STUDENTS' ATTITUDES ON CHARACTERISTICS OF CREATIVE AND SELF-ACTUALIZED UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

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Using the humanistic approach to teaching, the paper emphasizes the importance of encouraging self-actualization and creativity in the university context.

In addition to the pleasant climate and the democratic style of leadership, it was inevitable to explore students' attitudes about the characteristics of creative and then self-actualized university professors. A longitudinal study was used in which the same group of respondents (N = 57) was followed during the period from 2012 to 2017 (students at the first and fifth year of study). The research was conducted with students, future class teachers at the Faculty of Education in Osijek. A combination of qualitative and quantitative methodology was used in this paper, with the help of which data on the most important features of creative and self-actualized university professors were obtained. Research participants pointed out the characteristics of university professors whom they consider to be creative and self-actualized. By analyzing students' attitudes, great overlapping has been observed in the characteristics of creative and self-actualized university professors. From this we can conclude that creative university professors are also self-actualized.

**Keywords:** creativity, self-actualization, humanistic approach, university teaching, university professors