



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
Social Work

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 26 September 2011 , and is valid from the Spring semester of 2014 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: SMGA03

Social Work Investigation and Exercise of Authority, 15.0 ECTS Credits

(Socialt arbete med inriktning mot utredning och myndighetsutövning, 15.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Bachelor

Progressive Specialisation: G1F (First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements)

Language of Instruction

Swedish

Prerequisites

Completed Social Work Programme courses 30 ECTS cr (term 1) and attended 30 ECTS cr courses in term 2

Major Field of Study

SAA (Social Work)

Learning Outcomes

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

- apply relevant legislation in investigation and exercise of authority,
- give an account of legal concepts in social service case management,
- compile written material in social work investigations,
- assess and document information from individuals and authorities,
- identify and describe power conflicts and affronts,
- give an account of basic knowledge of communication theory and interviewing methods,
- distinguish between different practical communication methods,
- apply relevant communication methods in different forms of conversations.

Content and Form of Instruction

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars and group exercises.

The course contains the following components:

Case management and documentation in the social service areas of the functionally challenged, the elderly, the individual and the family. Special attention is paid to a professional approach to people, active listening and interviews with individuals in the exercise of authority.

The course includes communication theory and interviewing methods related to the unequal relationship of client and provider. The relationship between a humane and a professional approach poses questions that concern all care-giving professions and this situation is particularly evident in the exercise of authority.

Legal concepts such as case management, exercise of authority, individual legal security, objectivity and unbiased are treated along with how a case originates, who is a party, transparency and secrecy in the process. Special attention is paid to the legislated duty in the social services to document the process at all stages including implementation. Developing a social approach is the basis of appropriate documentation in the care of the elderly, the functionally challenged and of individuals and families.

Students are also, individually or in groups, required to develop skills in compiling written material for decision when application is made for support and when a complaint is made to the authority. In this context, students are also required to give an account of pre-decisions, care plans and implementation, orally and in writing. Investigation models such as A Focus on Children's Needs, Addiction Severity Index and protection assessments are studied and actual cases are made available.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on written, individual assignments, seminar discussions of group assignments, interview exercises and laboratory sessions.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), and 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 course SMGA03 cannot be included in the same degree programme as the course SMGBS2.

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 social work programme.