



February 8, 2021

РЕЦЕНЗІЯ (REVIEW)

на освітньо-професійну програму
«Середня освіта (Географія) та краєзнавчо-туристична робота»
першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти
за спеціальністю 014 Середня освіта (Географія),
розроблену кафедрою географії та геоекології Центральноукраїнського
державного педагогічного університету імені Володимира Винниченка

Acquiring geographic knowledge in the 21st century is necessary for individuals to become successful in an increasingly interconnected and competitive world. Geography provides necessary knowledge for individuals to become productive members of society, build strong and healthy communities, and support their nation in international relations and the global economy. All of this depends on competent and dedicated geography teachers educated and trained in vigorous and robust geography programs at pedagogical universities such as the one at Volodymyr Vynnychenko Central Ukrainian State Pedagogical University.

This review specifically addresses the program known as "Secondary education (Geography) and local history and tourism work" offered by the Department of Geography and Geoecology of the Central State Pedagogical University. V. Vynnychenko. This program offers theoretical knowledge and pedagogical training reinforced by practical activities to produce highly-qualified teachers with specialized knowledge in local history and tourism. It also provides a strong foundation in physical and human geography with numerous courses such as soil geography, geomorphology, meteorology as well as population, social, and economic geography. These topical areas are supported with geographic techniques such as cartography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Furthermore, the program is reinforced with courses in history, culture, and foreign language. The program's elements are introduced during the first year of study and then reiterated in later years in ever greater depth. Overall, the program is very comprehensive with multi-dimensional qualities that provide its students with a solid, well-integrated liberal arts education and excellent career preparation.

Although it is commendable that foreign language is an integral part of the program, the role that foreign language plays should be carefully considered. For example, assuming that English is the foreign language, then English instruction should be directed at achieving English proficiency in geographical terms and concepts so that students in the program are able to converse with professional geographers about geography in the English language.

Finally, it is recommended that the program have a capstone experience. Such experiences challenge students to apply the knowledge that they have acquired across the spectrum of geography from human to physical geography to consider future trajectories such as those of socio-ecological systems. Such a capstone experience not only requires students to synthesis acquired knowledge but also encourages them to be forward looking and anticipate future problems, solutions, and opportunities. Sustainability is a topic that often is employed to achieve such goals. However, other topics that bridge human and physical systems meet these goals as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George W. White".

George W. White,
Professor of Geography