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**INDEPENDENT EXTRACURRICULAR WORK
AT THE AGRARIAN COLLEGES OF THE USA**

An important direction for Ukrainian higher education modernization is its compliance to the requirements of world educational standards. Nowadays improving the organization of independent student learning activities is given high scientific priority. That's why, it is recommended to use the results of comparative and pedagogical studies of training specialists in foreign countries. The aim of work is to analyze some aspects of the organization of independent extracurricular work of agricultural students in the United States.

The US agricultural higher education is organized in six directions (agendas): agribusiness, agricultural production processes, agricultural machinery, horticulture, agricultural resources and forestry, agricultural products processing.

The presence of a tutor is one of the essential features of extracurricular work of the US students. The tutors help students navigate the information space of the training courses, develop an individual training program, give advice in case of problems or difficulties. Consulting is considered a necessary structural element of interaction between teacher and students; it is an important condition for ensuring effective cooperation.

Nowadays the Internet technologies usage for training education has increased considerably, and the higher agrarian education in the USA is no exception. An American researcher Daniel Chen, analyzing the use of the Internet and other Internet technologies in higher education, notes that it has «burst out» over the past 15 years [1, 1223]. The so-called blended education is gaining popularity in this context; it is called the new norm of higher education [2, 207]. The combination of traditional (face-to-face) and virtual components of teaching is considered to be a prevailing strategy for the top agrarian institutions in the United States. Mixed learning is characterized as a form of learning that is not limited by temporal, spatial and situational barriers, while providing high quality interaction between teachers and students [3, 227].

The flipped classroom is a relatively new pedagogical approach. American scientists are convinced that it can play an important role in mixed learning [4, 32]. According to this training model, students must participate in the teaching process. This strategy moves activities, including those that may have traditionally been considered homework, into the classroom. In a flipped classroom, students watch

online lectures, collaborate in online discussions, or carry out research at home. According to V. Gillispie, flipped classroom is a student-oriented approach to teaching because it greatly optimizes student's active learning [5, 34].

Basic principles of the analyzed methodology are providing students with the opportunity to get preliminary information before the classroom activity; encouraging students to read online lectures and prepare for classroom work; a clear assessment system, a synergy between classroom and extracurricular learning; availability of clear instructions and recommendations; providing enough time to complete tasks; timely analysis, counseling and evaluation of student work; ensuring the use of familiar technologies, easily accessible to students [6, 37].

The accessibility of Flipped Classroom is extremely convenient, especially for students that would face difficulties in traveling to the physical classroom. Such students would still have the foundational information of the course at hand via online [7, 594]. Student-student and student-teacher interactions are greatly emphasized in a Flipped Classroom setting. It utilizes a student-centered teaching modeled in order to ensure that the course is primarily aimed at contributing to the student's overall success in obtaining a proper, effective education [8, 1589].

The undoubted advantage of American higher education is its extraordinary flexibility in methods, forms and teaching styles. The prominent place is occupied by methods that allow taking into account the individual characteristics of students, stimulating their cognitive activity and providing development of creative abilities. The current state of teaching students in the USA is characterized by the use of numerous online programs for independent work, a flexible system of educational process organization, the use of new methods and forms for independent work organization. The application of the American higher education pedagogy experience can become an element of the educational reforms that are taking place in Ukraine today.

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