



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Social Work

Syllabus

Evidence in social work

Course Code:	SMAE07
Course Title:	Evidence in social work <i>Evidens i socialt arbete</i>
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:
SAA (Social Work)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2018-09-07, and is valid from the Spring semester 2019 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Upper secondary school level Swedish 3 or B, or Swedish as a second language 3 or B and English 6 or B, or equivalent, plus social work programme 150 ECTS course credits (SGGEN),

Learning Outcomes

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

- describe the background and emergence of the evaluation field and the evidence concept as knowledge domains and practice in social work,
- present central concepts, theories and models for and in evaluation of social work,
- describe the evidence concept and models for development and application of evidence,
- compare the areas evaluation and evidence in relation to each other,
- plan evaluations and evidence-oriented work in relation to different practices in social work,

- assess and justify the need of evaluation and evidence-oriented activities in relation to different practices in social work,
- identify ethical aspects of evaluation and evidence-oriented activities related to social work practice, and
- critically review the claims of the evaluation and evidence domains to serve as development perspectives in social work practice.

Content

The background and historical development of different forms of evaluation and evidence-based work in welfare services generally and social work in particular are presented. Basic concepts and prevalent models of evaluation and evidence-based activities are treated. Evaluation and evidence-oriented social work can be seen as perspectives for increased quality: relations, similarities and differences are compared. Students develop skills in independently defining the need of evaluation, designing actual evaluation projects and critically reviewing completed evaluations. They also acquire the knowledge needed to assess the need for evidence-oriented social work and plan how knowledge of the evidence domain can be utilised in different social practices. Students' abilities to critically review the claims of the evaluation and evidence domains are developed in all forms of instruction. The relation between the two knowledge domains of evaluation and evidence and the field of practice is a component in all course activities.

Instructions is in the form of lectures, group work, seminars and laboratory sessions.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on an individual take-home exam and oral and written group assignments, which are presented and discussed in mandatory 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.