

Organizational and pedagogical conditions of grade-rating system implementation in the Institute of Sports and Physical Education of North-Eastern Federal University

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Abstract

The following article is devoted to the issues of enhancement of professional physical education of student-athletes. Personalized schedule, as well as the required absences of student-athletes in most of the classes, demands creating an organizational-pedagogical framework in order to increase their mastering of the basic educational program. Based on the results of the conducted research, a suggested individualization of educational process involving grade-rating system is offered.

Keywords: grade-rating system, extra credit, quality management, rating, student-athletes.

Introduction

Higher professional education in the North-Eastern Federal University is undergoing fundamental changes regarding not only the structure and organization but also methodology and technology of educational process, in which student personalities are the strategic guidelines. The legal basis of this process are federal state educational standards (FSSES HPE), in which one of the compulsory requirements for next generation main educational programs (MEP) is the focus on learning outcomes expressed in terms of competencies.

Results and discussion

Since 2010 in the North-Eastern Federal University named after M. K. Ammosov there has been

a developed and functioning intramural quality management system (QMS) in education, which is designed as an instrument for implementation of priority goals of the NEFU Development program. NEFU's mission is to cultivate competitive professionals as well as conduct researches and innovative technological developments to establish an economically stable and socially developed circumpolar region that would ensure high living standards and cultural preservation and evolution of the peoples of North-Eastern Russia. With this objective in view, grade-rating system of personnel qualification based on innovative educational technology of modular learning is being implemented in NEFU. According to the Model Regulations on Organization of Educational Process in Higher Educational Institutions based on Credit System (as confirmed by the Letter of the Ministry of Education of Russian Federation dated 09.03.2004 № 15-55-357 in/15), implementation of grade-rating system for evaluation of student competencies is one of the courses of the ongoing reform of the education system. In this regard the Quality Control Department at NEFU has developed the General Regulations on Grade-rating System. The version 2.0 of these regulations is going to be implemented during the 2012-2013 academic years (The NEFU's Regulations on Grade-rating System, 2012).

It is a known fact that student-athletes often fall out of the common rhythm of educational process due to their personalized schedule and the required absences in most of the classes (Tsenaev, 2007). Hence we face an important scientific challenge, which must be based on the consideration of such

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pedagogical framework of professional development of this category of students that would ultimately ensure their competitive abilities in the future career.

Considering the specific character of a bachelor's program in physical education, which implies the bulk of students are motivated to continue their sporting activities and achieve high performance in sport, the NEFU's regulations on grade-rating system underwent several modifications made by the Institute of Physical Culture and Sport (IPCS).

1. Count IPCS students' participation in educational training camps as well as university, republican, national and international competitions as an attendance and award 20 points both in the first and second current semester test weeks in every course (module).

Underlying condition: by participating in competitions NEFU students vindicate the honor of the university, the Republic and Russia as well as boost university's image in Russia and internationally. During educational training camps and competitions students increase their knowledge, skills and proficiency (competency), exchange experience and forge relationships with student athletes, who represent other educational institutions.

2. Give extra credit to students for placing top three in university, republican, national and international competitions during current test weeks (university – up to 10 points, republican – up to 15 points, regional, national and international – 20 points) based on a students' personal schedule and rector's order.

3. Take account of sections 4.1, 7.9, 9.6 of the NEFU's Regulations on Grade-rating System version 2.0; also give up to 10 points of extra credit for successful completion of given individual tasks in a course (module) based on section 5.16.

4. A student, who has successfully passed content standards, tests, etc. during current test weeks in a course (module), receives 20 points.

As a result a student of IPCS is to receive a maximum of 50 points in a course (module): participation in educational training camps or competitions shall be counted as an attendance and 20 points shall be awarded, extra credit of up to 20 points is given for placing top three in competitions in a sport of choice, and a bonus of up to 10 points is given for completion of individual tasks in a course (module). A student shall also receive 20 points for passing content standards in a course (module) or a course unit.

So for all actual test weeks a student receives a total of a maximum of 70 points.

For a course final exam a student receives a maximum of 30 points.

For a semester of a course (module) a student receives a total of up to 100 points.

The alteration (addition) was made based on sections 2.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.11, 5.15; the NEFU's Regulations on Grade-rating System as well as caused by the academic decline of first-year IPCS students during the second semester of the 2011-2012 academic year.

For example, a professor in the course of «Physical Culture and Sport Management» suggests the control activities (given in Table 1).

Conclusions

The results of conducted research are the reason for searching fresh approaches to development and enhancement of grading and testing system. From our point of view, a developed diagnostic toolkit as well as more accurate criteria and levels of academic achievements of students are required for the purpose of grade-rating system performance improvement in higher educational institutions.

Negative or simply low grades for engaging in a discussion are unacceptable. A student must be confident that by engaging in a discussion he will get either an excellent grade or no grade at all (if a professor considers his arguments irrelevant); moreover a student receives points not just for a successful argument but only provided his answer proves him being prepared for the seminar.

Negative grades for non-attendances, absences of lecture notes, tardiness, attempts to ride off on side issues during a discussion, etc. are unacceptable. A skillful conduction of a seminar and organization of a substantial discussion speak of professor's professionalism. Tardiness or absences of lecture notes rather fall within the area of teacher's educational functions, not within the evaluation of student's knowledge.

Reduction of rating for nonattendances is possible only after the final semester score is summed up. In this case, reduction is applied to the first semester rating unit only. The number of non-attendances is filled in the column «class hours» in the end of semester.

Table 1. The list of control activities in the course of «Physical Culture and Sport Management».

№	Types of educational activities	Points	
		basic	extra
1.	Student studies	50	12
	Obligatory tasks		
	Identify the intended purpose and give complex typological characteristic of a physical education and sport organization of choice.	5	1
	Define the content of management activities of employees (of various ranks) in a physical education and sport organization of choice.	5	2
	Make a list of government and public administration agencies for physical culture and sports within a region (as chosen by a professor).	5	2
	Based on independent analysis describe the core functions of the Federal Regulations on a specializing sport.		
	Analyze key indicators of children's and youth sports development in the additional education institutions in a region of choice based on the statistical report form № 5-fk.	5	
	Based on the analysis of the Regulations design the organizational structure of management of an athletic club of a certain business legal structure or design a review form for physical interests of a sociodemographic population group of choice.	5	
	Non-obligatory tasks (done at the student's discretion)		
	Research paper «Analysis of financial and operational activities of the sports and recreation center, etc».	4	1
	Research paper «Russia's state policy in the sphere of PCS».	4	1
	Research paper «Business portrait of a sport manager».	4	1
	Research paper «Management in a professional athletic club».	3	1
	Research paper «A script book of an athletic sporting event».	3	1
	Research paper «Advertising and image making of an organization of physical education and sport».	3	1
	Draw up an exemplary file register for one of the types of physical education and sport organizations or draft one of the types of administrative documents.	4	1
2.	Additional self-guided work of choice (rating increase).		10
3.	Intermediate exam.	10	
4.	Final exam (controlled assessment).	40	
TOTAL:		100	

With the introduction of grade-rating system the educational process becomes more open and transparent that allows early intervention in the process in order to ensure best results. Grade-rating system is an integrated index of work of a higher educational institution as long as high student rating speaks not only of his or her personal achievements, but also of the conditions, in which the educational process is carried out, for instance quality of courseware or qualitative composition of academic teaching staff.

References

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