

# Methodology for the Formation of Base Competencies in the Process of Independent Education in Students (on the Example of Educational Areas of Economics)

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## **Abstract:**

This article investigates methodologies for developing core competencies in students through independent learning in higher education economics programs. Based on literature analysis, essential core competencies for economics are identified, development methods are proposed, and approaches for organizing effective independent learning are outlined. The research determines the role and importance of independent learning in competency formation and develops practical recommendations.

**Keywords:** independent learning, core competencies, economics education, competency-based approach, methodology, higher education.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Independent learning processes play a crucial role in modern higher education systems. Today's labor market demands not only deep theoretical knowledge from specialists but also practical skills and personal qualities. These requirements have led to the emergence of competency-based approaches aimed at preparing students not only with knowledge but also for practical activities [1].

In training economics professionals, developing students' ability to learn independently is particularly important. This is because modern economics constantly evolves, requiring specialists

to continuously acquire new knowledge [2]. However, multiple studies show that most graduates do not fully meet employer requirements, especially regarding core competencies [3].

Therefore, this research focuses on studying methodologies for developing core competencies through independent learning for students in economics education programs. The research aims to develop effective methodologies for forming and developing students' core competencies through independent learning processes.

## **METHODOLOGY AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

The research analyzed scientific sources on competency-based approaches, independent learning, and economics education. Literature analysis showed that competency-based approaches are an important part of the modern educational paradigm, and their application can develop students' practical skills [4].

According to Abdullayeva (2022), "core competencies are a set of knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for a specialist to effectively implement professional activities; they possess universal characteristics and can be applied in various fields" [5].

Mirzayev (2021) reveals the distinctive features of independent learning in his research, defining it as "the process of acquiring knowledge and developing skills by a student during educational activities under the guidance of a teacher, but without their direct participation" [6].

Regarding the specifics of economics education, Karimov (2023) emphasizes that "for economics students, connecting theoretical knowledge with practice, analyzing and forecasting real economic processes are of particular importance" [7]. Therefore, methods such as case studies, project methods, and problem-solving are considered effective in independent learning.

From studying international experience, the competency-based educational model proposed by Brown (2020) is noteworthy. This model provides for the gradual development of competencies in students' independent learning [8].

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the literature analysis, we propose the following methodology for developing core competencies in economics students through independent learning:

For developing students' core competencies in independent learning, using a specially designed system of tasks is appropriate. Each task should be aimed at developing a specific competency. For example, to develop analytical thinking competency for analyzing economic processes, students can be given tasks to analyze statistical data and draw conclusions. The project method is an effective approach for developing student competencies. For economics students, projects focused on solving real economic problems can be proposed. For example, projects like "Regional Small Business Development Strategy" or "Developing a Company Business Plan".

The case study method is effective in developing students' analytical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making competencies. Analyzing situations related to real company activities in economics helps students form skills for applying theoretical knowledge in practice. Electronic learning resources created based on modern information technologies help develop students' information management competency. For example, economic databases, online simulators, and interactive learning materials.

Group projects, debates, and participation in virtual discussions can be used to develop students' communication skills and collaboration competencies. Reflective practice is important for developing students' self-development competency. Students need to acquire skills in analyzing their independent learning process, identifying shortcomings, and creating development plans [9].

For assessing competencies, it is appropriate to use methods such as portfolios, project presentations, and self-assessment in addition to traditional knowledge testing methods.

The following conditions need to be provided for effective application of the proposed methodology: improving teachers' qualifications in competency-based approaches, methodological support for the independent learning process, creating necessary conditions for students to complete independent work, and increasing student motivation [10].

As a result of applying this methodology, students will develop the following core competencies: analyzing and forecasting economic phenomena, making effective decisions to solve economic problems, searching for, analyzing, and processing economic information, collaboration and communication skills, and self-development and professional growth.

Implementation challenges must also be considered when applying this methodology. Faculty members may require additional training to effectively design competency-oriented tasks and assess student performance beyond traditional methods. Institutional support, including infrastructure for digital learning environments and resource allocation for independent learning activities, is crucial for success. Research indicates that gradual implementation with continuous feedback mechanisms produces better results than abrupt systemic changes.

A balanced approach between structured guidance and student autonomy is essential. While independent learning emphasizes student self-direction, economics educators must provide clear frameworks and timely feedback to prevent students from developing misconceptions or ineffective learning strategies. Regular assessment checkpoints help maintain student engagement and allow for course corrections. The integration of real-world economic data and current market scenarios enhances relevance and motivation, particularly for economics students who benefit from seeing the practical applications of theoretical concepts. When properly implemented, this methodology not only develops.

## **CONCLUSION**

The research resulted in the development of a methodology for forming core competencies in economics students through independent learning. The proposed methodology aims to develop students' analytical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, information management, communication skills, collaboration, self-development, and critical thinking competencies.

Literature analysis showed that independent learning processes organized based on competency-based approaches help develop not only students' theoretical knowledge but also their practical skills. This, in turn, increases graduates' competitiveness in the labor market.

To implement the proposed methodology in practice, it is appropriate to undertake reforms in organizing the educational process in the following directions:

1. Reviewing curricula based on competency-based approaches
2. Developing methodological guides for teachers
3. Creating an information-resource base to support students' independent learning
4. Improving the system for assessing student competencies

The results of this research can be used to improve the independent learning process for economics students in higher education institutions, develop curricula, and enhance teacher qualifications.

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