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NATIONAL AND PATRIOTIC TRAINING OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS AS A FACTOR IN PRESERVING UKRAINIAN IDENTITY IN THE CONDITIONS OF THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

The article presents a comprehensive analysis of national and patriotic training of higher education students as one of the priority areas of contemporary state educational policy under conditions of full-scale war, hybrid threats, and the transformation of social values. The essence of national and patriotic education is revealed as a multidimensional pedagogical process aimed at shaping national identity, civic consciousness, responsibility for the fate of the state, and readiness for active social engagement. The impact of modern security, informational, and sociocultural challenges on students' worldview orientations is analyzed, as well as the risks of losing national self-awareness in the context of information warfare and globalization processes.

The special role of higher education institutions as centers for forming intellectual, spiritual, and civic potential of society is substantiated, integrating educational, formative, and social functions. The importance of humanities disciplines in strengthening national values, historical memory, culture, and language as fundamental components of Ukrainian identity is highlighted. Particular attention is paid to the educational potential of extracurricular activities, volunteer initiatives, civic engagement, and student self-governance as forms of practical acquisition of patriotic values. The article emphasizes the expediency of implementing a systematic, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary approach to national and patriotic training aimed at educating socially responsible, nationally conscious youth capable of participating in socio-political life, developing a democratic state, and defending its sovereignty.