



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
Public Health Science

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 13 December 2012, and is valid from the Spring semester of 2013 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: FHABE1

Master Dissertation (one year), 15.0 ECTS Credits

(Examensarbete i folkhälsovetenskap I (magister), 15.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Master

Progressive Specialisation: A1E (Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits))

Language of Instruction

Swedish. The Master thesis can be written and presented in a Scandinavian language or in English.

Prerequisites

The Master's level courses Health Promotion 7.5 ECTS cr or Child Health in a Public Health Perspective 7.5 ECTS cr and a course in quantitative or qualitative research methodology 7.5 ECTS cr, or equivalent. Upper secondary level Swedish B/Swedish 2 B and English A, or equivalent.

Major Field of Study

FHA (Public Health Sciences)

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- describe and problematise the theories and research in the field of public health science.

Skills and abilities

- independently identify and formulate a delimited and specified problem from a public health science perspective and critically evaluate and make adequate methodological choices,
- perform literature searches and other forms of data collection and analyse the data material.

Judgement and approach

- present and defend as well as critically review academic works in public health science,
- ethically reflect on and assess research issues and development work in public health science.

Content and Form of Instruction

Instruction is in the form of lectures, PM seminars, individual supervision, independent study and a concluding thesis seminar.

Course content:

- continuous critical reflection on the degree project in terms of process and content

- survey of thesis writing methodology
- information of the library system and database literature search as a method
- thesis writing
- respondent and discussant functions in thesis seminar
- supervision is provided throughout the course period

The degree project can be: 1) a critical analysis of research studies in the field (literature study), or 2) an empirical study. The second option applies to students who are studying towards a 60-credit master's degree. Students opting for a 120-credit master's degree can either choose to carry out a literature study and then conduct an empirical study, or carry out an empirical study as a pilot to an in-depth empirical master's thesis.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on an independently written thesis presented and defended at a seminar and on performance as a reviewer of a fellow-student's thesis. Students who fail to complete the thesis within the course period may, by agreement with the examiner, receive additional supervision for a limited period of no more than six months. The number of examination opportunities is limited to five.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) is awarded in the examination of the course. Assessment criteria for the grade of Distinction are specified in the study guide.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Required course for the master's programme in health science with an emphasis on public health science and constitutes the first of the required independent projects (one-year master).