

**DAUGAVPILS UNIVERSITY AGENCIES
"DAUGAVPILS UNIVERSITY DAUGAVPILS MEDICAL COLLEGE"**

REPORT

**on the inclusion of the study programme "Podology"
(41722) on the accreditation page of the study direction
"Health Care"**

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I. Information about the study direction "Health care"

The aim of the study direction of Daugavpils University Agency "Daugavpils University Daugavpils Medical College" (hereinafter referred to as DU DMK) is to provide students of the first level (short cycle) professional higher education "Health Care" direction with professional knowledge, skills and competences based on research, to develop the ability to independently conduct scientific research, to develop analytical abilities in the profession, to act independently in various situations, observing the norms of professional ethics, to promote professional development and create motivation for further professional development.

The programs implemented in the study direction "Health Care" provide for the competitiveness of graduates of these programs in the labor market of Latvia, the European Union and other countries of the world.

General objectives of the study direction "Health Care":

1. to ensure the acquisition of first-level (short-cycle) professional higher education in the chosen profession;
2. prepare professional specialists who are able to meet the needs of society;
3. to promote professional development and encourage further education;
4. to inform the public about its activities, to promote scientific knowledge and practical developments in the programs of the "Health Care" direction, as well as to carry out organizational and other types of measures in order to promote the introduction of modern teaching methods and technologies in the college;
5. to develop and implement the direction of continuing education and professional development courses in the thematic groups of education of the program "Health Care".

For the implementation of the objectives of the study direction, the college sets the following tasks:

1. to offer modern high-quality study programmes, highly valued in the labour market;
2. to license and implement new study programmes in the changing conditions of the labour market;
3. to increase the quality of the proposed programmes by maintaining strategic cooperation with representatives of economic sectors;
4. to improve the academic staff selection system in order to facilitate the recruitment of qualified, excellence-oriented staff, to ensure appropriate working conditions and remuneration for academic staff;

5. expanding the mobility of academic staff and students in international projects;
6. to develop students' professional ethics and basic social skills in communication, independent and teamwork, to motivate them for further education;
7. to create a modern study and research environment for improving the quality of studies and research, in accordance with new technologies and the needs of the labour market;
8. to develop the infrastructure of the college, to carry out and improve the digitization of the study process;
9. developing students' and staff' skills, abilities and competences to work in the digital and innovation ecosystem;
10. to cooperate with Latvian and foreign higher education institutions, to participate in international scientific research and practical conferences, as well as in various projects;
11. develop modularity, support clinical-based learning;
12. act sustainably with confidence in tomorrow;
13. to promote the professional development and development of students, academic and general staff.

As of January 2024, four first-level (short-cycle) professional higher education programs are being implemented in the DU DMK study direction "Health Care" (accreditation of the study direction "Health Care" until 27.10.2028). (Table 1.1)

Table 1.1

List of study programmes in the study direction "Health Care"

N. p.k.	Name of the study programme	Code of the study programme	Duration of the study programme	Type of study, form	Amount of studies (CP)	Qualification to be obtained	Program Manager
1.	Medical treatment	41721	3 years 0 months (6 semesters)	Full-time	120 CP	Physician Assistant (Paramedic) 2240 01	Bc. oec. V.Bistrov
			2 years 0 months	Full-time	80 CP	Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant	NM doctor A.Igolniece
2.	Therapeutic massage	41722	2 years 0 months (4 semesters)	Full-time	80 CP	Masseur 3255 08	Bc. sc. cf. S.Beckmane
3.	Aesthetic cosmetology	41722	3 years, 0 months (6 semesters)	Full-time	120 CP	Beauty specialist in cosmetology (3259 04)	Mg.izg.vad. I.Briža
			2 years, 0 months (4 semesters)	Full-time	80 CP		
			2 years, 6 months	Part-time extramural	80 CP		

			(5 semesters)				
4.	Podiatry	41722	2 years 0 months (4 semesters)	Full-time	80 CP	Podiatrist 2269 06	Mg. izgl. O.Anisyko

The National Development Plan of Latvia for 2021-2027 sets knowledge and competences for personal and national growth as one of the priorities. The overarching goal of education development for 2021-2027 is to provide quality education opportunities for all residents of Latvia in order to promote the development and realization of their potential throughout their lives and to build their ability to change and responsibly manage permanent changes in society and the national economy. Consequently, DU DMK also aims to prepare knowledgeable, competitive healthcare professionals, which is an important resource for individual and national growth, working in a competitive workplace, doing business in the relevant field, or competing in the international labor market, which so far our graduates have successfully succeeded in.

In accordance with the Cabinet Order No. 436 of 22 June 2021 "On the Guidelines for the Development of Education for 2021-2027", the study process is implemented and organized in compliance with:

- an individualised learning approach where the educational offer meets the needs and opportunities of the individual; individual growth; individual paths of learning and self-development; actively using technologies in the provision of individualized learning solutions;
- balanced and future-proof skills acquisition, encompassing both soft or transversal skills and specific knowledge and skills relevant and useful for the labour market, ensured by effective cooperation between the educational institution and sectoral institutions;
- functional transformation, when educational institutions offer diverse learning opportunities in the modern learning environment, ensuring a high level of professional competence of management, educators and academic staff and the transfer of good practices;
- the interest and performance monitoring of the parties involved in the organization of the study process, creating constructive and purposeful communication and feedback formation.

DU DMK is a modern implementer of professional higher education study programs in the field of health care and social welfare. The strategic mission of the study programmes of the study direction "Health Care" is to prepare high-quality health care professionals.

DU DMK plays an important role in promoting access to higher education in Latgale region, with special emphasis on the current and future national need for health care services and human resources for health care.

Taking into account the favorable geographical location of DU DMK, education is chosen by students mainly from Latgale region, which associates their future life and work with their native region. The territorial location of the DU DMK is also important in the context of regional development in order to ensure the development of human capital in the region, access to education and labor for the development of the region.

Although medical practitioners (physician assistants, nursing assistants, masseurs and beauty specialists) prepared by DU DMK make a significant contribution to the provision of human resources and health care services in the Latgale region, the demand for specialists still exceeds the supply. Significant labour shortages following the 2016 assessment of the MoES The specific support objective "To improve the learning environment of first-level professional higher education in STEM, including medical and creative industries, in colleges", which predicts that in the thematic group Health care and social welfare, demand will exceed supply by 22 %, is still relevant.

Today, the healthcare sector is exposed to both market economy developments and the changing conditions of the labour market, which determine the professions needed for the future and the supply of qualified professionals. The strength of Latvian healthcare is excellent medical education, therefore the college is ready to increase the number of students in the study direction "Health Care", which after graduation from the program will provide professional, competent and experience-based services.

Demographic changes, the prolongation of the life expectancy of the population, i.e. the ageing of the population, are the main cornerstones of the development of health services. Health care is also expected in the future as the sector with the most sought-after skilled labour, such as podiatrists, who are projected to have ample job opportunities.

For many decades, other countries around the world have demonstrated the need for foot care professionals working in diabetes patient care units, social care centers, sports centers, outpatient practices, and more. As a result, podiology, based on cooperation with dermatologists, endocrinologists, general practitioners, vascular surgeons, orthopedists, traumatologists and other related specialists, has established itself as an independent, high-quality interdisciplinary industry among other healthcare professions.

A podiatrist is a medical practitioner who performs podological care of patients, treatment of patients, rehabilitation, as well as educates people about proper foot care. A podiatrist works in health care institutions, social care institutions, beauty care institutions or as a self-employed person. In his professional activities, the podiatrist conducts an examination of podiatric patients, which includes: examination of the articular system of the foot bones, blood circulation, sensation, trophicity of soft tissues and assessment of the degree of risk of damage; foot care, preventive work, mainly when working with patients of a high-risk group, for example, diabetics, perform therapeutic manipulations, in addition, podiatrists work with new technologies and methods, locally applied drugs in solving foot and nail problems, observing professional work ethic, technical safety standards, general hygiene requirements and other regulatory enactments; takes care of its growth for the successful performance of professional activities in the chosen field of activity - follows the management of special equipment, the range of medical instruments and innovative technologies, the latest trends in foot care products, as well as the novelties of choosing and wearing orthopedic aids and shoes. The work of a podiatrist contributes to the overall state of health of each individual, including ensuring the health of the whole society as a whole.

One of the reform directions implemented over the last five years in the field of higher education is the integration of higher education into the national economy and increasing the role of employers in the development of professional higher education study programmes, formulation of study results and assessment of the conformity of programmes. In recent years, measures have already been implemented for the restructuring of higher education, which are aimed at changing the proportions of students (at study levels and fields of study) and the distribution of budget places in accordance with the interests of the state and the demand of the labour market.

Following the modern trends and demand in the region, in the academic year 2020/2021, DU DMK licensed and introduced a new first-level (short-cycle) professional higher education program "Aesthetic Cosmetology", qualification – Beauty specialist in cosmetology. The training course "Basics and types of manicure and pedicure" was also included in the program. Graduates of the program work as specialists who take care of the aesthetic care of healthy feet and nails. Also, this aspect determined the need to turn to podology as an industry that requires the preparation of new specialists in the field.

DU DMK, by preparing specialists of appropriate qualifications, is an opportunity both to educate the public, to promote the prestige and popularity of this profession in the region, and to offer potential clients modern treatment and rehabilitation process, providing and providing appropriate care.

According to the data published on the website of the Health Inspectorate on certified podiatrists registered in Latgale region who can provide podiatry services, as of September 20, 2021, such persons were 8 persons. On 17 November 2023, the number of certified podiatrists registered in the Register of Medical Practitioners has increased to 11, and their place of activity is Daugavpils, Preiļi, Rezekne.

Llc "Kraslavas slimnīca", according to the available public information, still does not have access to the services of a podiatrist.

The data of the Health Inspectorate allow us to conclude that there is a shortage of qualified and certified podiatrists both in Latvia and especially in the Latgale region.

Especially this problem affects diabetics. According to the data of the 2023 "Latgale Region Health Profile" report of the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, in 2022 17 816 people were ill with diabetes mellitus in Latgale (in 2017, the total number of diabetics in Latgale - 15 515 patients).

The podiatrist shall acquire and use equipment and apparatus specific to the chosen professional field, scientifically based treatment technologies and methods, cosmetic and therapeutic products, consulting methods, as well as provide other services of a professional nature, observing the limits of his professional role and competence. It is an opportunity for persons with previously acquired higher medical education to obtain additional qualifications, promoting lifelong learning.

When evaluating the dynamics of podiatrist services offered in Latvia, surveying employers and college graduates, different trends can be observed in different segments of podiatrist service offers in Riga and regions.

In recent years, there has been a growing demand for solving foot health problems that were previously not paid attention to, but they cause tangible – not only physical, but also psychological discomfort – ingrown nails, heel cracks, ulcers, blisters, corns, foot deformities and many other foot health problems.

The first level (short-cycle) professional higher education study programme "Podology" has been established in accordance with the relevant regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia, the Classification of Occupations of the Republic of Latvia, the internal regulatory enactments of the DU DMK and the college development strategy.

The task of the academic staff, in accordance with the study programme, to review and, if necessary, update the descriptions of study courses, methods and criteria for their teaching and knowledge testing, study methodological materials and, using feedback, to provide recommendations for mutual coordination and continuity of study courses.

The objectives and planned results of the study programme "Podology" have been developed and defined in accordance with the principles of the Latvian Qualifications Framework (LQF) and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). As a result, a set of knowledge, skills and attitudes is provided that allows to carry out a qualified process of podological care in accordance with the requirements of the "Profession Standard of a Podiatrist" (<https://registri.visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/2017/PS-155.pdf>) agreed at the meeting of the Tripartite Cooperation Sub-Council on Vocational Education and Employment of 9 June 2021, Minutes No. 4), and provides an opportunity for further studies by raising the level of one's knowledge, skills and competences in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Declaration, in Latvia and other European countries.

During the development of the program, consultations have been carried out with Daugavpils City Municipality and with Latgale medical institutions, therefore, consent has been received for the organization of internships at SIA Preiļu Hospital, SIA Krāslavas Hospital, VSIA Daugavpils Psychoneurological Hospital, SIA Daugavpils Regional Hospital, Daugavpils State City Municipality and Augsdaugava Municipality Social Care Centers.

The study program was developed with the support of Daugavpils City Council and responding to the invitation of employers, as well as based on the results of a survey of health care specialists. During the implementation of the study program, regular consultations of employers are held on the preparation of young specialists for the needs of the region. Thanks to close cooperation, employers are comprehensively and in detail familiar with the educational program, the resources of the educational program and their compliance with the goals of the program.

In Latvia, the study programme "Podology" was initially implemented only at the Pauls Stradiņš Medical College of the University of Latvia. The University of Latvia Pauls Stradiņš Medical College is to be acquired with state budget funds, but at the Rezekne branch of the Pauls Stradiņš Medical College of the University of Latvia, the study programme "Podology" is implemented for a fee. For potential students of this program, studying in Jurmala even with budget funds is expensive. Prospective students would love to study in paid study programmes closer to their place of residence – in Latgale. The implementation of the study program "Podology" in Daugavpils provides wider opportunities for obtaining education and promotes the availability of education in the region, and the inhabitants of the region will be provided with the opportunity to receive quality services in the field of podiatry.

II. Characteristics of the study program

1. Parameters characterising the study programme

1.1. Parameters of the study programme

1.	Name of the study programme	<i>"Podiatry"</i>	
2.	Name of the study program in English	1st level professional higher education "Podiatry"	
3.	Code of the study programme according to the Latvian classification of education	41722	
4.	Field of science of the study program (applicable to doctoral studies programs)	-	
5.	Type of study program	<i>Full-time – 2 years</i> <i>Part-time – 2 years and 6 months</i>	
6.	Qualification level to be obtained (GNI/EQF)	<i>Fifth qualification level</i>	
7.	Scope of the study programme (CP, also recommended by ECTS)	80 CP (120 ECTS)	
8.	Form, type, duration of implementation (indicate in months if less than one year) and language of implementation		
	full-time	<i>2 years and 0 months</i>	<i>Latvian</i>
	full-time extramural	-	-
	part-time on-site	<i>2 years and 6 months</i>	<i>Latvian</i>
	part-time extramural	-	-
	part-time distance learning	-	-
9.	Place of implementation	<i>26A Warsaws Street, Daugavpils, LV-5404, Latvia</i> <i>Miera street 3/5, Daugavpils, LV-5404, Latvia</i>	
10.	Admission Requirements	<i>Secondary education</i>	
11.	Degree, professional qualification or degree to be awarded and professional qualification, so-called specialisation (if applicable)	<i>Podiatrist, qualification level 5</i>	
12.	Profession standard, year of its approval (if applicable)	<i>Minutes No 4 of the meeting of 9 June 2021</i>	
16.	Final examination provided for at the end of the study programme	<i>Examination, practical skills exam and qualification paper</i>	
17.	Director of the study programme	<i>Mg. izgl., certified podiatrist Oksana Anisjko</i>	

1.2 Objective of the study programme

To provide students with the opportunity to study in the system of the National Higher Education Qualifications Framework in the first-level (short-cycle) professional higher education study programme "Podology" and to prepare highly qualified, modernly educated, competent and competitive specialists in podiatry on the labour market.

1.3. Tasks of the study programme

- Academically, intellectually and professionally prepare students in accordance with the requirements of the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 305 of 13 June 2023 "Regulations Regarding the State Standard of Professional Higher Education" [and the "Profession Standard of a Podiatrist https://likumi.lv/ta/id/342818-noteikumi-par-valsts-profesionalas-augstakas-izglitiba-standartu"](https://likumi.lv/ta/id/342818-noteikumi-par-valsts-profesionalas-augstakas-izglitiba-standartu) (<https://registri.visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/2017/PS-155.pdf> agreed at the meeting of the Tripartite Cooperation Sub-Council on Vocational Education and Employment of 9 June 2021, Minutes No. 4).
- To provide an opportunity to acquire the necessary theoretical knowledge, professional skills and practical skills in compliance with the professional work ethic, work and technical safety standards, general hygiene requirements and other regulatory enactments of professional activity.
- Motivate students to know the market for the means necessary for professional use and, in the course of lifelong learning, to take care of their further education and professional development in the chosen field of activity – podiatry, in order to become knowledgeable, skilled, professional employees, consultants, job organizers and / or managers, as well as in the company.
- To provide practical training of students in the clinical environment and practice bases.
- To promote creative, research and social activities of students by contributing to the development of the industry.
- To ensure the ability to carry out professional activities in a multicultural environment and to establish interdisciplinary cooperation in the healthcare team, respecting confidentiality and the principles of personal data protection.
- To provide students with the opportunity to prepare for the continuation of education in second-level (first-cycle) professional higher education programs.
- In cooperation with employers, to improve and update the study programme in accordance with occupational and state vocational education standards, taking into account technological development trends.

- To cooperate with Latvian and foreign educational institutions in the field of professional higher education.
- To inform the public about the activities of the college and the possibilities of obtaining vocational education in the college.

1.4. Study results to be achieved

The competence of the podiatrist includes the podological assessment of patients (examination of the articular system of the foot bones, blood circulation, sensation, soft tissue trophicity and assessment of the degree of risk of damage), assessment of the condition and constitutional features of the patient's toenails, skin and musculoskeletal system of patients of all age groups, podological foot care and preventive work, mainly working with patients of the high-risk group.

As a result of the acquisition of the study program "Podology", students will acquire knowledge, skills and competences:

Knowledge:

- Knows and understands the relationship between organ system diseases and foot diseases;
- Knows and understands subjective, objective and instrumental examination methods in determining and evaluating the patient's state of health;
- Knows the application of a type of foot care appropriate to the diagnosis of podiatric care;
- Knows the hygiene and epidemiological measures specified in regulatory enactments in foot care technologies and examination methods, care planning and implementation of procedures;
- Understands therapeutic foot care.

Skills:

- Knows how to comply with the principles of ethics and personal data protection;
- Knows how to follow the basic rules of successful communication;
- Knows how to link the stages of patient care with the philosophy of patient care;
- Knows how to apply various foot examination methods and care technologies;
- Are able to choose foot care methods and evaluate the results of patient foot and foot care in accordance with the diagnosis of podiatric care;
- Knows how to apply information technologies in professional activities for the acquisition, processing and analysis of information.

Competence:

- Is able to evaluate the condition of the feet of patients of all age groups and make a diagnosis of podological care;
- Able to document the stages of the podological care plan;
- Able to perform podological care, including diabetic foot care;
- Is able to plan and implement educational activities on the need to maintain the health of the skin of the feet and toenails, promoting self-care measures;
- Able to work independently, take the initiative and responsibility for the results of their professional activity;
- Is able to objectively assess their professional knowledge and skills, maintain their professional competence;
- Able to work in a multidisciplinary team.

Knowledge, skills and competences are acquired during studies - theoretical knowledge and practical skills in human anatomy and physiology, regional anatomy, general pathology and pathological physiology, microbiology, virology and parasitology, basics of therapy and pharmacology (circulatory and lymphatic system, allergies, anaphylactic reactions, acute cardiovascular problems, customer care, the effect of medications, (vitamins and minerals), general and aesthetic dermatology (structure and functions of the skin and its derivatives, skin and nail diseases), cytology, genetics and microbiology, influence and use of chemical and physical factors in podiatry, compositions and properties of cosmetic and therapeutic products, nutrition in the sense of regulation of processes occurring in the body, endocrinology and diabetes, professional hygiene standards, risk and physical factors of the working environment, protection of the podiatrist and client, organization of work and management, management and financial accounting, communication psychology, stress and conflict management.

Young specialists, whose set of knowledge, skills and competences will correspond to the qualification "Podologist", will be prepared for high-quality performance of professional activities. Graduates will be able to enter the labour market and supplement human resources in healthcare for the sustainable development of the industry.

Graduates will be able to carry out their professional activities independently or as part of a care team in medical institutions, be self-employed or an individual merchant.

2. Topicality of the study programme

2.1. Brief characteristics of the study program

2.1.1. Justification for the establishment of the Programme, compliance with industry trends in Latvia, the European Union and the world.

The study program was developed in response to the call of potential employers and with the awareness that in each country and in each of its regions there is a need for a high-quality podiatry service due to the increasing number of medical indications for patients with pathologies of orthopedic, dermatological, circulatory disorders. The number of patients with diabetes mellitus who need high-quality services of a podiatrist is also increasing rapidly. At the same time, the acquisition of first-level (short-cycle) professional higher education is implemented in order to promote the integration of European and other foreign podiatry education programs in Latvia, foreign management and business experience in the industry, and to provide with highly educated specialists the constantly growing demand in the field of podiatry.

Despite the fact that the number of medical practitioners in Latvia is growing, EM predicts that the difference between labour supply and demand by thematic areas of education will still increase.

In 2023, the largest labour shortage still exists in the field of health care - (3 100 specialists (doctors, nurses, physician assistants) with higher education and 500 specialists with secondary vocational education). The provision of human resources for health care in Latvia is below the average indicators of the European Union countries.

Daugavpils University Agency "Daugavpils University Daugavpils Medical College" implements the first level (short-cycle) professional higher education study programmes "Health Care" and "Social Welfare".

In the direction "Health care" educational programs "Medical treatment"(41721) with the qualification "Physician's assistant" and "Physician's assistant in emergency medicine / paramedic" (325801) educational program "Medical massage" with the qualification "Masseur, educational program "Aesthetic cosmetology" (41722) with the qualification "Beauty specialist in cosmetology" are implemented.

The aim of the study direction is to prepare competitive healthcare professionals for Latvia and Europe, promoting sustainable education of Latgale region and latvia as a whole.

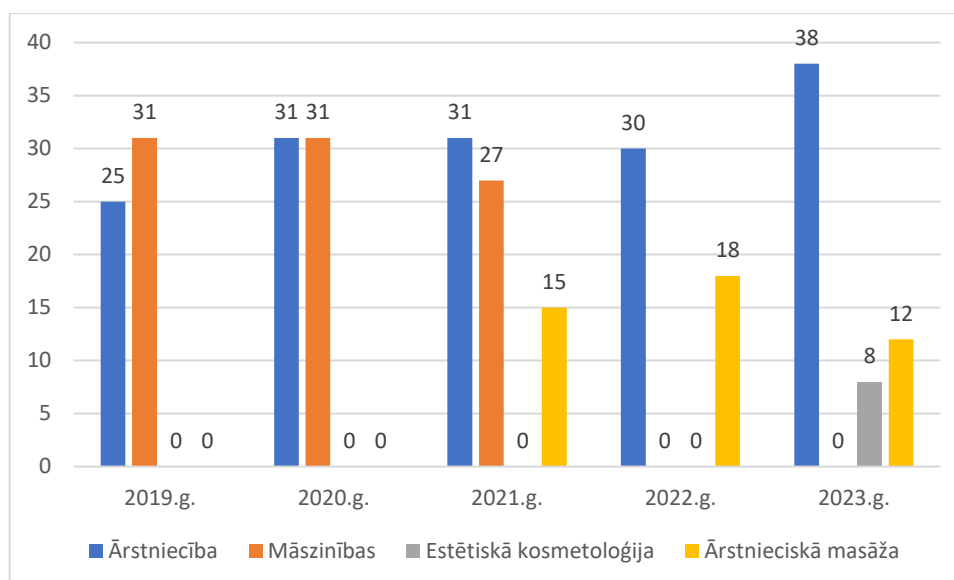


Figure 2.1.2. Number of graduates of DU DMK direction "Health Care" in 2019-2023

Most of the graduates of the direction "Healthcare" work at SIA Daugavpils regional hospital": in 2020 - 607 average medical staff. The second largest employer is the SEMS – 101 employees are college graduates. Students and graduates of DU DMK work in the state VSIA "Daugavpils Psychoneurological Hospital", SIA Krāslavas slimnīca, SIA Preiļu slimnīca, SIA "Latgales medical center", JSC "Veselības centrs apvienība", general practitioners' practices, SIA "Daugavpils Children's Health Center", DBVC "Sports Medicine Center", beauty, massage parlors and as self-employed.

Table 2.1.1

Statistical data on the provision of medical practitioners with secondary medical education in Latvia as of 01.10.2023 according to the data of the Health Inspectorate (01.10.2023.)

	Registered persons	Certified persons	Employed in the profession
Physician Assistant / Paramedic	4120	2645	3274
Masseur	1261	638	603
Beauty specialist in cosmetology	662	63	41
Podiatrist	349	183	183

Based on EM forecasts, it can be concluded that the demand for specialists prepared by DU DMK in the educational thematic groups corresponding to its profile of activity will be quite high in the short and long term and will exceed supply in practically all cases. About 80% of medical graduates stay to work in the region, half find a job at Daugavpils Regional Hospital and other Latgale medical institutions.

The direction of development of the study programs involved in the direction "Health Care" corresponds to the mission formulated in the strategy plan of the DU DMK. The study direction implements the requirements set by the state and prepares the necessary number of

specialists in the field of health care, as well as maintains communication with employers and professional associations. With an open labour market in Europe, graduates of the direction "Healthcare" have the opportunity to find a job both in Latvia and in other European Union countries. Also during the study process, students of the direction "Health Care" have the opportunity to participate in ERASMUS programmes.

Table 2.1.2

**Statistics on student mobility implemented by the direction "Health Care"
Under the Erasmus+ programme**

Erasmus+ mobility implemented in 2019/2020				
Partner	State	Program	Way	Number of students
AWO Association Wittenberg	Germany	Medical treatment, 3 years of study	Practice	2
Panstwowa Wyższa Szkoła Zawodowa w Nysie	Poland	Medical treatment, 3 years of study	Practice	2
Medical University Plovdiv	Bulgaria	Medical treatment, 1 year of studies	Practice	3
Erasmus+ mobility implemented in 2020/2021				
BI Project Consulting UG	Germany	Medical treatment, 3 years of study	Practice	2
Utena College	Lithuania	Medical treatment, 3 years of study	Studio	5
Utena College	Lithuania	Therapeutic massage, 1 year of study	Practice	4
Utena College	Lithuania	Medical treatment, 3 years of study	Practice	12
Utena College	Lithuania	Aesthetic cosmetology, 2 years of study	Practice	29
Erasmus+ mobility implemented in 2021/2022				
Utena College	Lithuania	Medical treatment, 2 year of studies	Practice	3
Utena College	Lithuania	Medical treatment, 3 years of study	Practice	3
Utena College	Lithuania	Medical treatment, 1 year of studies	Practice	6
Utena College	Lithuania	Aesthetic cosmetology, 3 years of study	Studio	11
Utena College	Lithuania	Therapeutic massage, 2 years of study	Practice	4

The involvement of students in Erasmus indicates that the priorities and actions set out in the European Education Area are also implemented in the educational programmes of the DU DMK direction "Healthcare". DU DMK direction "Health Care" fulfills its mission and prepares the specialists necessary for health care, develops the quality of studies, strengthening the place of the college in the unified educational space of the European Union.

The student admission process takes place in all study programmes of the direction "Health Care". The number of applicants for study programmes varies, and the number of applicants is on an increasing trend.

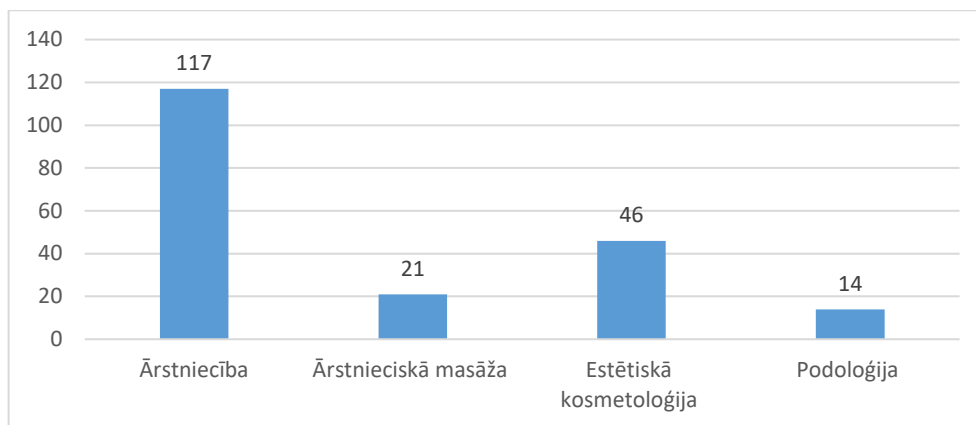


Figure 2.1.2. The number of students of the direction "Health care" as of 01.09.2022.

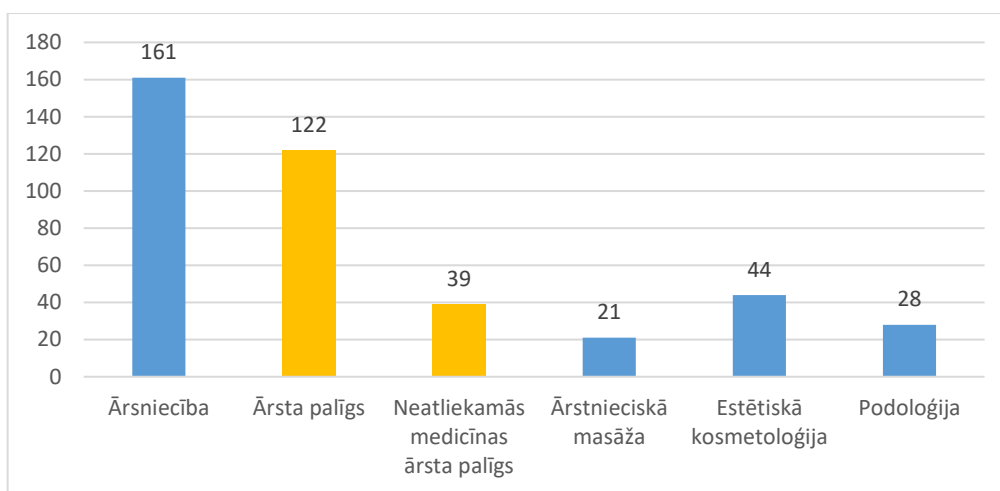


Figure 2.1.3. Number of students of the direction "Health care" as of 01.09.2023.

Comparing the admission statistics of the last two years, it can be concluded that the number of students of the DU DMK direction "Health Care" is growing in all programs.

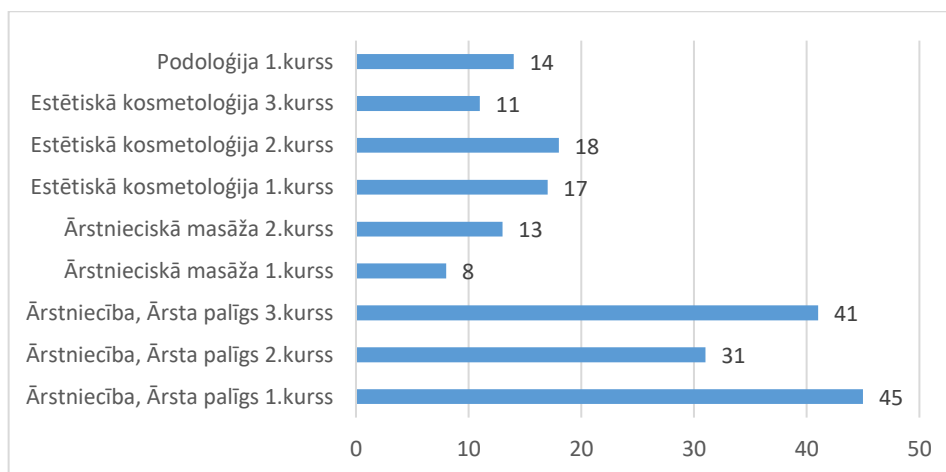


Figure 2.1.4. Number of students of educational programs of the direction "Health care" by courses on 01.09.2022.

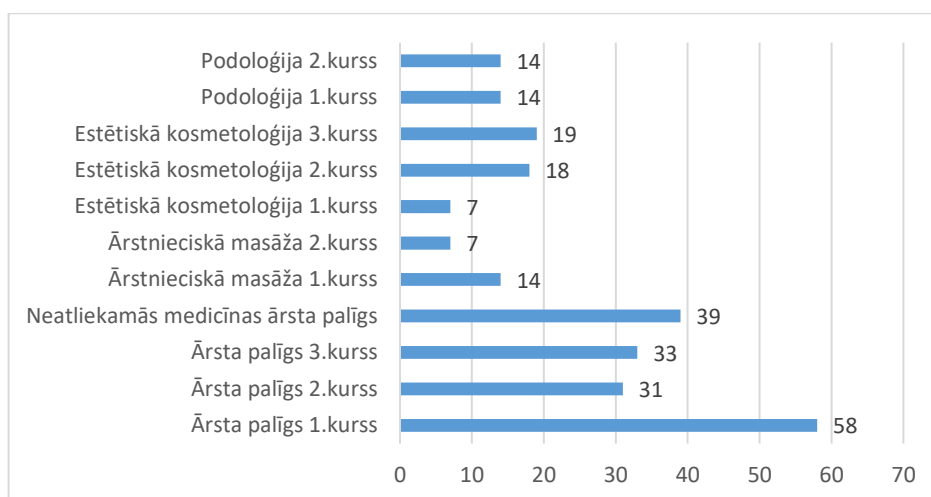


Figure 2.1.5. **Number of students of educational programs of the direction "Health care" by courses on 01.09.2023.**

In accordance with the "Daugavpils University Agency "Daugavpils University Daugavpils Medical College" development strategy for 2021-2027", which was approved at the meeting of the College Council on August 27, [2021, Protocol No. 4](#) (<https://dmk.lv/dokument/7.pdf>), strategic guidelines and the Development Plan of the college's study direction "Health Care" for 2021-2027, a new first-level (short-cycle) professional higher education program was prepared for licensing "Podiatry".

The study programme has been established on the basis of cabinet regulation No. 305 "Regulations on the State Standard of Professional Higher Education" (<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/342818-noteikumi-par-valsts-profesionalas-augstakas-izglitiba-standartu>), and the programme has been aligned with the "Profession Standard of a Podiatrist" (<https://registri.visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/2017/PS-155.pdf>, agreed at the meeting of the Tripartite Cooperation Sub-Council on Vocational Education and Employment of 9 June 2021, Protocol No. 4). Great attention is paid to the specific professional study courses in the field (t.sk., innovations) and the organization of study qualification internships, with the idea that when the requirements of the modern market in the field of podiology services change, podiatrists should be able to react quickly to changes and be ready to meet the demand for services as early as possible not only as a performer - employee, but also as an employer - organizer and manager of the work of a commercial enterprise of podiatry.

During the implementation of the DU DMK study programme "Podology" on 29.09.2022, the medical treatment institution "Daugavpils University Agency "Daugavpils University Daugavpils Medical College" (code - 002000006, registration number - 26249) (<https://registri.vi.gov.lv/air?fid=69460>) is registered in the Register of Medical Institutions, which opens up the possibility for college students to organize practical classes and internships.

The medical treatment institution established by DU DMK operates cabinets for massage, podiatrist and beauty specialist in cosmetology, where services are provided by college lecturers – medical practitioners and students who work under the supervision of professionals in the field.

2.1.2. Presentation of the content of the programme "Podology".

The content of the study programme consists of the following main parts of the programme - study courses (taking place in the forms of lectures, seminars, practical classes, independent work, consultations, tests, problem situations, etc.), introductory practice in the specialty, qualification practice (in the aesthetic medicine center located in medical institutions, enterprises and college), integrated qualification examination and defense of qualification work.

When preparing the program for licensing, the study program is structured in accordance with the Cabinet Regulation No. 141 of 20.03.2001 "Regulations on the State Standard of First Level Professional Higher Education", which has now lapsed. The study programme has been revised and aligned with the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 305 "Regulations Regarding the State Standard of Professional Higher Education" <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/342818-noteikumi-par-valsts-profesionalas-augstakas-izglitiba-standartu>). ([Annex 1](#))

According to the above rules, 30% - 50% of the volume of various courses of study will be practically implemented. Study courses are combined into modules. The study programme involves gradual introduction of professional study courses, which initially significantly orientate in theoretical podiatry, for example, professional communication module study courses - Professional ethics and communication culture - 2 CP (3 ECTS) and Health pedagogy, basic principles of pedagogy and therapeutic communication in podiatrist practice - 2 KP (3 ECTS) or module study course of professional competence in business - Basics of work, environmental protection and ergonomics in podiatry - 2 KP (3 ECTS).

The planning of study courses in scope and content allows to achieve the skills, knowledge and competences specified in the "Podiatrist Profession Standard" (<https://registri.visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/2017/PS-155.pdf> agreed at the meeting of the Tripartite Cooperation Sub-Council of Vocational Education and Employment of 9 June 2021, Protocol No. 4) in order to prepare qualified specialists for the field. ([Annex 3](#))

Applicants are offered the opportunity to acquire the study program "Podology" in the form of full-time studies.

In the development of study course programmes, great attention has been paid to the logically sequential interaction of contact hours of theoretical and practical work and the

mutually coordinated succession of individual study courses, the linkage of the results to be achieved in the study courses with the results of the study programme.

Table 2.1.3

The content of the program "Podology"

	KP	ECTS	1.sem. KP	2.sem. KP	3.sem. KP	4.sem. KP
Compulsory study courses	54	81	20	14	20	0
Compulsory elective study courses	2	3	0	2	0	0
Introductory practice	4	6	0	6	0	0
Practice	12	18	0	4	0	12
Qualification work	8	12	0	0	0	8
Together	80	120	20	20	20	20

In the study plan, general education study modules (Business Professional Competence Module, Professional Communication Module, Natural Science Module) make up a total of 20 CP out of the volume of all study courses. Professional and compulsory study courses in the field (General Medicine Module, Podology Basics Module, Patient Care in Podiatry Module) make up a total of 35 CP of the volume of study courses. The volume of elective study courses (specific professional study courses) accounts for (1 CP) of the volume of study courses. Students' introductory internship in the specialty and qualification practice, for strengthening theoretical knowledge and acquiring practical professional skills, will take place in podological offices, health centers, etc. the total amount of internships is set at 16 CP, but the study period is planned for the development of the qualification paper in the amount of 8 CP. Introductory practice and qualification practice together make up 20% of the volume of study courses, while qualification work – 10% of the volume of all study courses.

Both full-time and part-time studies are planned according to a unified professional study programme, in which the study courses to be taken are divided by years of study and semesters. However, only full-time studies are implemented.

After successful completion of the study programme, passed the final examinations of study courses, included in the study qualification practice, passing the qualification examinations with assessments not lower than 4 ("almost mediocre") graduates receive the state diploma of the first level (short cycle) professional higher education and obtain the 5th level professional qualification - "Podologists".

2.1.3. List and justification of changes made to the study programme since licensing of the study programme.

The results to be achieved as a result of the acquisition of the study programme have been improved, specifying the knowledge, skills and competences to be acquired.

According to the competence approach, the final examination includes an integrated examination.

On the basis of Paragraph 93 [of the Law on Higher Education Institutions](https://likumi.lv/ta/id/37967-augstskolu-likums) (<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/37967-augstskolu-likums>) and Cabinet Regulation No. 305 "Regulations Regarding the State Standard of Professional Higher Education" <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/342818-noteikumi-par-valsts-profesionalas-augstakas-izglitiba-standartu> DU DMK is in the process of preparing for the transition to a European credit transfer and accumulation system. On the basis of Paragraph 13 of Cabinet Regulation No. 305 "Regulations Regarding the State Standard of Professional Higher Education" <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/342818-noteikumi-par-valsts-profesionalas-augstakas-izglitiba-standartu>", which includes the requirements of Paragraph 42 (<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/147917-vides-aizsardzibas-likums>) of the [Environmental Protection Law](#), changes were made to the study programme – the study course Environmental Protection was introduced.

New teaching staff with a doctoral degree in general education study courses and industry professional specialization courses are attracted, for example, the head of the course on the basics of organizing, documenting and managing the podiatrist practice of the Module of Professional Competences in Entrepreneurship - Dr.sc.soc. Jānis Kudiņš. Evita Gravele, a lecturer in the general medicine module study course Symptomatology of Infectious Diseases, has obtained a doctorate in biology.

2.1.4. Statistical data on students in the study programme and comparison against the planned number of students within the framework of the licensing procedure analysis and assessment.

In the first-level (short-cycle) professional higher education study program "Podology", two types of studies were licensed - full-time and part-time. The language of acquisition of the programme in both types of study programme is Latvian. The type of financing of the program - private financing. State-funded study places have not been allocated. In the program "Podology" there are no students from abroad.

DU DMK program "Podology" is implemented in full-time face-to-face form. The language of study of the programme is the official language. A comparison against the planned number of students as part of the licensing procedure shows that it was planned to enroll 20 students. 19 students were enrolled.

The program "Podology" in the college is implemented for a fee, there are no budget places.

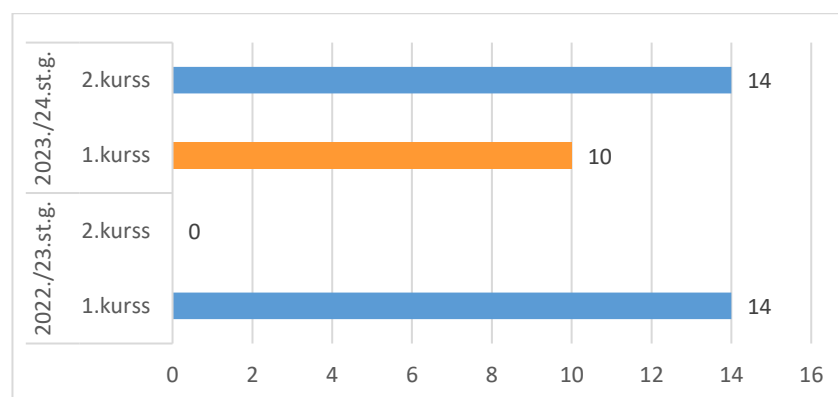


Figure 2.1.6. **Number of students enrolled in the programme "Podology" by year of study and by course**

In the academic year 2022/2023, 19 students started their studies. During the 1st semester, the number of students decreased by 4 students. The reason for the termination of studies in two cases was the family circumstances of the students, and in two - the default and failure of the student.

In the 2nd semester of the academic year 2022/2023, 15 students continued their studies. In April, one student took academic leave.

In the 3rd semester of the 2023/2024 academic year, the number of 2nd year students was 14.

In the 2023/2024 academic year, 13 students started their studies. Within two months, the number of students decreased by 3 students. 1 student quit his studies while on academic leave. The reason for the termination of studies for two students is a change in employment relationship, for 1 student - personal reasons (change of residence).

Currently, 10 students continue their studies in the 1st year of the program "Podology".

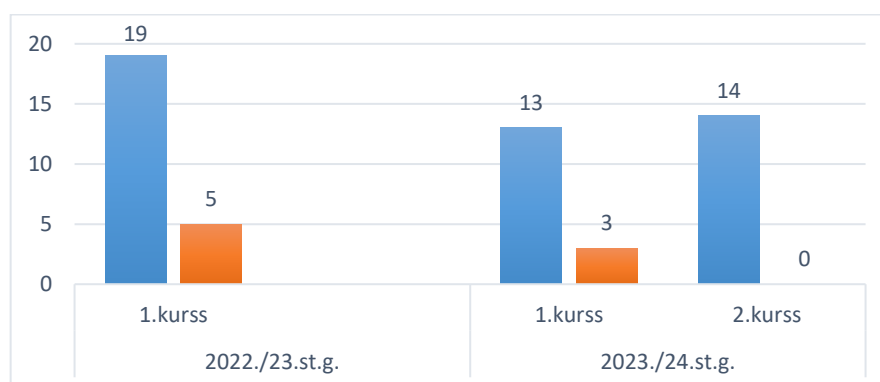


Figure 2.1.7. **Student drop-out Programme "Podology" by course and by year of study**

2.1.5. Employment prospects of graduates of the program.

In perspective, graduates of the first level (short-cycle) professional higher education program "Podology" of DU DMK will become highly qualified specialists in the Latgale region.

71% of potential graduates of the 2023/2024 study year program "Podology" are already working in the field of beauty. Consequently, a potential workplace is already being planned and planned.

Table 2.1.4

Continuing education of students

Name, surname	Date	Lectures, courses, seminars	TIP
Zane Buceniece - Zīberga	2023	Proceedings of the Conference of Scientific Research Papers and Innovative Solutions of the Association of Colleges	4
	18.-19.05.2023.	Lu PSK international scientific conference "Quality of health care and social welfare – education and practice" participation in the works of the section "Novelties in the process of podological care"	8
Inese Tiševska	17.10.2023.	LU PSK Diabetic Foot Assessment in Podiatrist Practice	8
Darya Fedoseyeva	18.-19.05.2023.	Lu PSK international scientific conference "Quality of health care and social welfare – education and practice" participation in the works of the section "Novelties in the process of podological care"	8
	18-19 April 2023	Participation in du DMK international conference "Health Care: Reality and Challenges"	12
Natalya Ignatova	18.-19.05.2023.	Lu PSK international scientific conference "Quality of health care and social welfare – education and practice" participation in the works of the section "Novelties in the process of podological care"	8
	18-19 April 2023	Participation in du DMK international conference "Health Care: Reality and Challenges"	12
	17.10.2023.	LU PSK Diabetic Foot Assessment in Podiatrist Practice	8
Oksana Volkova	13.10.2023.	LU PSK Lectures Diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of superficial mycosis" Certificate No.3.21/193	8
	25.10.2023.	Diaspora Association of Nurses and Midwives seminar ""Wound care and novelties in nursing practice"	2
	06.11.2023.	LFA seminar "Multidisciplinary team involvement in diabetes patient care"	3
	08.06.2023.	"Tasks and Latest Options for the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus" TIP2023/6239	1
	26.10.2023. 06.11.2023.	LU PSK "Wound care in the process of podological care"	12
	21.09.2023.	LU PSK "Ensuring hygiene and epidemiological requirements in the practices of podiatrists"	8
	17.10.2023.	LU PSK Diabetic Foot Assessment in Podiatrist Practice	8

Students of the program "Podology" have the desire and motivation to improve their knowledge, as well as to improve their qualifications according to individual interests, which are presented in the table.

3. Resources and provision

The college shall provide the study base necessary for the implementation of the study programme. Its main components are study buildings with modernized auditoriums, specialized study rooms with modern equipment and a registered college medical institution. Students have access to a library that meets the requirements of universities, professional academic and general staff, and an organizer of methodological and research work in the Department of Health and Social Care.

The study program "Podology" is a paid program. The employer covers the cost of studies for only one student. Based on the agreement between the student and JSC "Veselības centrs apvienība", the employer compensates the student for the tuition fee.

According to the budget allocated by the Ministry of Education and Science, a financing plan is drawn up for each study year, however, the budget places for the study programme "Podology" are not included in the financial plan of the Ministry of Education and Science.

In order to ensure high-quality implementation of the study programme, the college purposefully develops a material and information base, the provision of which is determined by the objectives, tasks, content and structure of the programme. The college manages the property owned by DU DMK in Daugavpils, Warsaw Street 26A and Miera Street 3/5.

3.1. Characterisation and assessment of the study base, science base (if applicable), informative base (including library), material and technical base and financial base regarding conformity with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and ensuring the achievement of study results, and the changes made since the commencement of the implementation of the study programme, their impact on the quality of studies.

Information technologies are used in the acquisition of programs, a permanent Internet connection is provided to all computers combined into a local area network and WI-FI. The college is gradually moving from the e-learning environment MOODLE to the Mykoob platform. Students and lecturers have access to modern equipment, computers, databases and room equipment (see tables 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5). In the study process, projectors are used, free access to the Internet network is ensured. As a result of the projects co-financed by the EU, the latest technologies, procedure dummies and interactive whiteboards are available. In the study process, students use methodological interactive materials, for example, in the courses "Human Anatomy" and "Engineering Anatomy" they use <https://www.innerbody.com/image/skelfov.html> and 3D Virtual dissection table "Anatmage" materials, game methods: Quizizz. Com, zygotbody.com platforms, anatomy3datlas.com

training CDs and DVDs, create various educational games in the PowerPoint program, improve your knowledge, skills and competences in the podiatry procedure room, the Medical Massage training center, nursing rooms and the college medical institution. The course "Emergency medical aid and civil protection" takes place at the "Emergency Medical Aid Simulation Center".

The study rooms of the college are arranged in accordance with the structure and content of professional study courses. IT equipment (interactive whiteboards, projectors, special equipment for organizing practical work) is available in the auditoriums. The existing infrastructure of the premises meets the requirements of the program, both in terms of quantity and quality.

In order to ensure the study work in the college building at Miera iela 3/5, 36 auditoriums and study rooms have been created – somatic diseases cabinet, Child care cabinet, Developmental classes cabinet, Anatomy cabinet, Rehabilitation cabinet, Accounting resources cabinet, computer cabinet, Information processing and copying cabinet, Lecturers' cabinet. For the provision of the study program "Podology" in the college there are established and equipped Podology Procedures Cabinet, Practical Procedures Cabinet, Cosmetology Laboratory.

Table 3.1

Podiatry Procedure Cabinet (based on the recommendations of the Society of Podiatrists)

Equipment/funds	Equipment
Podiatry cabinet equipment	<p>podological chair or couch with adjustable footrests, podiatrist's chair with adjustable height – 6pcs.;</p> <p>working lamp – 6pcs.;</p> <p>tool table – 6pcs.;</p> <p>foot care apparatus with a micromotor built into the handle for vacuuming – 4pcs.;</p> <p>neurological test investigation kit: 128 Hz graduated camelton – 1pc.; 10 g Semmes-Weinstein monofilament 1 pc.; thermotype (or thermopad) 1 pc.;</p> <p>foot care apparatus milling cutters – diamond, hard metal, sandpaper caps;</p> <p>cosmetic skin and nail care products (creams, oils), skin and nail softeners;</p> <p>a sink equipped with a water pipe (water mixer), which is connected to the sewerage - is in each working cabinet;</p> <p>containers for processing medical instruments before sterilization – 2pcs.;</p> <p>nail correction clamps;</p> <p>sterilization equipment with or / without instrument seaming (type B autoclave) – 1 pc.;</p> <p>quartz lamp -1 pc.</p>
Personal disposable protective equipment	<p>Protective gloves;</p> <p>plastic face shields (screens) or disposable masks;</p> <p>Goggles;</p> <p>disposable aprons;</p> <p>disposable caps.</p>
Hygiene and disinfection products and equipment	<p>disposable hand towels – are in every office;</p> <p>soap dishes with dispenser – are in every office;</p> <p>containers for disinfectants for hands with a dispenser - are in each working cabinet;</p> <p>garbage cans (with lid and pedal) – are in each office;</p> <p>liquid hand soap – is in every office;</p>

	tool washing product – Des inshuranse (wilted level disinfectant); hand sanitizer - Chemisept; surface disinfectant - Bactacid; instrument disinfectant (high level = sporicidal disinfectant - Sterisept Instru); cleaning, washing disinfection and sterilization plan; closed container for dirty tools – 1pc; closed container for clean and disinfected instruments - 1pc; containers for disinfection of work instruments – 1pc; disinfection record book; sterilization accounting journal; The sink is in every work cabinet.
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The acquisition of practical skills for students of the study program "Podology" is planned in simulation rooms, a laboratory of practical procedures and places of practice. Separate study courses, for example, the course "Variety of Means of Podology", are implemented in close cooperation with Daugavpils University, practical classes are held in the university's chemistry laboratories. Students' practical classes also use the Emergency Medical Assistance Simulation Center, the Patient Care Process Simulation Center, the Medical Massage Training Center, the Innovative Technology Laboratory, 3 large halls.

1. The patient care process simulation center (procedure cabinet and manipulation room) is used for the implementation of programs of the "Health Care" and "Social Welfare" study directions.

Table 3.2

Patient Care Process Simulation Center

No.	Equipment	number
Part 1. Procedure cabinet		
1.	Patient care process simulator	1
2.	Couch	1
3.	Procedure table with drawers (shelves)	1
4.	Procedure cabinet	1
5.	Sterilizer	1
6.	Stand	1
7.	Perfusor	1
Part 2. Manipulation room		
1.	Electrically operated functional patient bed	1
2.	Mattress of increased elasticity with waterproof jacket	1
3.	Procedure table with drawers	1
4.	Stand	1
5.	Glass cabinet	1
6.	Anti-bedsores	1

2. Training center for therapeutic massage for the acquisition of practical skills. The cabinet is used for the acquisition of the study subjects "Basics of Medical Massage" and "Medical Rehabilitation" of the study programmes "Health Care" and "Social Welfare", for the acquisition of further education and professional development programmes and for ensuring specialization.

Table 3.3

Training center for therapeutic massage

No.	Equipment	Number
1.	Massage tables	4
2.	Massage chairs	1
3.	Massage devices	5
4.	Screens	2
5.	Hydromassage bath	1

3. The laboratory of innovative technologies serves to conduct research and ensure the implementation of innovations in the study process. Within the framework of the project, a modern, convenient laboratory of innovative technologies that meets the requirements of occupational safety and ergonomics has been created in order to promote the competitiveness of students and the ability to use new technologies and information sources. The establishment of the laboratory contributes to the development of new programs, updating the content of programs, increasing the quality of the development of research works by introducing innovative technological, methodological and IT solutions.

Table 3.4

Innovative Technology Laboratory

No.	Equipment	Number
1.	Document camera – 4.pcs. (additional equipment for rooms with projector and mobile resource to other rooms equipped with projectors)	1
2.	Plotter (A1 format)	1
3.	Projector (EPSON BrightLink 595Wi with digital whiteboard capabilities)	1
4.	Stationary computer kits	2
5.	Portable projectors - 2 and laptops	1
6.	A3 coloured laser printer	1
7.	Informative display 55" with content management solution	1
8.	Video camera	1

4. The Emergency Medical Assistance Simulation Center serves for the acquisition of study programs that include components of emergency medicine for the acquisition of continuing education and professional development programs and the provision of specialization programs for health care and social welfare professionals.

Table 3.5

Emergency Medical Assistance Simulation Center

No.	Equipment	Number
1.	Patient simulator SIMMAN	1
2.	Resuscitation bag	1
3.	Defibrillator Life-pack 15	1
4.	Set for intubation	1
5.	Pump	1
6.	Respiration machine Oxylog	1
7.	Set for intraosseal injections BIG	1
8.	Oxygen cylinder (simulator) with Flowmeter and humidifier	1
9.	Stretcher (transport trolley)	1
10.	Vacuum mattress	1
11.	In the event of a schin crash, a short spinal immobilization board (SED device)	1

12.	Immobilization board	1
13.	Blades for defibrillation	1
14.	Cardiocardiograph Cardio Touch 3000 with SPM 300 spirometer (710-20100)	1

The lecturers involved in the program have developed and regularly review the content of study courses. During the implementation of the program, lecturers are offered the opportunity to create their own methodological materials, for example, in the courses "Human Anatomy" and "Regional Anatomy" lecturers use both interactive materials and widely use the capabilities of the google.forms platform. Lecturers mostly develop methodological and handouts of study courses themselves, based on the materials acquired in professional development and further education seminars, the latest literature, the information network and the results of their own practical research, as well as involving students. The practical acquisition of the courses "Care of surgical patients in podiatry" and "Orthopedics and basics of prosthetics in podiatry" takes place in a clinical environment. Thus, students receive original up-to-date and most up-to-date professional information, which significantly improves the quality of studies and the results to be achieved.

The implementation of the study programme is regulated by the internal documents of the college regulating the study process (By-law on the procedures for studies and examinations, By-laws for practice, etc.), methodological instructions (Methodological instructions for assessment, Methodological instructions for the development and defence of study papers, term papers and qualification papers).

The college library and its services are available to everyone. The variety of services offered, the layout of the premises and the opening hours are closely related to the prompt and high-quality provision of library services to its users.

Daugavpils University Agency "Daugavpils University Daugavpils Medical College" library was founded in 1945. On November 11, 2003, the library was included in the Library Register of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia (BLB1060). Since 2006, the Library has been using the integrated information system ALISE (Advanced Library Information Service).

The library is located in Daugavpils, Warsaw Street, 26A. The total area of the library premises is 40.5 m². The library is located in two rooms and consists of a subscription, a bookstore and a modernly equipped reading room, with the possibility for students and faculty to operate comfortably. The library subscription offers books and textbooks, industry literature and fiction. The reading room of the library shall be appropriately technologically equipped. The reading room has 20 user jobs, 5 new computers with widescreen monitors, 2 printers, Internet and WI-FI connection, which allows users to make full use of electronic resources.

The library's working hours ensure access to information resources and meet the needs of students – the library works on weekdays from 9.00 to 16.00, and the last Friday of each month - the day of polishing.

On the college's website www.dmk.lv in 2012, a section has been created – "Library", in which, in turn, the electronic catalogue of the college library is available.

The library fully provides learners with industry-appropriate educational literature and periodicals in Latvian, English, Russian and German, regularly informs about news using the e-environment, introduces the latest technologies, develops information search and use skills, supports and facilitates the study process. Library services are provided in accordance with the DU DMK Library Terms of Use, which have been approved at the DU DMK Council meeting on August 30, 2018. The library provides free and paid services.

Free services:

- electronic ordering of books and other publications, reservation, extension of terms of use;
- receiving books and other publications for on-site use in the Library's reading room or for home collection;
- computer and Internet use, WI-FI;
- consultations on the search for information and the compilation of reading lists;
- training of users for working with electronic catalogs and databases.

Paid services

- printer printing and copying services.

Library collection

The college library compiles the collection in accordance with the study directions of DU DMK, the requirements of study programs. The library's book collection consists of textbooks, magazines, and audiovisual publications. The total number of physical units of the library on 01.10.2023 is 9017, of which books - 8031 copies (including textbooks - 3558 copies), 24 audiovisual documents and 8 title periodicals.

Library users are also offered periodicals, including magazines "Latvijas Ārsts", "Doctus", "Ārsts.lv", "Materia Medica", "What Doctors Don't Tell You", "My Mazais", "Illustrated Science" and others (total number of magazines - 926 eks.). In the reading room, library users have the opportunity to work with reference literature, other valuable printed matter in a well-maintained environment, as well as to search for information on electronic resources - electronic catalogues and databases.

The library carries out thematic compilations of information materials, provides consultations for working with a computer, trains for working with electronic catalogs and

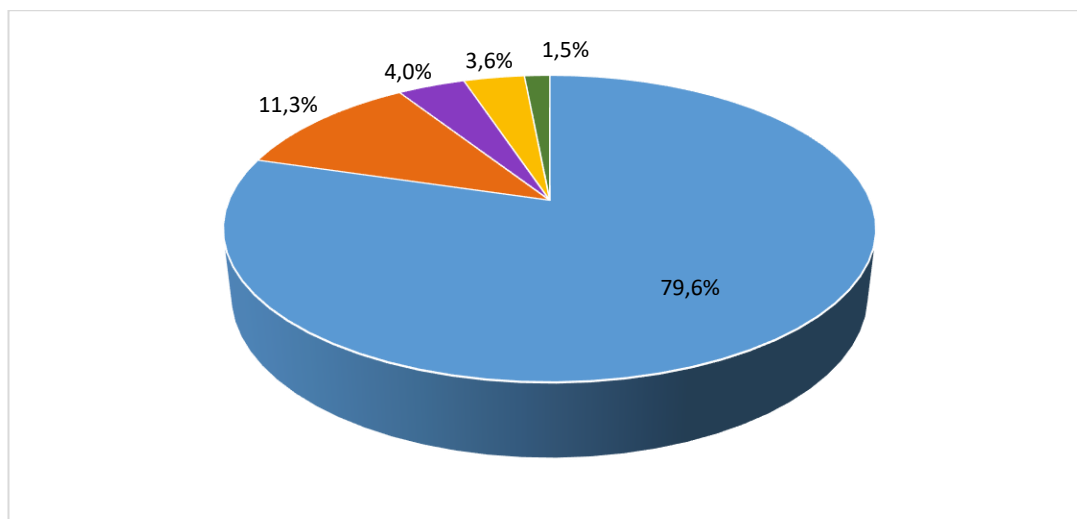
databases. During the process of selecting information sources, students are prepared to work with the Library Information System "Alice", with the electronic catalogue of the college library, databases created by the National Library of Latvia, including the National Bibliography database, which is used for the operational selection of information in medical journals, as well as library users are consulted on the possibilities of using PubMed, EBSCO and other electronic resources of the medical field. Library users are offered to work with databases of e-books and e-journals, online periodicals, Internet dictionaries and encyclopedias. For the convenience of students and lecturers, useful links for more operational information collection are posted on the website of the electronic catalog of the college library. These are: website of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, E-veseliba.lv, Medicine.lv, database PubMed, National Encyclopedia.

In order for the learning process to become more modern, of higher quality, every year the library is replenished with a significant amount of new sources of information, but after the content, outdated copies are excluded from the collection. Thus, the college library ensures the continuous preservation of the topicality of the collection.

Students of the college library have the opportunity to use scientific literature from other libraries, for example, Latgale Central Library or Daugavpils University Library, National Library of Latvia.

DU DMK uses only private financial resources (own revenue) to provide studies. The student tuition fee and other payments related to the study process are determined by the DU DMK College Council. A study agreement is concluded with each student, in which the study fee for the total study time is indicated. The expenditure part of the study programme consists of the costs of the purchase of teaching aids, the costs of materials, energy resources, water, inventory, administrative, business trips and wages and salaries.

In 2023, the cost of the study place of the study programme "Podology" amounted to EUR 1 781.25, including the salary fund of the staff and the cost of the work called SSIA, costs of materials, energy resources, inventory and teaching aids, purchase of books and equipment (see Figure 3.1). The costs of accreditation, as well as the costs of unforeseen events, are not included in the calculations, they are covered by the college from other resources of the college (t.sk. own revenue from the operation of the dormitory, organization of distance learning courses and seminars, etc.) and external financing (implementation of projects t.sk). The tuition fee for 1 student in the study program is 2,000 EUR per year. Taking into account the number of students in the study programme "Podology" (as of 1 January 2024 – 24 students), the financial security for the study programme is sufficient. The required number of students has been reached to ensure a high-quality study process, 10-14 students in each study course.



79,6% - Remuneration, including qualification promotion
 11,3% - Service of premises and equipment
 4,0% - Purchase of fixed assets
 3,6% - Teaching aids and equipment

Figure 3.1. Cost of study places in the study programme "Podology" (%)

Funding for science and research consists of college resources and State funding (t.sk. State budget programme 03.00.00 "Higher education" sub-programme 03.03.00 "Development of scientific activity in higher education institutions and colleges). In 2023, the funding received from the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) for ensuring the development of scientific activity amounted to EUR 54 553, in 2024 – EUR 54 713.

The analysis of the funding and available resources of the study program is carried out annually, identifying current needs and planning long-term necessary investments. In order to successfully implement it, every year the college management meets with lecturers, the head of the study program, discussing the results achieved during the previous study year and prioritizing the needs of the study program "Podology" for the next stages.

The financial position of DU DMK is stable. Each financial year ends with a positive balance sheet. This is due to well-thought-out and targeted financial planning.

In accounting work, the accounting financial accounting program "Horizon" is used.

In general, it can be concluded that the existing provision of the study direction "Health Care", including infrastructure and equipment, guarantees a high-quality study environment for the implementation of the study program "Podologija" to be licensed and the achievement of study results.

3.2. During the reporting period, analysis of changes in the composition and qualification of teaching staff and assessment of such changes (impact on the quality of studies, conditions for implementation and compliance with the requirements of regulatory enactments).

There are minor changes in the composition of the teaching staff - the head of the course on the basics of organizing, documenting and conducting the practice of a podiatrist of the Module of Professional Competences in Entrepreneurship - Dr.sc.soc. Jānis Kudiņš.

There are also qualification changes since the licensing of the program - one lecturer - Evita Gravele has obtained a doctorate in biology.

Four lecturers of the study programme "Podology" (E.Černova, N.Riņģe, L.Treščinska, A.Kucina) have participated in outgoing ERASMUS+ mobility in Germany and the Netherlands.

4. Implementation of the recommendations received in the licensing of the study programme

4.1. Assessment of the implementation of the plan for the implementation of the recommendations provided by the licensing experts of the study programme and the impact of the recommendations provided on the quality of studies or improvement of the processes in the study programme.

Short-term recommendations (until the ICC meeting)

N.p.k.	Recommendations	Implementation of recommendations
1.	Define specific criteria for introductory and qualifying internships and practice managers.	Recommendation complied with
2.	To supplement with the date, document No. and the code of the study programme, which indicates that DU DMK students are guaranteed compensation for losses if the study programme "Podology" is not accredited or the licence of the study programme is revoked due to the actions (actions or omissions) of DU DMK and the student does not wish to continue studies in another study programme (Annex 16.1).	Recommendation complied with
3.	To supplement with the code document of the study programme Daugavpils University Agency "Daugavpils University Daugavpils Medical College" first level professional higher education study programme "Podology" "COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROFESSION STANDARD" (Annex 3).	Recommendation complied with
4.	Involve industry specialists in the implementation, quality assurance and development of the study programme.	Recommendation complied with
5.	Include in the study plan an indication of the division of study courses into Compulsory Study Courses (Part A) and Limited Elective Study Courses (Part B) and ensure that the number of Restricted Elective Study Courses gives students the opportunity to choose study courses.	Recommendation complied with

Short-term recommendations (until the start of the implementation of the study programme)

N.p.k.	Recommendations	Implementation of recommendations
1.	In order to ensure high-quality implementation of the study programme, to enter into agreements of intent with certified podiatrists for the implementation of introductory practice and qualification practice in the places of practice with which contracts of intent have been concluded.	Recommendation implemented. Contracts have been concluded for the implementation of introductory practice and qualification practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girucka Victoria – certified podiatrist practice; • KRĒZS, LTD, Jēkabpils, Jēkabpils district, certified podiatrist – Sandra Yakovleva • Association of Health Centres, JSC certified podiatrist – Jana Mihailova • SIA "Preiļu slimnīca" – certified podiatrist Kristīne Vucāne

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIA "Daugavpils regional hospital"- certified podiatrist – Oksana Anisjko
2.	For the teaching staff involved in the study programme, to review and improve the conformity of the literature sources used for the acquisition of study courses with the objectives, content and results to be achieved of the study courses, supplementing the reading lists with newer publications, especially in the study courses, which will use the new international guidelines adopted in recent years.	Recommendation complied with
3.	Between students and faculty to use a unified e-environment (e.g. MOODLE), mainly to organize the circulation of information in official college e-environments.	The recommendation has been fulfilled – the college uses the Mykoob platform.

Long-term recommendations of experts (to be implemented within 2 years)

No.	Recommendation of the expert group	University/college activity	Results to be achieved	Deadline for implementation	Implementation of the recommendation
1.	To establish cooperation with the Latvian Society of Podiatrists.	DU DMK encourages students of the "Podology" program to become members of the Society of Podiatrists; The head of the Society of Podiatrists participated in the scientific conference of DU DMK with an open master class for students of the program "Podology"	5 students – members of the Society of Podiatrists	January 2024	May 2024