**Melnychenko Ruslana. Theoretical Basis of Professional Competence Formation of the Biology Teacher of the Specialized School.**

The author singles out the essence and the structure of the professional competence of the biology teacher of the specialized school. Theoretical grounds of the competence-based approach in the course of the biology teacher training in the system of higher and postgraduate pedagogical education has been revealed. The professional competence of the biology teacher of the specialized school is a multicomponent integral unity, which is the basis for fulfilling professional duties in today's changing environment of specialized education. Professional competence of the teacher embodies a lot of components: needs, interests and occupational goals; professionally significant knowledge; professionally essential skills and significant psychological and social qualities of the teacher's personality.

The main trend of the educational reform is profiling senior secondary school that is aimed at social and professional self-determination of students in accordance with their interests, inclinations, and abilities. Therefore, the teacher of the specialized school should be able to perform diagnostic and prognostic activities among high school students, provide vocational guidance for students and their parents with the educational and professional structure of the region. Also, significant is the ability to plan their pedagogical activity depending on the subject, field of study, model and form of its organization and the type of the educational institution.

For the biology teacher of the specialized school, the importance of fundamental natural studies and the ability to integrate them is growing. It is necessary to have knowledge of legislative and regulatory documents, didactics, and methodology of basic, special and selective educational courses. The teacher has to know the psychology of gifted students and to contribute to the creative potential development. The information and technology skills, knowledge of methods of scientific and research activities, experimental, project, environment and nature, health-preserving activities make the indispensable component of the professional competence of the biology teacher. The role of the innovative teaching techniques and the teacher's willingness to use them in their work is increasing.

The professional competence of the biology teacher is constantly developing and improving in the course of creative educational activities on condition of desire for lifelong education.

**Key words**: competence-based approach in education, professional competence, specialized education, a biology teacher.

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