The paper aims to reveal the level of future social care teachers’ professional focus maturity in terms of studying at higher educational institutions. The experiment involved 393 students of 15th–4th years of study majoring in “Social education” of Chernihiv National T. G. Shevchenko Pedagogical University (Chernihiv), The National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (Kyiv), Mykolayiv National University named after V. Sukhomlynskyi (Mykolaiv). The assessment of future social care teachers’ professional focus was carried out by means of the method of expert evaluation. Besides, the method of the integral score calculation was also applied. The results were processed by means of the computer program “Statistics in education”. The analysis of the research results has shown that the level of professional focus maturity of future social care teachers develops in the process of studying at a university. It can be explained by the fact that positive dynamics of students’ professional focus maturity is influenced by the gradual increase of the number of disciplines of professional sphere and internship (practice) according to the year of study. The research results have shown that the level of the future social care teachers’ professional focus maturity does not meet modern requirements which means that the process of its formation at higher educational institutions is carried out improperly. That is why it is necessary to develop a technique for the formation of future social care teachers’ professional focus, which is planned to be performed in our further research works.

Keywords: professional focus, social care teacher, the level of maturity, higher educational institution, student.

Introduction
The work of future specialists in socioimonic field, in particular, social care teachers, is focused on solving different kinds of human problems. It requires the higher educational institutions graduates to have profound knowledge, mature personal and professional skills. In this aspect the properly organized and managed professional training aimed at the formation of their professional focus is considered to be of particular importance.

Professional training of specialists in socio-pedagogical field is studied in the following directions: didactic foundations of preparing students for socio-pedagogical work (S. Kharchenko), management of social education quality (M. Yevtukh), formation of professional competence (V. Malinka, V. Petrovych), professional focus (O. Moskaliuk), professional and pedagogical culture of future social care teachers (O. Homoniuk, T. Spirina), professional training of social care teachers in terms of lifelong education (V. Polishchuk), content of professional training of social care teachers in foreign higher educational establishments (Z. Aksiutina, S. Kohut, O. Pavlishak, O. Pryshliak), practical training of future socio-pedagogical workers in higher educational institutions (B. Shyfor, L. Jankins, Z. Falynska), professional focus on the occupation of socio-pedagogical sphere and pre-professional training of future social care teachers.
Different aspects of preparing social care teachers for working with rural people were considered by O. Bezpalko (namely socio-pedagogical work with rural children and youth), M. Hurianova (theoretical and applied aspects of training social care teachers for rural environment), O. Lapa (preparing future social care teachers for practical work with rural youth), O. Mezhrytskyi (preparing students for socio-pedagogical work in rural environment). At the same time, the issue of the formation of future social care teachers’ professional focus still remains understudied.

The paper aims to reveal the level of future social care teachers’ professional focus maturity in terms of studying at higher educational institutions.

The term “future social care teacher’s professional direction” is considered as an integral personal quality which is characterized by the holistic system of needs and motives of humanistic-based socio-pedagogical activity, stable interest in future occupation, mature social values, scientific worldview and readiness to act in the society taking care its sociocultural and socio-economic characteristics.

**Research methods**

The assessment of future social care teachers’ professional focus was carried out by means of Delphi method (the method of expert evaluation). We used the method of the integral score calculation. The results were processed by means of the computer program “Statistics in education” [3].

The experiment involved 393 students of 1st-4th years of study majoring in “Social education” of Chernihiv National T. G. Shevchenko Pedagogical University (Chernihiv / University 1), The National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (Kyiv / University 2), Mykolayiv National University named after V. Sukhomlynskyi (Mykolaiv / University 3).

The distribution of students by the institutions and years of study is presented in Table 3.

**Discussion**

In the process of mastering the curriculum disciplines, students’ professional thinking, motivation and interest in the future occupation, as well as social values are being developed, the abilities and skills of performing socio-pedagogical work are being formed. We believe that the professional focus of students majoring is socio-pedagogical specialties develops according to the years of studying at a higher educational institution. In order to confirm this assumption, we have examined the development of the respondents’ professional direction.

The method of expert evaluation was used to assess the level of future social care teachers’ professional focus. Teachers (experts) having great teaching experience evaluated the respondents according to 16 indicators, whose significance has been determined (Table 1). The indicators are assessed according to the 5-point grading scale [1; 2].

### Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Significance coefficient $P_i$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The mature scientific worldview and readiness to work in rural environment</td>
<td>0.88654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The ability to use the acquired knowledge for solving different socio-pedagogical problems</td>
<td>0.86024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The ability to assess and analyze person- and family-related socio-pedagogical problems</td>
<td>0.7823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The mastery of means, forms, methods, techniques of socio-pedagogical work with different age groups and categories of clients</td>
<td>0.766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Striving for self-development, adequate self-esteem</td>
<td>0.71172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The desire to work and the need for professional development</td>
<td>0.70092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Responsible behavior when making decisions and understanding the level of responsibility</td>
<td>0.65972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Axiological attitude towards future occupation, mastering socially significant professional values</td>
<td>0.64358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Profound integrated knowledge in all educational disciplines</td>
<td>0.6343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Having knowledge and skills of personal intellectual development and professional thinking (critical thinking, flexibility of thinking)</td>
<td>0.62312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Self-discipline, diligence, insistence, sociability</td>
<td>0.60906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The ability to use the appropriate methods of one’s own psychic and psycho-physiological state correction</td>
<td>0.48988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Stable interest in socio-pedagogical activity and desire to deal with it</td>
<td>0.4808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Expression of needs and motives of humanistic focus of socio-pedagogical activity</td>
<td>0.38184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Knowledge about social environment, its specificity, the consequences of the effect of different personal socialization factors at meso-, macro- and mega-levels</td>
<td>0.29572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The ability to adapt to modern socio-economic and working conditions</td>
<td>0.2527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The further data processing presented in expert sheets has made it possible to determine the result of the assessment of every indicator that is a product of the score expressed in conditional points \( (x_i) \) multiplied by a weighting coefficient \( P_i \). Then we calculated the integral score of future social care teachers’ professional focus maturity according to the following formula:

\[
IO_m = \frac{x_1P_1 + x_2P_2 + \cdots + x_nP_n}{P_1 + P_2 + \cdots + P_n},
\]

(1)

\( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \) – scores of the indicators;
\( P_1, P_2, P_n \) – weighting factors of the indicators of future social care teachers’ professional focus maturity.

The assessment of the level of future social care teachers’ professional focus maturity was carried out by means of comparing the obtained integral score of every student with the boundary lines of integral scores of the levels, calculated with the help of the standard deviation method: 1 (high level) – 4.20-5.00 points, 2 (sufficient level) – 3.60-4.19 points, 3 (medium level) – 3.00-3.59 points, 4 (low level) – 1.00-2.99 points. The statistical processing of the results was performed by means of the computer program “Statistics in Education” (Table 2).

The analysis of the results presented in Table 2 helps us to make a conclusion that the maturity level of future social care teachers’ professional focus is increasing according to the year of study: the average score at University 1 according to the expert evaluation is 1.99 for the students of the 1st year of study, 3.26 – for the students of the 2nd year of study, 3.14 – for the students of the 3rd year of study, and 3.68 – for the students of the 4th year of study. It should be noted that the experts noticed the decrease of the level of professional focus maturity in the students of the 3rd year of study. It can be explained by the fact that these respondents’ academic performance is lower according to the results of their knowledge evaluation, as well as by higher demands of the experts to the assessment of these students according to the results of professional focus maturity. The gradual increase of the level of professional focus maturity is observed in the respondents of the University 2 (the average score increases from 1.94 for the 1st-year students to 3.48 – for the 4th-year students) and University 3 (the average score increases from 2.06 for the 1st-year students to 2.85 – for the 4th-year students). Therefore, among all the examined higher educational institutions, the students studying at University 1 have demonstrated the highest level of professional focus maturity. The lowest scores have been obtained according to the general integral score of professional focus maturity in the respondents studying at University 3.

The median value also shows the positive dynamics of professional focus formation (“… the value of the property examined that has the same number of the sample elements on the left and on the right” [4, p. 221]). According to Table 3, its values are 2 for the 1st-year students of University 1, 3.3 – for the 2nd-year students, 3.2 – for the 3rd-year students, and 3.75 – for the 4th-year students. Its value increases from 2 for the 1st-year students of University 2 to 3.6 for the 4th-year students; and from 2 to 2.8 for the students from 1st to 4th years of study at the University 3.

### Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher educational institution</th>
<th>1st year</th>
<th>2nd year</th>
<th>3rd year</th>
<th>4th year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University 1</td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>3.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University 2</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>3.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University 3</td>
<td>2.06</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The further data processing presented in expert sheets has made it possible to determine the result of the assessment of every indicator that is a product of the score expressed in conditional points \( (x_i) \) multiplied by a weighting coefficient \( P_i \). Then we calculated the integral score of future social care teachers’ professional focus maturity according to the following formula:

\[
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\]

(1)

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\( P_1, P_2, P_n \) – weighting factors of the indicators of future social care teachers’ professional focus maturity.

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It was extremely important for the research to assess the validity of the differences according to the results of expert evaluation to be sure that the data obtained are not random. By means of the computer program “Statistics in Education” we have built a matrix of comparing the scores distribution received by the students of the 1\textsuperscript{st} year of study according to the results of expert evaluation which shows their differences and common features.

The comparison of the distribution of the scores received by the students of the 1\textsuperscript{st} year of study according to the results of expert evaluation by the Mann-Whitney U test allows us with 95\% probability to state that the distribution of the scores which characterize the 1\textsuperscript{st}-year students’ professional focus has no significant differences. In particular, the empiric values of the Mann-Whitney U test are smaller (0.6087; 0.6826; 1.2601) than its critical value (1.96) when comparing the distribution of the scores of the 1\textsuperscript{st}-year students. It can be explained by the fact that all 1\textsuperscript{st}-year students in the examined universities study in identical conditions.

The comparison of the distribution of the scores received by the students of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} year of study according to the results of expert evaluation by the Mann-Whitney U test allows us with 95\% probability to state that the distribution of the scores which characterize the 2\textsuperscript{nd}-year students’ professional focus has significant differences. In particular, the empiric values of the Mann-Whitney U test are greater (2.2233; 4.0153; 6.187) than its critical value (1.96) when comparing the distribution of the scores of the 2\textsuperscript{nd}-year students.

The comparison of the distribution of the scores received by the students of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} year of study according to the results of expert evaluation by the Mann-Whitney U test are almost the same as for the 2\textsuperscript{nd}-year students. In particular, the empiric values of the Mann-Whitney U test are greater (2.0433; 3.640; 5.506) than its critical value (1.96).

The comparison of the distribution of the scores received by the students of the 4\textsuperscript{th} year of study according to the results of expert evaluation by the Mann-Whitney U test gives us reasons to state that the indices of 4\textsuperscript{th}-year students’ professional focus have significant differences in University 2 and University 3, namely the empiric values of the Mann-Whitney U test are greater (4.2785; 4.584) than its critical value (1.96). The validity of the differences of the samples compared is 95\%. The distribution of the scores which characterize the professional focus of the 4\textsuperscript{th}-year students of University 1 and University 2 have not significant differences. In particular, the empiric values of the Mann-Whitney U test are smaller (1.570) than its critical value (1.96). It can be explained by different conditions of the educational process organization in the examined universities.

Based on the determined levels of future social care teachers’ professional focus maturity and the research results we have differentiated the respondents according to the following levels: low, sufficient, medium, and high.

Then with the help of the technique of integral score calculation the differentiation of three groups of students (depending on the universities where they study) according to the levels of their professional focus maturity was performed (Table 4).

### Table 4. Differentiation of the university students according to the levels of their professional focus maturity (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>University 1</th>
<th>University 2</th>
<th>University 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>7.14</td>
<td>3.76</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sufficient</td>
<td>25.03</td>
<td>21.58</td>
<td>6.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>35.69</td>
<td>30.87</td>
<td>18.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>32.15</td>
<td>43.79</td>
<td>73.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis of the results received shows that the students studying at University 1 have the most mature professional focus. In particular, there are the greatest number of students in this university whose level of professional focus maturity is the highest, namely 7.14\%. There are half less students with the high level of professional focus maturity in University 2 – 3.76\%. And only 0.7\% of the respondents from University 3 have the high level of professional focus maturity.

### Conclusions

The analysis of the research results has shown that the level of professional focus maturity of future social care teachers develops in the process of studying at a university. It can be explained by the fact that positive dynamics of students’ professional focus maturity is influenced by the gradual increase of the number of professional disciplines and practice.

Besides, it should be noted that the greatest number of the students from all the examined universities have low and medium level of professional focus maturity (about 70-90\%). The number of the students with the sufficient level of professional focus maturity is 6.89\% in University 3 and 25\% in University 1. The lowest results were detected in the respondents from University 3. The results obtained mean that there are certain differences in educational process organization in the examined higher educational institutions and the insufficient attention to the formation of future social care teachers’ professional focus. The students studying at Chernihiv National T. G. Shevchenko Pedagogical University have the most mature level of professional focus, compared to the other respondents.

Thus, the research results show that the level of the future social care teachers’ professional focus maturity
достатньо цілеспрямовано і несистемно.

That is why it is necessary to develop a technique for the formation of future social care teachers’ professional focus, which is planned to be performed in our further research works.

REFERENCES

ЛІТЕРАТУРА

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СФОРМУВАНІСТЬ ПРОФЕСІЙНОЇ СПРЯМОВАНОСТІ МАЙБУТНІХ СОЦІАЛЬНИХ ПЕДАГОГІВ

У статті проаналізовано стан сформованості професійної спрямованості майбутніх соціальних педагогів у вищих навчальних закладах. Під поняттям “професійна спрямованість майбутнього соціального педагога” – інтегральна якість особистості, що характеризується цілісною системою потреб і мотивів гуманістично спрямованої соціально-педагогічної діяльності, стійким інтересом до майбутньої професії, сформованими соціальними цінностями, розвинутим науковим світоглядом та готовністю продуктивно діяти в соціумі з урахуванням його соціокультурних і соціально-економічних характеристик. У дослідженнях взяли участь 393 студенти 1–4 курсів напрямів підготовки “Соціальна педагогіка” Чернігівського національного педагогічного університету імені Т. Г. Шевченка (м. Чернігів) (ВНЗ 1), Національного університету біоресурсів і природокористування України (НУБіП України) (м. Київ) (ВНЗ 2), Миколаївського національного університету імені В. О. Сухомлинського (м. Миколаїв) (ВНЗ 3).

За допомогою методу експертних оцінок здійснено оцінювання респондентів за проранжованим рядом показників (м. Київ) (ВНЗ 2), Миколаївського національного університету імені В. О. Сухомлинського (м. Миколаїв) (ВНЗ 3). За допомогою методу експертних оцінок здійснено оцінювання респондентів за проранжованим рядом показників рівня сформованості професійної спрямованості. Розраховано інтегральну оцінку ІО, сформованості професійної спрямованості кожного студента. На основі визначення рівнів сформованості професійної спрямованості майбутніх соціальних педагогів та результатів експерименту диференційовано студентів за такими рівнями: низький, достатній, середній, високий. Показники інтегральної оцінки ІО, дозволили здійснити поділ студентів досліджуваних груп трьох вищих навчальних закладах за рівнями сформованості професійної спрямованості. Результати оброблялися за допомогою комп’ютерного продукту «Статистика в педагогіці». У результаті експерименту з’ясовано динаміку професійної спрямованості студентів під час навчання у ВНЗ. Серед навчальних закладів студенті ВНЗ і продемонстрували найвищі результати в аспекті сформованості рівнів професійної спрямованості. У більшості респондентів кожного із трьох досліджуваних ВНЗ рівень сформованості професійної спрямованості не відповідає сучасним вимогам, оскільки понад 70% студентів продемонстрували низький, і лише близько 8% – високий рівень сформованості професійної спрямованості. Це свідчить про те, що процес формування професійної спрямованості майбутніх соціальних педагогів у ВНЗ здійснюється недостатньо цілеспрямовано і несистемно.

Ключові слова: професійна спрямованість, соціальний педагог, показник сформованості, вищий навчальний заклад, студент.

Submitted on March, 30, 2017