

What is a department at a university?

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Department and its role in the structure of the university

Let's start from afar, the faculty is a structural unit of the university, which combines several similar specialties at once. For example, in my university there was a mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, transport, engineering physics, law and philological faculty.

Accordingly, any faculty unites several departments. Here it is worth deciding what kind of structural unit it is, and what are its main characteristics?

So, the department is a scientific and educational unit that is part of the faculty, which provides and guarantees an in-depth study of one specialty.

For example, in my university, the electrical engineering faculty had several departments at once, including the electric drive and automation systems, electrical machines, electrical devices, power supply of installations and others.

It would seem that everyone is united by the general term "electricity", but in this case, as a specialist, I can safely say that we are talking about completely dissimilar specialties and narrow specialists in various fields of work.

This division is very important, since upon graduation, a truly trained certified specialist comes into production, and not a "polyglot with a crust about higher education." Although in our time there are plenty of mediocre graduates of universities (not only technical ones).

Features of the department at the university

The department, as a structural unit of the faculty, is responsible not only for pedagogical activity in the specialty, but also for conducting compulsory industrial practice, educational work, improving the qualifications of personnel and training worthy young specialists.

To be more precise, the department is a research link of the faculty, since here you can prepare not only term papers and theses, but also defend a dissertation as a graduate student, and a doctoral dissertation as an associate professor.

Accordingly, the conclusion suggests itself: the department has big plans and prospects not only for students, but also for their teachers, who can also self-actualize and significantly advance the career ladder.

Of course, all this happens under the watchful eye of the employees of the dean's office and, in particular, the dean, but the possibilities at the department are also unlimited.

Pedagogical staff of the department

As mentioned earlier, the pulpit is a small kingdom, which necessarily has its own "government". In fact, this is said loudly, but the hierarchical ladder is still present, and looks something like this:

1. The chief, who is also the head, is the head of the department, who is elected by a vote of the entire teaching staff for a term of five years (almost like a president).
2. Under his leadership is the entire teaching staff, including doctors of science, associate professors, laboratory assistants, teachers and even professors.

So it is obvious that decisions are made together, but the final word always rests with the head of the department. By the way, no one will be hired for this position, and the applicant must have five years of experience at the university, a good reputation, authority with colleagues and students, and, if possible, the academic title of professor, doctor of science, or at least associate professor.

This position is a great responsibility, not just honor and a raise in wages. The head of the department before the dean's office represents the interests of not only his colleagues, but also students of his specialty.

That is why it is best to start solving any problems in studies with a visit to the head of the department, and there it is not in his interests to distinguish himself by another student expulsion.

In fact, the head of the department is a teacher who also conducts lectures, practical and laboratory work, seminars and open lessons. But, as a rule, he does it much less often, since there are always enough organizational and scientific concerns in the department.

As for the teaching staff of the department, all teachers also lecture, organize practical training and carry out practical work with students. In addition, they are responsible for midterm assessments, exams, tests, and, in general, for sessions. Well, the graduation project is generally a separate topic, which the department also pays special attention to.

In general, we can say that the department is responsible for the study of university students, which competently draws up a schedule of lectures and prevents all overlaps, problems and inconsistencies.

If the work of the entire pedagogical staff of the department is adjusted and brought to automatism, then students do not have organizational problems for five years of study in their specialty.

What does the department have?

A department at a university is a complex unit that can and should even have:

Research laboratories;

Numerous branches (not only within the walls of the university);

Production sites for testing;

Library (not always);

Educational units;