



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology
Risk Management

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Health, Science and Technology on 17 March 2014, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2014 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: RHAD14

Risk perception and communication, 7.5 ECTS Credits

(Riskperception och riskkommunikation, 7.5 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Master

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

Language of Instruction

Swedish

Prerequisites

Completed first-cycle courses of at least 120 ECTS or plus upper secondary school level Swedish 3 or B, English 6 or A

Major Field of Study

FHA (Public Health Sciences), RHA (Risk Management), RIS (Societal Risk Management)

Learning Outcomes

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

- name and describe relevant concepts and theories in the field of risk perception,
- give an account of factors that are important for how individuals and groups perceive risks,
- give an account of factors that affect actual behaviour in risk situations,
- develop a plan for a risk communication approach,
- assess potential effects of different risk communication efforts,
- consider ethical issues related to risk communication.

Content and Form of Instruction

The course is offered as web-based distance education with two brief periods on campus (Karlstad university) at the beginning and end of the course. On-campus instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and seminars. Both meetings are mandatory as they include examination components. In-between campus meetings students study course literature with the support of lectures and other material via the communication platform.

The course deals with people's perceptions of and reactions to different types of risks and the effects of different forms of influence. The course is divided into two modules. The first module contains:

basic theories of risk perception

- factors affecting the perception and assessment of different types of risks
- different approaches to risks between groups and individuals, for instance, in regard to gender and experience
- factors affecting people's behaviour when faced with risks and risk situations.

Students carry out an individual written assignment in the first module. The purpose of the assignment is that students develop their ability to identify and assess relevant theories in the field of risk perception and apply these as an explanatory model for given situations in daily life.

The second module deals with risk communication from a receiver's perspective. Students are assigned the task of drawing up a plan for a risk communication approach in groups and present their plan in a seminar at the concluding seminar. The plan must include consideration of ethical issues linked to risk communication.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

The first module is assessed on the basis of a written individual assignment. The second module is assessed on the basis of a written group assignment and its oral presentation in a mandatory seminar at the final on-campus meeting. The group examination includes student performance in critically reviewing and discussing the works of other groups.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) 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 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 course RHAD14 cannot be included in the same degree programme as the course FHAD14.

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.

Students must have access to a computer with internet connection that meets the capacity requirements specified in the university's technical description on computer support to students.