EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND THE COMPETENCY-BASED APPROACH IN THE RUSSIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Peoples' Friendship University of Russia

- Established by the USSR Government in 1960

- Was named after Patrice Lumumba in 1961 - one of the symbols of the struggle for the independence of the African peoples

Peoples' Friendship University of Russia

28,000 undergraduate and graduate students, registrars and fellows
15,800 full-time students
63% - Russian students
37% - foreign students

•The only university in the world uniting students from 140 countries every year

•More than 77 thousand graduates work in 170 countries, among them more than 5500 holders of PhD and Doctorate degrees

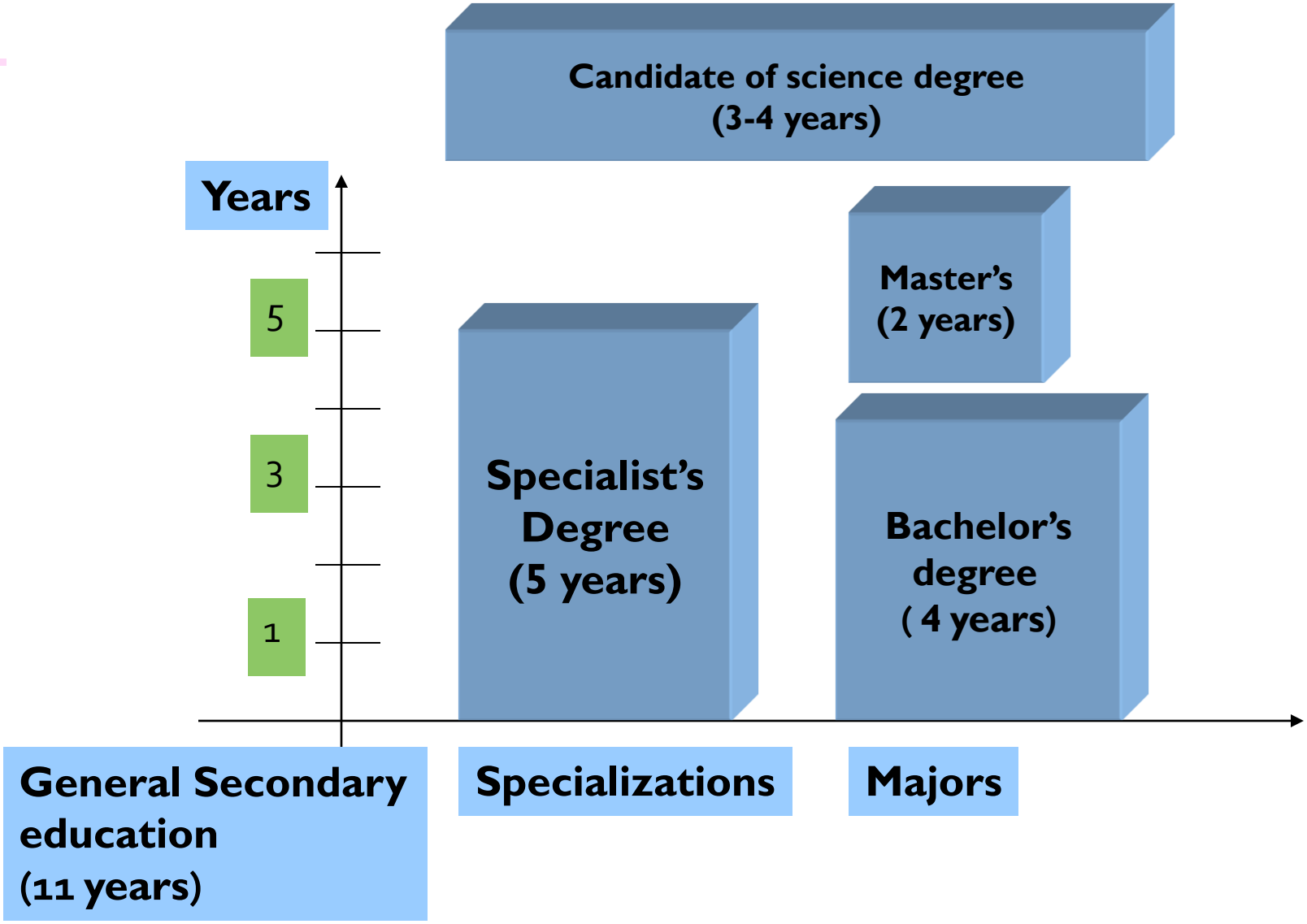
•Specialists are prepared in 62 majors and fields of study

Dissertation project

The purpose of the research is to determine the optimal educational model of the university graduate in Russia.

The model of the university graduate is understood as a conceptual description of learning goals, learning content and the principles of organization of the educational process in undergraduate programs.

Higher Education System in Russia



Higher Education: Statistics

In 2011 1442.9 thousand degrees were awarded in Russia:

- 634* state and municipal universities conferred 1157. 3 thousand degrees (80.2%)

- 446* private universities granted 285.6 thousand specialists (19.8%)

** 2011-2012 academic year*

Federal Government Role

- develops and implements the unified state policy in the field of education;
- organizes higher education provision
- establishes, reorganizes and liquidates federal state educational institutions
- approves federal state educational standards
- establishes federal state requirements
- licenses educational activities
- provides state accreditation of educational activities
- controls (supervises) the educational field
- conducts monitoring in the education system at the federal level

Development programs

- Concept of modernization of Russian education in the period up to 2010
- Federal target program on education for 2011-2015
- State Program of the Russian Federation "Development of Education" for 2013-2020

New Law on Education №273-FZ: What is education?

Education is a universal purposeful process of upbringing and learning, which is a socially significant good and which is implemented in the interests of the individual, family, society and State, as well as the body of acquired knowledge, abilities, skills, values, experience and competency of the specific volume and complexity for the purpose of intellectual, moral and spiritual, creative, physical and (or) professional development of the individual, and of meeting their educational needs and interests.

New Law on education №273-FZ: Federal State Educational Standards

A set of mandatory requirements for a certain level of education and (or) for the profession, specialization and field of study

They provide:

- unity of the educational space
- continuity of the major educational programs
- variability of the content of educational programs
- possibility of tailoring educational programs

to educational needs and abilities of students

New Law on education №273-FZ: Federal State Educational Standards

Standards regulate:

- Structure and conditions for implementing educational programs
- Duration of educational programs
- Workload (in credits)
- Requirements for mastering programs (acquired competencies)
- Characteristics of professional activities

Competency-based approach in Federal State Educational Standards

Was introduced in 2011 to solve the following problems in higher education:

- Disciplinary approach to learning
- Lack of students' autonomy (independence) in the learning process
- Lack of experience in the application of acquired knowledge to solve practical problems by university graduates
- Non-compliance of education to labor market requirements

Competency-based approach: examples of competencies*

- Cultural competency:

"Ability to understand the driving forces and laws of the historical process, the events and processes of economic history, the place and role of the country in the history of mankind and in the modern world"

- Professional competency:

"Ability to build standard theoretical and econometric models, to analyze and interpret the results meaningfully, on the basis of economic processes and phenomena description"

From the Standard on the baccalaureate program for Economics major

Competency-based approach: application problems

1. What is implied by a competency?

Is it knowledge, skills and/or abilities?

(traditional model)

Is it a generalized description of the personality that defines his proven ability to exploit its full potential (knowledge, skills, experience and personal qualities) to perform successfully in a particular area?

Competency-based approach: application problems

2. Are competencies formed in the academic or professional field?

Competency-based approach: application problems

3. How are competency and qualification interconnected?

Employee's qualification is the level of knowledge, skills, professional skills and experience of the employee (definition in the Labor Code, p. 195.1)

Qualification is the level of knowledge, abilities, skills and competence that characterize readiness to perform a certain type of professional activity (definition in the Law on education №273-FZ)

Competency-based approach: application problems

4. How do we evaluate competencies and the level of their development?

Is it possible in the traditional classroom setting?

What forms of testing are appropriate?

Competency-based approach in the comparative perspective: USA

- Programs are aimed at the adult population with practical experience but without a college diploma
- Possibility to convert practical experience into a formal unit of measurement (competency in this case)
- Mostly, online education
- Low cost
- Flexible educational programs

Going back to the Dissertation Project: Educational Model of the University Graduate

- Conceptual description of learning goals

At what level should a student demonstrate a competency in the current and intermediate control in a discipline?

- Learning content

Does the competency-based approach hold the innovative potential for university curricula?

In what part of the discipline should a competency be formed?

- Principles of organization of the educational process

How does the competency-based approach contribute to the interdisciplinary approach to learning?

Thank you!