

Farmatseut Study Cycle at Tallinn Health Care College

Expert Opinion

Tallinn Health Care College provides a study cycle for *Farmatseut* in Applied Higher Education, consisting of 3 years and 180 ECTS. The objective of study programme is to train specialists with applied higher education who know about medications, other medical and health products, and the producing of medication, i.e pharmacists whose knowledge and skills enable them to work in pharmacies, medication wholesale companies and in other businesses dealing with medications, medical and health products.

A cross-sectional analysis of the curriculum and syllabus shows the non repetition of contents and ensures a natural evolution of courses throughout the curriculum. The curricular units of basic science such as chemistry and physiology precede the most specific ones such as pharmacology and pharmaceutical care allowing students to gradually build their knowledge. Careful tailoring of the study cycle objectives, and the adequacy of skills to be acquired by students to the skill's profile legislated is also noted. Each curricular unit has specific objectives to be achieved, and these are in permanent connection to previous and future curricular units in the study cycle. The program contents are, therefore, consistent with their objectives and the number of ECTS per Curricular Unit is adequate and balanced by the extent of work required, type of activities and importance for the professional activity.

The teaching methodologies also attach to global trends. Teaching based on knowledge transmission remains an important pillar, yet those responsible for the Pharmacy Chair, also bet on self-directed study, in educational activities and electronic contents. These methods are integrated into a cognitive constructivist perspective, assuming a personal construction of knowledge, resulting from the interaction between the individual and the environment, especially the level of team learning, focused on the individual but considering the content and integrated in a social context.



The Faculty Staff is highly qualified and are experts in their specific areas. By itself, this provides strength to the study cycle and, at the same time contributes to a positive perspective from students. The diversity of teaching environments, equipment and materials guarantee the functioning of the study cycle. The Chair of Pharmacy has also demonstrated the ability to ensure the quality of in-service training, including the existence of agreements with host institutions and the existence of requirements for the selection of stage monitors. The institution has agreements with hospitals and pharmacies among others, to ensure capacity in human resources to coordinate and organize, training and to monitor students during in-service training.

It is also noted an effort to promote the learning and application of the English, and Russian language, therefore contributing for future professional opportunities on an international level.

Consequently it is my opinion, that the different curricular units, their programmatic contents, teaching methodologies, and faculty characteristics, seem to ensure the competency profile for the performance of the regulated profession of *Farmatseut*.



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