



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology  
Public Health Science

# Syllabus

## Qualitative Scientific Methodology

**Course Code:** FHAE33

**Course Title:** Qualitative Scientific Methodology  
*Kvalitativ vetenskaplig metod*

**Credits:** 7.5

**Degree Level:** Master's level

**Progressive Specialisation:** Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

### Major Field of Study:

#### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology 2016-03-10, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2016 at Karlstad University.

#### Prerequisites

Bachelor 's degree of at least 180 ECTS credits with optional major plus upper secondary school level Swedish 3 or B/Swedish as a second language 3 or B and English 6 or A, or equivalent.

#### Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- describe the different steps in the qualitative research process,
- give an account of the characteristic features of a selection of qualitative methods,
- demonstrate familiarity with how trustworthiness is assessed in qualitative studies,

Competence and skills

- choose and argue for a suitable qualitative method and procedures with regard to a problem and context,
- describe a section on qualitative method, with all its components, for a planned degree project,
- Judgement and approach
- assess research ethical issues and considerations common in qualitative research.

#### Content

Instruction is in the form of distance learning through a web-based platform and in the form of two brief periods on campus at the beginning and towards the end of the course. The campus meetings consist of lectures, group assignments, and seminars.

The course deals with the steps of the qualitative research process with a focus on data collection, research ethics, analysis of data and research documentation. The qualitative methods treated are qualitative content analysis, Grounded Theory, descriptive and interpretative phenomenology, narrative method and discourse analysis. Also treated are the concepts of quality, validity,

transferability and credibility in qualitative research.

The course contains the following elements:

- The different stages of the research process, with a focus on qualitative approach, data gathering, analysis of data, and research documentation.
- The significance of gender studies for the development of qualitative method.
- Grounded Theory.
- Descriptive and interpretative phenomenology.
- Phenomenography.
- Narrative method and discourse analysis.
- Quality and validity in qualitative research.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Assessment is based on individual, written assignments and presentations and active participation in discussions in seminars.

### **Grades**

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

### **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 evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

### **Course Certificate**

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

### **Additional information**

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

Required course for the Master program in Societal Risk Management (SARIS) and the VAMAS programme in Public Health. The course is open to non-programme students.