

Some problems of teaching the probability theory and statistics in Daugavpils University

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“Probability theory and statistics” in DU is mandatory course (part A) for full-time and part-time study programmes of several faculties. The courses “Theory of Probability” and “Statistics” are incorporated both jointly and singly, with different names and course goals.

The main problems of study process organization are insufficient number of contact hours for the course and office hours. The time necessary to control student performance is not included in the workload of the academic personnel. The solution of the mentioned problems are important and necessary for the successful implementation of the course “Probability theory and statistics”.

Some other problems of teaching “Probability theory and statistics” are as follows:

- the course of statistics does not provide or allow (due to the lack of time) the possibility to consider the questions of the probability theory;
- the inaccessibility of computing facilities in some cases;
- it is difficult to generate data arrays for practical analysis in order make the teaching less formal and abstract.

Complete or partial solutions of the mentioned problems will be discussed. Examples of solutions include:

- The use of the wide range of opportunities offered by the DU distance education center www.de.dau.lv;
- Accessibility of prepared materials by DU academic personnel in electronic form on DU server of the faculty of Social Sciences and server of the faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and in printed form,
- Introduction of freeware (R language and others), usage the computational knowledge engine www.wolframalpha.com.