**The profession standard of "Social carer"** has been worked out taking into account the development of social work professionals training and the regulating legislation of social services and assistance provision. All above mentioned was a condition to change the program in compliance with the requirements, and the practical implementation of the 1st level professional higher education study program of" Social care" was started on 11 January 2006 by the decision which was taken at the college council meeting (Protocol No. 12).

The license for the right to implement the 1st level professional higher education study program of "Social care" was given to the program of "Social Care" – 41762, License No. 041018-2 by the decision of the Education and Science Ministry's License Commission on 16 May 2006.

After fulfilling all the study program requirements students gain the diploma of the social carer qualification (the profession classification code of the Latvian Republic is 341201) and the fourth qualification level according to the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers (12 February 2008) No. 990 "Regulations  on Latvian education classification".

The program implementation is based on the requirements of the Latvian Republic social carer profession standard, general education of social work specialists and recommendations for practice standards, as well as on the Latvian social work practice, international experience and synthesis of innovative approaches. The professional study program in social care is directed to the professional development of social work specialists with enhanced studying of social care organization and its delivery to different client groups.

**The social carer** is employed by social service institutions that provide social care services. The social carer provides with social services people who have objective difficulties to look after themselves and to ensure the basic needs at the place of living or at care institutions; defines the types of social care according to the client's wishes and needs; encourages the involvement of the client in making a choice and receiving of required social care services, care scheduling and observation; evaluates the clients` satisfaction with social care services.

**The goal of the program**: is to educate social carers and prepare them for professional activities, which provide the society with social care services of high quality, contributing to the basic needs of people who cannot take care of themselves because of their age or health conditions, thus promoting the observance of social justice and human dignity in the country and in the society.

**The main objectives of the study program are:**
- to ensure students with the opportunity to gain knowledge in social sciences, taking into account the social and individual interaction in the context of social processes;

- to give students the opportunity to acquire  general knowledge and understanding of the nature of social work and social professionals activities and  professional cooperation in national and international levels;
- to develop and improve students' specific knowledge and skills in social care in compliance with the standard of the social carer`s profession;

- to provide students with the theoretical knowledge and to develop skills in research work, teaching them to integrate different theoretical approaches of science into social care practice;
- to offer various differentiated practice opportunities, developing students' general and common skills in the given field, as well as specific professional skills in social care;
- to promote students' development of personal qualities and attitudes, according to the social care practice and the profession standard;
- to support the development of students' creative and social activities and to promote cooperation with the staff of higher education institutions implementing the study program.

The study program quality assurance is based on the ENQA accepted standards and guidelines for the quality assurance in European Higher Education area passed in 2005 in Bergen.