapists as well as with the Lithuanian Association of Rehabilitologists, scientific conferences are organised in which students may participate and present the results of their research.

147. *Social partners* actively participate in the programme preparation process. Representatives of social partners are members of the Study Programme Committees (SPC) and the graduation thesis defence committees, and participate in Career Days. Also, surveys of their opinion about the study process are regularly carried out.

148. The SPC closely cooperates with the Career Centre; in order to identify the needs and the changes of the labour market, the SPC regularly organises meetings with social partners, potential employers and the staff of the Career Centre. Regular meetings with potential employers allow the students to ask burning questions and to hear the opinions of the graduates about the quality of the programme and its correspondence to the modern-day requirements.

Summary

149. The LSMU has a huge scientific and pedagogical potential in the field of biomedicine, and is thus a suitable base for the education and training of occupational therapists. The LSMU has created a system uniting science, studies, and practice.

150. The volume and the composition of the study programme are suitable for the achievement of its aims, and are in concordance with the respective legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania and the EU. The content of the study programme and the methods of studies correspond to the modern trends of occupational therapy, are of sufficient scientific level, and allow for achieving the results of the programme oriented towards the needs of the society and the labour market, and the prospects of further learning.

151. 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 subjects of the programme are taught by qualified teachers with sufficient experience in practical, scientific, and pedagogical work. The teachers improve their professional qualification in official traineeships and courses, and at conferences and seminars. Speciality subjects in occupational therapy are taught by teachers with the qualification of an occupational therapist, and with practical experience in this field.

152. New inter-university agreements are signed, allowing for increasing the mobility of the students of the OT study programme within the framework of the ERASMUS programme.

153. The LSMU Library has sufficient numbers of textbooks, periodicals, and electronic teaching aids, and the information databases are suitable for the collection of the most recent scientific information. The LSMU infrastructure allows for the organisation of the study process and the compilation of the schedules while maintaining optimal workload for the students.

154. Because the LSMU has been established through the merger of two higher education institutions located in different zones of Kaunas city, the study and research bases are not concentrated in a single territory, which places an additional load on the students' mobility possibilities. Due to the peculiarities

of the infrastructure, rational arrangement of the schedules is not always feasible, and the time for commuting from one base to another is frequently insufficient. The construction of the new building of the Faculty of Nursing will allow for a rational planning of the schedule, and the new equipment will ensure even better development of practical skills. Auditoriums with interactive computer equipment will be built, and classrooms for group work will be constructed, which will create better possibilities for the students to work in teams when doing independent group assignments. During their practical training, students will have access to the newly equipped auditorium for the training of preclinical skills.

155. The LSMU-level documents define actions necessary for the assurance of the internal quality of studies, and are available at the website of the LSMU Study Centre. The LSMU has an effective system for academic and social support to the students. The principles of the evaluation of students' achievements are in compliance with the Lithuanian and international legal acts. Also, an electronic information system for the studies has been installed.

156. The activity of the Career Centre in collecting and disseminating information about the career possibilities of and occupational therapist could be more efficient, but the LSMU will have the possibility to monitor the graduates' career for 5 years after graduation. This will be possible because of the result of the State Project No. VP1-2.3-ŠMM-01-V-01-001 „Career Education, Implementation and Development of Career Tracking Models of Students in Higher Education, Improvement of Vocational Guidance, Practitioners' Professional Skills and the Creation of Necessary Tools“ – the Information System for the Monitoring of Graduates' Career.

157. The implementation of the study programme *Occupational Therapy* is ensured through a clear distribution of responsibilities for the implementation and maintenance of the programme and for decision making. In order to ensure the quality of the implementation of the study programme, data and other information on the implementation of the programme are periodically collected and analysed.

158. The improvement in the quality of the study programme is sought through the application of the results of the programme evaluation obtained on various levels. Social partners are also involved in the processes of the evaluation and improvement of the study programme. The results of the internal evaluation of the study programme are effectively used for its improvement. Based on these results, during the academic years of 2012/2013 and 2013/2014, the *Occupational Therapy* study programme was updated, the descriptions of the subjects were adjusted, and the subject description forms were changed (Appendix 8).

6.5. Summary of the conclusions of the most recent evaluation

159. The external evaluation of this study programme is performed for the first time. On the basis of the previous self-evaluation report (2008), the study programme was accredited until 31 August 2015 by Order of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC).⁵³

⁵³ „Order of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education “Regarding the Accreditation of Study Programmes” No. 1-73, August 17, 2009