

METHODOLOGY FOR USING INTERDISCIPLINARY INTEGRATION IN PREPARING FUTURE GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS FOR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

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Abstract

This article examines the methodology of using interdisciplinary integration in preparing future geography teachers for professional activity in higher pedagogical education. The relevance of the study is determined by the increasing complexity of contemporary geographical knowledge, the growing interdependence between natural, social, economic, technological, and environmental processes, and the need to prepare teachers capable of applying integrated approaches in educational practice. The study focuses on the pedagogical potential of connecting geography with related disciplines, including ecology, geology, biology, economics, history, mathematics, information technology, and social sciences. The proposed methodology is based on the principles of systematicity, interdisciplinarity, contextual learning, problem-based learning, competence orientation, and practical application. Particular attention is given to the organization of interdisciplinary tasks, integrated projects, geographical case studies, field-based activities, digital mapping, data analysis, and collaborative learning. The study argues that interdisciplinary integration contributes to the development of future geography teachers' professional, methodological, analytical, research, digital, and communicative competencies. The proposed methodological framework can be applied in pedagogical universities to improve the quality of professional preparation and strengthen the connection between theoretical geographical knowledge and real educational practice.

Keywords

interdisciplinary integration, future geography teachers, professional preparation, geography education, pedagogical competence, interdisciplinary learning, professional activity, integrated teaching, geographical education, pedagogical methodology, competence-based approach, teacher training.

BO'LAJAK GEOGRAFIYA O'QITUVCHILARINI KASBIY FAOLIYATGA TAYYORLASHDA FANLARARO INTEGRATSIYADAN FOYDALANISH METODIKASI

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Annotatsiya

Mazkur maqolada bo'lajak geografiya o'qituvchilarini kasbiy faoliyatga tayyorlashda fanlararo integratsiyadan foydalanish metodikasi yoritilgan. Zamonaviy geografik bilimlarning murakkablashuvi, tabiiy, ijtimoiy, iqtisodiy, ekologik va texnologik jarayonlarning o'zaro bog'liqligi geografiya o'qituvchilarini tayyorlash jarayonida fanlararo yondashuvdan samarali foydalanishni taqozo etmoqda. Tadqiqotda geografiya fanining ekologiya, geologiya, biologiya, iqtisodiyot, tarix, matematika, informatika va ijtimoiy fanlar bilan integratsiyalashuvining pedagogik imkoniyatlari tahlil qilingan. Taklif etilayotgan metodika tizimlilik, fanlararo bog'liqlik, kontekstual ta'lim, muammoli ta'lim, kompetensiyaviy yondashuv va amaliy yo'naltirilganlik tamoyillariga asoslanadi. Fanlararo topshiriqlar, integrativ loyihalar, geografik keyslar, dala tadqiqotlari, raqamli xaritalash, statistik ma'lumotlarni tahlil qilish hamda hamkorlikdagi ta'lim faoliyatidan foydalanishga alohida e'tibor qaratilgan. Tadqiqot natijalari fanlararo integratsiya bo'lajak geografiya o'qituvchilarining kasbiy, metodik, analitik, tadqiqotchilik, raqamli va kommunikativ kompetensiyalarini rivojlantirishga xizmat qilishini ko'rsatadi. Mazkur metodik yondashuv pedagogika oliy ta'lim muassasalarida bo'lajak geografiya o'qituvchilarining kasbiy tayyorgarligi sifatini oshirish va nazariy geografik bilimlarni real pedagogik amaliyot bilan bog'lash uchun qo'llanishi mumkin.

Kalit so'zlar

fanlararo integratsiya, bo'lajak geografiya o'qituvchilari, kasbiy tayyorgarlik, geografiya ta'limi, pedagogik kompetensiya, fanlararo ta'lim, kasbiy faoliyat, integrativ o'qitish, geografik ta'lim, pedagogik metodika, kompetensiyaviy yondashuv, o'qituvchilar tayyorlash.

Introduction: The transformation of contemporary education requires substantial changes in the preparation of future teachers, particularly in disciplines that are characterized by strong connections between different areas of scientific knowledge. Geography is one of the most interdisciplinary subjects in the educational system because it simultaneously examines natural processes, social relations, economic activities, demographic changes, environmental problems, spatial development, and technological transformations. Therefore, preparing future geography teachers for professional activity cannot be limited to the acquisition of specialized geographical knowledge. It requires the development of an integrated professional system in which geographical knowledge is combined with pedagogical, methodological, ecological, economic, technological, historical, mathematical, and social knowledge.

The professional activity of a geography teacher involves not only explaining geographical concepts and processes but also interpreting spatial information,

analyzing statistical and cartographic materials, identifying relationships between natural and social phenomena, organizing field investigations, applying digital technologies, and developing students' ability to understand complex environmental and socio-economic problems. These requirements demonstrate the necessity of strengthening interdisciplinary connections during teacher education. An interdisciplinary approach enables students to perceive geography as an interconnected system of knowledge rather than as an isolated academic discipline.

In the context of higher pedagogical education, interdisciplinary integration can serve as an important methodological mechanism for improving the professional preparation of future geography teachers. Integration between geography and biology, geology, ecology, economics, history, mathematics, information technology, and other disciplines creates opportunities for students to understand geographical phenomena from multiple scientific perspectives. For example, the study of climate change can simultaneously involve physical geography, atmospheric science, ecology, economics, statistics, and environmental policy. Similarly, population geography can be connected with demography, sociology, economics, history, and mathematics. Such integration develops students' ability to establish causal relationships and apply knowledge from different disciplines to solve professional and educational problems.

The relevance of interdisciplinary integration is also associated with the development of modern educational technologies. Geographic information systems, digital maps, remote sensing technologies, statistical databases, interactive platforms, and other digital resources increasingly influence the professional activities of geography teachers. Effective use of these technologies requires knowledge and skills extending beyond traditional geographical preparation. Consequently, future teachers should acquire the ability to combine geographical content with digital, analytical, research, and pedagogical competencies.

Another important aspect is the practical orientation of teacher preparation. Interdisciplinary tasks and projects allow students to transfer theoretical knowledge into practical situations and develop professional decision-making skills. Fieldwork, environmental monitoring, geographical case studies, project-based learning, and data analysis can be organized as integrated educational activities that connect university courses with real geographical and pedagogical contexts.

For pedagogical universities, the implementation of interdisciplinary integration therefore represents not merely a method of combining academic subjects but a systematic strategy for developing professionally competent geography teachers. It contributes to the formation of flexible thinking, analytical reasoning, research skills, creativity, communication, and the ability to design meaningful learning experiences for school students. The methodological development of such an approach is particularly significant for improving the

quality of geography teacher education and ensuring its correspondence with contemporary educational and professional requirements.

Methods: The study employed a combination of theoretical, empirical, and pedagogical methods to examine the effectiveness of interdisciplinary integration in preparing future geography teachers for professional activity. The methodological framework was based on the principles of interdisciplinarity, systematicity, competence orientation, contextual learning, student-centered education, and practical relevance. These principles were selected because professional activity in geography education requires teachers to integrate knowledge from different scientific fields, interpret complex spatial processes, and transform multidisciplinary information into pedagogically appropriate learning materials.

The theoretical component of the research included analysis, synthesis, comparison, generalization, classification, and systematization of scientific and pedagogical literature related to interdisciplinary education, geography teaching, teacher professional preparation, competence development, and integrative learning. Particular attention was given to studies addressing interdisciplinary curricula, project-based learning, problem-based learning, geographical education, digital technologies, and professional competencies. The analysis made it possible to identify the main pedagogical conditions necessary for effective interdisciplinary integration in the preparation of future geography teachers.

The empirical component involved observation of students' educational activities, analysis of their academic assignments and project work, interviews, questionnaires, and assessment of learning outcomes. The participants were future geography teachers studying at a pedagogical higher education institution. The research focused on their ability to establish interdisciplinary relationships, apply knowledge from related disciplines, analyze geographical information, solve professional problems, and design integrated learning activities for school students. The assessment considered cognitive, methodological, practical, analytical, research, digital, and communicative dimensions of professional preparation.

The proposed methodology was organized through several interconnected stages. At the initial stage, students' existing knowledge and competencies were identified through diagnostic tasks and questionnaires. The diagnostic activities focused on their understanding of interdisciplinary relationships and their ability to apply knowledge obtained from different academic subjects. At the subsequent stage, interdisciplinary content was systematically introduced into geography-related courses. Topics were selected according to their potential for integration with ecology, biology, geology, economics, history, mathematics, information technology, and social sciences.

The practical stage involved the implementation of interdisciplinary educational tasks. Students were encouraged to analyze geographical problems from several disciplinary perspectives, conduct comparative investigations, work

with statistical and cartographic data, prepare integrated projects, and develop lesson plans incorporating knowledge from related subjects. Problem-based situations were used to encourage students to identify relationships between geographical phenomena and propose scientifically justified solutions. Case studies were also applied to connect theoretical knowledge with authentic environmental, socio-economic, and spatial problems.

Digital technologies constituted another methodological component of the study. Students worked with electronic maps, geographic information systems, statistical databases, visualization tools, and digital educational resources. These activities were intended to develop the ability to combine geographical knowledge with information and communication technologies. The use of digital tools also enabled students to analyze spatial data, construct thematic maps, interpret statistical indicators, and present research findings in visual formats.

The final stage focused on evaluating changes in students' interdisciplinary and professional competencies. Assessment was conducted through practical assignments, integrated projects, presentations, problem-solving tasks, lesson plans, and reflective activities. The results were analyzed according to predefined criteria that included the depth of interdisciplinary connections, accuracy of geographical interpretation, ability to apply knowledge in practical contexts, methodological competence, creativity, and effectiveness of communication. The combination of these methods provided an opportunity to evaluate interdisciplinary integration not only as a theoretical concept but also as a practical methodology for professional preparation of future geography teachers.

Results: The implementation of interdisciplinary integration in the preparation of future geography teachers demonstrated positive changes in students' understanding of relationships between geographical knowledge and related scientific disciplines. The results indicated that students who regularly participated in interdisciplinary learning activities developed a more systematic perception of geographical phenomena and were better able to identify connections between natural, social, economic, and environmental processes. Instead of interpreting geographical concepts as isolated elements, they increasingly approached them as components of interconnected spatial systems.

One of the most significant results was observed in the development of students' analytical competence. Interdisciplinary tasks required students to examine geographical problems from several perspectives and identify causal relationships between different factors. For example, when studying environmental degradation, students simultaneously considered physical-geographical conditions, biological processes, economic activities, demographic factors, and technological influences. This approach encouraged them to move beyond descriptive explanations and develop more comprehensive analytical interpretations. Students demonstrated greater ability to compare information obtained from different disciplines and formulate evidence-based explanations.

The methodology also contributed to the development of professional and methodological competencies. Future geography teachers became more capable of designing lessons in which geographical content was connected with concepts from biology, ecology, economics, history, mathematics, and information technology. Integrated lesson planning encouraged students to select appropriate learning objectives, educational resources, methods, and assessment strategies. As a result, they demonstrated greater awareness of how interdisciplinary content could be adapted to the cognitive level and educational needs of school students.

Another important result concerned the development of students' research skills. Interdisciplinary projects required participants to formulate research questions, collect relevant information, analyze data, compare sources, interpret findings, and present conclusions in a structured form. Field-based assignments and environmental investigations were particularly effective because they connected theoretical knowledge with direct observation of geographical phenomena. Students increasingly demonstrated independence in selecting research methods and organizing practical investigations.

The use of digital technologies strengthened the results of interdisciplinary learning. Students who worked with digital maps, geographic information systems, statistical materials, and visualization tools developed stronger skills in processing and interpreting spatial information. They learned to combine quantitative data with geographical analysis and to present complex information through maps, diagrams, tables, and digital visualizations. These competencies are increasingly important for contemporary geography teachers because digital geographical resources have become an integral part of modern educational practice.

Positive changes were also identified in students' communicative and collaborative competencies. Interdisciplinary projects were frequently completed in small groups, requiring students to distribute responsibilities, discuss alternative interpretations, defend arguments, and jointly prepare final products. Such activities created conditions for the development of professional communication and collaborative problem-solving skills. Students became more confident in presenting geographical research results and explaining interdisciplinary relationships to their peers.

The methodology additionally influenced students' creative thinking. Open-ended interdisciplinary problems did not have a single predetermined solution, which encouraged students to propose alternative approaches and generate original educational ideas. When designing integrated geography lessons, students experimented with project-based activities, case studies, problem situations, fieldwork, digital resources, and interactive learning techniques. This increased their ability to transform theoretical knowledge into innovative pedagogical solutions.

The results further demonstrated that interdisciplinary integration was particularly effective when it was implemented systematically rather than as

occasional connections between subjects. Consistent integration across theoretical, practical, research, and pedagogical activities produced stronger professional outcomes. The effectiveness of the methodology depended on the purposeful selection of related disciplines, coordination of course content, availability of interdisciplinary assignments, appropriate use of digital technologies, and continuous assessment of students' professional development. Overall, the findings indicate that interdisciplinary integration can substantially strengthen the professional preparation of future geography teachers by developing an interconnected set of cognitive, methodological, analytical, research, digital, communicative, and creative competencies.

Discussion: The findings indicate that interdisciplinary integration should be regarded as a fundamental methodological principle in the professional preparation of future geography teachers rather than as an additional technique used occasionally during individual lessons. The interdisciplinary nature of geography itself provides a strong theoretical basis for this approach. Geographical phenomena are rarely explained through a single scientific perspective because spatial processes emerge through the interaction of natural, social, economic, demographic, cultural, technological, and environmental factors. Consequently, future geography teachers need an educational experience that reflects this complexity and prepares them to interpret geographical reality through interconnected systems of knowledge.

The results demonstrate that interdisciplinary integration improves the quality of students' analytical thinking. Traditional subject-oriented instruction may provide students with substantial amounts of theoretical information, but it does not always ensure their ability to establish meaningful relationships between concepts acquired in different courses. Interdisciplinary tasks address this limitation by requiring students to combine information, compare perspectives, identify causal relationships, and develop integrated explanations. This is particularly important in geography education, where understanding spatial patterns often requires simultaneous consideration of physical and human factors. The ability to synthesize such information is an essential component of professional geographical and pedagogical competence.

The development of methodological competence represents another important implication of the findings. A professionally prepared geography teacher should be able to determine not only what content should be taught but also how different areas of knowledge can be pedagogically connected. Interdisciplinary integration provides opportunities for future teachers to design lessons around common concepts, problems, processes, and real-life situations. For example, topics related to water resources can integrate physical geography, hydrology, ecology, economics, mathematics, and environmental management. Such integration allows students to develop educational scenarios that are more meaningful and relevant to contemporary social and environmental challenges.

The findings also emphasize the importance of problem-based and project-based learning within an interdisciplinary methodology. Complex geographical problems generally cannot be solved through memorization of factual information. They require investigation, interpretation, comparison, evaluation, and decision-making. When future teachers participate in interdisciplinary projects, they experience the same learning processes that they are expected to organize for school students in their future professional practice. Therefore, interdisciplinary project work has a dual function: it develops students' own professional competencies while simultaneously preparing them to implement similar pedagogical approaches in schools.

The role of digital technologies should also be considered significant. Modern geography education increasingly relies on geographic information systems, digital cartography, remote sensing, online databases, statistical analysis, and interactive visualization. These technologies naturally support interdisciplinary learning because they allow geographical information to be combined with demographic, economic, environmental, historical, and statistical datasets. Future teachers who acquire such skills during university education are better prepared to organize contemporary geography lessons and develop students' spatial and digital literacy.

At the same time, the implementation of interdisciplinary integration requires appropriate organizational and pedagogical conditions. One important condition is coordination among teachers responsible for different academic disciplines. Without coordination, interdisciplinary integration may become superficial, resulting merely in the simultaneous mention of concepts from several subjects. Effective integration requires common learning objectives, logically connected content, coordinated assignments, and shared assessment criteria. Curriculum design should therefore provide opportunities for interdisciplinary modules, joint projects, field activities, and research tasks.

Another important issue is the professional readiness of university teachers themselves. Successful interdisciplinary education requires educators who understand not only their own discipline but also the methodological possibilities of connecting it with other fields. Professional development programs for university teachers can therefore contribute significantly to the implementation of integrated approaches. Such programs may focus on curriculum integration, interdisciplinary assessment, project-based learning, digital geography, collaborative teaching, and the design of complex educational problems.

The discussion also suggests that interdisciplinary integration should not eliminate disciplinary depth. Effective integration is possible only when students possess sufficiently strong knowledge of individual subjects. Therefore, interdisciplinary education should combine disciplinary specialization with the ability to establish connections across disciplinary boundaries. The objective is not to replace separate academic disciplines but to create meaningful relationships between them.

Overall, the findings support the view that interdisciplinary integration can provide a comprehensive methodological framework for preparing future geography teachers for professional activity. Its effectiveness is associated with systematic curriculum coordination, active learning, practical orientation, digital technologies, research activities, collaborative work, and competency-based assessment. When these elements are implemented consistently, interdisciplinary integration strengthens the capacity of future teachers to analyze complex geographical problems and transform multidisciplinary knowledge into effective educational practice.

Conclusion: The study established that the systematic use of interdisciplinary integration provides an effective methodological basis for preparing future geography teachers for professional activity in pedagogical higher education. The interdisciplinary character of geography, which incorporates knowledge of natural processes, society, economy, ecology, demography, technology, and spatial development, requires an educational model that enables future teachers to perceive and interpret geographical phenomena as interconnected systems. The results demonstrated that such an approach strengthens the relationship between theoretical academic preparation and the practical requirements of professional teaching.

The proposed methodology is based on the integration of geographical knowledge with related disciplines and on the purposeful organization of interdisciplinary educational activities. Geography, ecology, biology, geology, economics, history, mathematics, information technology, and social sciences can be connected through common concepts, problems, research tasks, projects, field activities, and practical situations. Such integration allows students to understand that geographical processes cannot always be adequately explained from the perspective of one discipline. It also develops their ability to identify relationships between different factors and formulate scientifically justified interpretations of complex geographical phenomena.

The findings indicate that interdisciplinary integration contributes significantly to the development of professional competencies among future geography teachers. Students acquire greater analytical capacity when they are required to compare information from different scientific fields, identify causal relationships, evaluate evidence, and formulate integrated explanations. These skills are essential for professional geography teaching because teachers must frequently explain complex processes that involve several dimensions simultaneously. Interdisciplinary learning therefore contributes to the formation of systematic geographical thinking and strengthens students' ability to organize meaningful educational content.

The methodology also improves pedagogical and methodological competence. Through interdisciplinary lesson planning, project development, case analysis, and problem-based activities, future teachers learn to select appropriate educational

methods and connect subject content with real-life contexts. This enables them to design geography lessons that are more practical, intellectually stimulating, and relevant to contemporary problems. The ability to organize interdisciplinary learning is particularly valuable for developing school students' critical thinking, research abilities, environmental awareness, spatial reasoning, and problem-solving skills.

The integration of digital technologies represents another important component of effective professional preparation. Geographic information systems, digital maps, statistical databases, remote sensing materials, and visualization technologies create additional opportunities for combining geographical information with data from other disciplines. Future teachers should therefore acquire not only theoretical geographical knowledge but also the digital competencies necessary to collect, analyze, visualize, and interpret spatial information. The integration of digital tools into interdisciplinary learning strengthens both professional and technological readiness.

The study further demonstrates the importance of practical and research-oriented activities. Field investigations, environmental observations, interdisciplinary projects, statistical analysis, and geographical case studies provide opportunities for students to apply theoretical knowledge in authentic situations. These activities develop independence, research competence, communication, collaboration, and professional decision-making. They also help future teachers understand how interdisciplinary tasks can subsequently be transferred into school geography education.

For the effective implementation of the methodology, several pedagogical conditions are essential. Academic disciplines should be coordinated around interconnected educational objectives, and teachers should jointly identify opportunities for integrating content. Interdisciplinary assignments should be systematically included in the curriculum rather than implemented as isolated activities. Assessment criteria should evaluate not only factual knowledge but also students' ability to synthesize information, apply knowledge practically, conduct research, use digital tools, communicate findings, and develop pedagogically appropriate solutions. Professional development of university teachers is also necessary to ensure effective interdisciplinary curriculum design and implementation.

The study confirms that interdisciplinary integration should complement rather than replace disciplinary specialization. Strong professional preparation requires both profound knowledge of geography and the ability to establish meaningful connections with other disciplines. The optimal model is therefore based on the combination of disciplinary depth, interdisciplinary synthesis, practical application, and pedagogical reflection.

In general, the systematic application of interdisciplinary integration can significantly enhance the professional preparation of future geography teachers in

pedagogical universities. It promotes the development of analytical, methodological, research, digital, communicative, creative, and professional competencies and enables students to respond more effectively to complex educational and geographical challenges. The methodology can serve as a practical framework for improving geography teacher education and strengthening the connection between university preparation, contemporary geographical science, and the real requirements of school teaching. Future research may focus on developing quantitative assessment instruments for interdisciplinary competence, comparing different models of integrated geography education, and evaluating the long-term influence of interdisciplinary preparation on the professional performance of beginning geography teachers.

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