



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Psychology

Syllabus

Psychological assessment of individuals

Course Code:	PSG050
Course Title:	Psychological assessment of individuals <i>Psykologisk bedömning och utredning avseende individen</i>
Credits:	30
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G2F)

Major Field of Study:
PSA (Psychology)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2019-03-01, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2019 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits completed in the Master of Science in Psychology programme (VAPSY) at Karlstad University

Learning Outcomes

Module 1 Jurisprudence and Ethics for Psychologists, 4 ECTS cr

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

- give an account of the professional ethical principles pertaining to psychologists in the Nordic countries,
- give an account of relevant legal frameworks pertaining to the psychologist profession in the area of health care and other areas,
- give an account of how psychologists' professional approach is affected by relevant legal and ethical aspects, and

- reflect on and handle professional dilemmas in relation to legal and ethical principles.

Module 2 Clinical Psychology I, 6 ECTS cr

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

- give an account of the scientific basis of clinical psychology, central theories and methods, and current research and development projects,
- give an account of methods for psychological assessment and diagnosis of individuals,
- describe and reflect on professional skills and approaches in psychiatric assessment,
- define and describe specific psychiatric diagnosis in clinical psychology, and
- apply the diagnostic system by performing an evaluation and informing the parties concerned about the diagnosis, diagnostic methods and results, orally and in writing, and, in accordance with relevant regulations, documenting these in a health record.

Module 3 Psychological Assessment of Individuals, 14 ECTS cr

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

- evaluate psychological assessment instruments in terms of basic features such as psychometric properties, theoretical basis, and practical usability,
- give an account of the difference between tests measuring maximum performance and tests measuring typical performance,
- score, calculate and sum up the data of psychometric test instruments in accordance with given guidelines,
- give an account of a selection of frequently used methods in psychological assessment,
- suggest appropriate assessment procedures taking client characteristics, assessment context and ethical considerations into account,
- compile multiple test data and draw conclusions based on all the appropriately weighted data and present these in the form of a complete neuropsychological report,
- give recommendations based on a written assessment with consideration of individual factors and research-based evidence,
- communicate the assessment result to the individual and networks, including feedback adapted to children, and
- give an account of appropriate handling of the assessment data, certificates, records and any other documentation.

Module 4 Professional and Intercultural Communication, 4 ECTS cr

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

- plan and conduct professional interviews taking into account intersectional aspects and intercultural challenges,
- give an account of how language, verbal and non-verbal communication affect the professional interview,
- give an account of the basic features of evidence-based interview methods and assess these in terms of the needs of the psychologist profession,
- give an account of and describe how an awareness of intersectionality and cultural background can contribute to a sustainable society,
- give an account of and discuss how cultural background, values and prejudice can affect communication, and
- interact respectfully with persons who have different social, cognitive, and cultural perspectives.

Module 5 Self-Reflection, Communication and Professional Skills, 2 ECTS cr

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

- communicate balanced assessments of individuals based on psychological data with due regard to the concepts integrity and respect, and to specific and general ethical guidelines,
- evaluate the impact of different ethical guidelines on psychological assessments in theory and practice, and
- reflect ethically on and discuss assessment of others and give arguments for why it is important from an intersectional perspective.

Content

Module 1 Jurisprudence and Ethics for Psychologists, 4 ECTS cr

Relevant ethical and legal issues for psychologists are treated on the basis of professional guidelines for psychologists in the Nordic countries. Issues pertaining to the principle of public rights to access information and official documents are treated. Health care and secrecy and confidentiality legislation is studied along with relevant parts of social legislation. Relevant legislation in other areas is also treated. Instruction is in the form of lectures and mandatory seminars. Students work individually and in groups analysing case descriptions and present their solutions, orally and in writing.

Module 2 Clinical Psychology, 6 ECTS cr

The module provides an overview of the professional field of clinical psychology with an emphasis on psychiatry. Psychopathological states in diagnosis and diagnostic methods and different perspectives and approaches to the progression of ill health are treated. The structure and content of the DSM system are clarified and students practise conducting structured interviews and keeping records. The guidelines of the National Board for Health and Welfare on evidence-based methods are introduced.

Module 3 Psychological Assessment of Individuals, 14 ECTS cr

Students acquire deeper knowledge of a selection of the methods used in psychological evaluation and testing. The design and practical use of different methods are treated. Great emphasis is placed on skills in administering neuropsychological tests and on students' ability to integrate relevant background information with multiple test results. Students practise drawing up a neuropsychological assessment in the form of a written report and an oral representation in the form of a roleplay. On the basis of a professional report of assessment results and client characteristics, students practise formulating recommendations based on ethical awareness, scientific evidence and proven experience. A number of clinically active guest lecturers contribute to increased understanding of the role of the psychologist in the assessment process.

Module 4 Professional and Intercultural Communication, 4 ECTS cr

Professional and intercultural communication centres on the importance of cultural background, intersectionality, and context in the professional interview. Instruction is in the form of seminars, group discussions and roleplay. Students practise planning, conducting and analysing professional interviews in terms of social and cognitive aspects and intercultural challenges. The situation of interviewing via an interpreter is introduced.

Module 5 Self-Reflection, Communication and Professional Skills, 2 ECTS cr

The module centres on the theme of being a psychologist and assessing individuals and the need to reflect on the meaning of this for the individual client. This theme is linked to the modules on assessment, interview methods, and intercultural communication. Students practise creating assessment reports based on clinical assessments of characters in novels, and alternate with group discussions focused on ethical concerns related to for instance objectivity, integrity, and respect for the individual.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes for module 1 are assessed on the basis of active seminar participation, an individual oral and written report on a case, and an individual written exam.

Learning outcomes for module 2 are assessed on the basis of an individual written exam, oral presentation of group assignments, individual written hand-in assignments, and active seminar participation.

Learning outcomes for module 3 are assessed on the basis of individual presentation of two written psychologist assessment reports, individual hand-in assignments, active seminar participation, and an individual written exam.

Learning outcomes for module 4 are assessed on the basis of active participation in group discussions and roleplay exercises, and individual written hand-in assignments.

Learning outcomes for module 5 are assessed on the basis of active participation in group discussions and individual written hand-in assignments.

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.