E-learning for the Development of Students’ Academic Competence at University

Author(s): Nida Ambrase (presenting), Virginija Chreptaviciene (presenting)


Network: 16. ICT in Education and Training

Format: Poster

Session Information

16 SES 05.5 PS, General Poster Exhibition

General Poster Session during Lunch

Time: 2012-09-19
12:30-14:00

Room: FCEE - Poster Exhibition Area

Contribution

E-learning for the Development of Students’ Academic Competence at University

In educating future specialists, institutions of higher education are facing the task not only to define the system of specific tasks but also skills necessary for students to acquire academic competence – ability for successful professional performance – upon graduation. Traditional ways, methods and aids of teaching/learning are not sufficient for students’ competence. E-learning emerges as the most important factor of improving the quality of studies. It is of particular importance for Lithuania to evaluate the impact of e-learning in developing students’ academic competence, as ICT is a quite recent application in the study process in this country in comparison to Western countries. Even though universities in the West are experienced in this field, their experience cannot be transferred to Lithuania for the lack of material, human and other resources.

The analysis of research literature has shown that ICT application for developing students’ academic competence has been analysed by a number of researchers: Meei-Ling Liaw (2006), Brazdeikis (2007), Amhag and Jakobsson (2008), Targamadze and Petrauskiene (2008); Chreptaviciene (2009; 2010), Stankeviciene (Ambrase) et al. (2008, 2009), Madge et al. (2009), Kennelly (2009), Selwyn (2009) et al.

Still, the phenomenon of e-learning has not attracted relevant academic discourse. ICT application in university studies is particularly important, as e-learning is able to develop a new cultural and technological media and, at the same time, lead to successful development of students’ academic competence. This leads to the following research question: can e-learning provide more quality in developing students’ academic competence?

The aim of the research: to define the potential of developing students’ academic competence with reference to e-
Method

The aim will be accomplished drawing on research literature analysis for presenting a theoretical-hypothetical model of developing students' academic competence with reference to e-learning. Its efficiency will be tested by empirical research at Kaunas University of Technology. The number of students at this institution is 15000. The methods of qualitative survey survey will be employed. The sample consists of 395 students and 30 university teachers.

Expected Outcomes

The research results will provide answers to the question if e-learning can lead to a more effective development of students’ competence at university. Drawing on the research results, the development of students’ academic competence with reference to e-learning will be modelled, its characteristics and criteria will be identified, a rationale will be provided for original research methodology and instruments that will be available for researchers interested in similar research.

References

Butrimienė, E.; Stankevičienė [Ambrase], N.. Enrichment of the educational environment with information and communication technologies: state of art at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Kaunas University of Medicine. Kauno medicinos universiteto Farmacijos fakulteto situacija / Medicina, 44, 2, 156-166. Madge, C. Meek, J. Wellens, J. Hooley, T. (2009) Facebook, social integration and informal learning at University: ‘It is more for socialising and talking to friends about work than for actually doing work’. Learning, Media and Technology, 34, 2, 141-15.

Author Information

Nida Ambrase (presenting)
Kaunas University of Technology
Kaunas

Virginija Chreptaviciene (presenting)
Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania