

Subject card

Subject name and code	Sexuality of People with Autistic Spectrum, PG_00208119						
Field of study	Special Pedagogy						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2030/2031		
Education level	uniform Master's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	5		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	10		ECTS credits		3.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Division of Special Education -> Institute of Education -> Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Marta Jurczyk				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		0.0		45.0	75
Subject objectives	To familiarize students with the issues of sexuality of people on the autism spectrum and the specificity of their psychosexual development throughout life. Providing skills related to designing activities in the area of sexual education for people on the autism spectrum.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[E.1A.K.2] is ready to use the acquired knowledge to analyze pedagogical events	The student is ready to take action to a greater extent for autonomy and subjectivity in the sexual life of people with autism spectrum disorder.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK6] demonstration of practical skills
	[E.1A.U.1] Is able to analyze the medical basis of autism spectrum disorders; analyze the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system in the context of developmental deficits and abnormalities in autism spectrum disorders; analyze genetic disorders and multiple disabilities, basics of psychiatry, psychopathology and neurology; define childhood diseases and selected medical problems concerning children with autism spectrum disorders, including issues of diet, supplementation and pharmacotherapy; use tools to monitor children's health; describe the diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorders, determinants and epidemiology; define and analyze autistic disorders in medical nosological classifications (ICD, DSM) and functional classification (ICF); define the differential diagnosis - autistic spectrum disorders in the context of hearing loss, intellectual development disorder and other disorders and disabilities	The student is able to use in-depth psychological knowledge in solving pedagogical problems related to the sexuality of people with autism spectrum disorders; The student is able to use ethical principles and norms in the activities undertaken in the area of sexual education of people with autism spectrum disorders.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU5] implementation of a problem task [SU6] demonstration of practical skills
	[E.1A.W.1] has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the medical basis of autism spectrum disorders; anatomy and physiology of the nervous system in the context of developmental deficits and abnormalities in the autism spectrum and psychosocial conditions for the functioning of people with autism spectrum disorders; issues of genetic disorders and multiple disabilities; basics of psychiatry, psychopathology and neurology; childhood diseases and selected medical problems concerning children with autism spectrum disorders, including diets, supplementation, pharmacotherapy; tools for monitoring the health of children; diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorders, their conditions and epidemiology; the place of autistic disorders in medical nosological classifications (ICD, DSM) and functional classification (ICF); principles of differential diagnosis; the issue of autism spectrum disorders in the context of hearing loss, intellectual development disorders and other disorders and disabilities; school functioning of students with autism spectrum disorders and its conditions	The student knows and understands in-depth the sexual needs of people on the autism spectrum;	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report [SW5] implementation of a problem task

	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[E.1A.W.2] has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the psychological and pedagogical foundations of knowledge about autism spectrum disorders and preventive and supportive activities; basics of neuropsychology; the issue of autism spectrum disorders in the context of other neurodevelopmental disorders, including aphasia, cerebral palsy and ADHD; psychological characteristics of people with autism spectrum disorders in various developmental periods; early symptoms of autism; the importance of the physical environment, stimulation and sensory integration in autism; the specificity of cognitive, emotional and social functioning in autism spectrum disorders; the issue of speech, language and communication of people with autism spectrum disorders; principles of psychopedagogical diagnosis of students with autism spectrum disorders, including functional profiles; diagnostic methods and tools, with particular emphasis on the international "gold diagnostic standard" ADI-R (Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised) and ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule); methods of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC); the role of the computer, media and new technologies in the therapy of people with autism spectrum disorders; psychological and pedagogical methods used in autism therapy in the context of evidence-based practice, including ESDM (The Early Start Denver Model); principles of behavior correction and methods for solving educational problems in children or students with autism spectrum disorders; different approaches to education and therapy of children or students with autism spectrum disorders, including educational and therapeutic models, selected methods and forms of work and therapy; issues of working with parents or guardians of a child or student with autism spectrum disorders, therapeutic support and psychosocial help for the family, support for a person with autism spectrum disorders in adult life; issues of employment of adults with autism spectrum disorders	The student knows and understands methods of identifying, diagnosing and documenting special needs in the field of psychosexual development of people on the autism spectrum.	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report [SW5] implementation of a problem task
Subject contents	1. Specificity of psychosexual development of people on the autism spectrum.2. Relationships and marriages of people on the autism spectrum.3. Parenting people on the autism spectrum.4. Autism spectrum and sexual violence.5. Gender identity and orientation and the autism spectrum.6. Sexual education for people on the autism spectrum.7. Supporting people with ASD in facilities.8. Intervention strategies for people on the autism spectrum and their families - support for psychosexual development.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			

Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Final project	51.0%	80.0%
	Activity in class	51.0%	20.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	American Psychiatric Association (2013), Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders. 5th ed., DSM-5, APA, Washington, DC. Bancroft, J. (2011), Human sexuality, Elsevier Urban & Partner, Wrocław. Bleszyński, J. (2005), Therapies supporting the development of people with autism, Wydawnictwo Impuls, Kraków. Dąbkowska, M. (2013), Sexual behavior of children and adolescents with cognitive, emotional and behavioral dysfunctions. Faces of problems child and parents, Adam Marszałek Publishing House, Toruń. Dekker, L. P., Hartman, C., van der Vegt, E. J. et al. (2015), The longitudinal relationship between childhood autistic traits and psychosexual problems in early adolescence: the Tracking Adolescents Individual Lives Survey study. Autism, 19, pp. 684-693. Dewinter, J., Vermeiren, R., Vanwesenbeeck, I. et al. (2015), Sexuality in adolescent boys with autism spectrum disorder: self-reported behaviors and attitudes. Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 45, pp. 731-741. Fornalik, I. (2017), I have autism. I have sexuality. And what's next? Guide for parents, therapists and teachers, JiM Foundation, Łódź. Fortenberry, J. D. (2013), Sexual development in adolescents. [In:] ed. D. S. Bromberg, W. T. O'Donohue, Handbook of child and adolescent sexuality: developmental and forensic psychology (pp. 582-599). Elsevier, Oxford. Gallucci, G., Hackerman, F., Schmidt, C. W. (2005), Gender identity disorder in an adult male with Asperger's syndrome. Sexuality and Disability, 23, pp. 354-0. Henault, I., Attwood, T. (2015), The sexual profile of adults with Asperger's syndrome: the need for support and intervention. [In:] I. Henault, Team Asperger's and sexuality. From adolescence through adulthood (pp. 202-213). Harmonia Universalis, Gdańsk. Holmes, L. G., Himle, M. B., Strassberg, D. S. (2015), Parental romantic expectations and parent-child sexuality communication in autism spectrum disorders. Autism, 20(6), pp. 687-699. Kellaher, D. C. (2015), Sexual behavior and autism spectrum disorders: an update and discussion. Current Psychiatry Reports, 17, p. 562. Lew-Starowicz, Z., Skrzypulec, V. (ed.) (2010), Basics of sexology, Wydawnictwo Lekarskie PZWL, Warsaw. Mathai, G., Ruble, L. A. (2009), Implementing a social skills group for children with autism. Journal of Psychological Practice, 15, pp. 135-156. Ousley, O. Y., Mesibov, G. B. (1991), Sexual attitudes and knowledge of high-functioning adolescents and adults with autism. Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 21, pp. 471-481. Pisula, E. (2012), Autism. From brain research to psychological practice, GWP, Sopot. Realmuto, G. M., Ruble, L. A. (1999), Sexual behaviors in autism: problems of definitions and management. Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 29, pp. 121-127. Ruble, L. A., Dalrymple, N. J. (1993), Social/sexual awareness of persons with autism: A parental perspective. Archive of Sexual Behaviors, 22, p.229-240.	
	Supplementary literature	Sterzing, P. R., Shattuck, P. T., Narendorf, S. C. et al. (2012), Bullying involvement and Autism Spectrum Disorders: prevalence and correlates of bullying involvement among adolescents with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, 160, s. 1058-1064. Suris, J. C., Resnick, M. D., Cassuto, N. et al. (1996), Sexual behavior of adolescents with chronic disease and disability. Journal of Adolescent Health, 19, s. 124-131. Wiederman, M. W. (1999), Volunteer bias in sexuality research using college student participants. Journal of Sex Research, 36, s. 5966.	
	eResources addresses		
	Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Not applicable	
Work placement	Not applicable		

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