



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Master's Degree Programme in Social Science

Programme Code	VAMAS
Programme Title	Master's Degree programme in Health Science
Credits/ECTS:	120
Programme Approval	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Social and Life Sciences on 15 December 2010 (Reg No FAK3 2010/146), and is valid from the autumn term of 2011 at Karlstad University.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Degree Level:	Master's (60/120 ECTS cr)
Degree Type:	General
Prerequisites	<p>General admission requirements for studies at Master's level. Special requirements: Swedish B/Swedish 2 B and English A.</p> <p>For the chosen Major:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Public Health Science: Bachelor's Degree of 180 ECTS credits including a degree project of 15 ECTS cr, or equivalent.- Nursing: Professional Nursing Degree of 180 ECTS credits including a degree project of 15 ECTS cr, or Bachelor's Degree in nursing, or equivalent. <p>Students who have a 60 ECTS cr Master's Degree in the chosen major can have these credits transferred to the programme.</p>

Introduction

The Master's programme is designed for students who are aiming for a Master's degree in one of the faculty's health science disciplines:

- Public Health Science
- Nursing

The programme involves studies at Master's level in one of the above subjects. The programme also includes elective courses, offering opportunities for specialised or broadened knowledge in a multidisciplinary perspective. It offers in-depth subject knowledge in the field of health science with a broadening perspective and preparation for professional life as well as further studies towards a doctor's degree. Students develop the scientific knowledge and skills required for further studies and for qualified investigative work, case management, development and project/unit management.

Studies in public health science offer students from different professional backgrounds the opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge in the discipline, for instance, by taking courses with a focus on the life and health of children (Child Life and Health). These courses are linked to the extensive research done in this area in conjunction with national and international institutions. Other research areas in public health are Safety and Security and Psycho-Social Health.

Studies in nursing affords nurses the opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge in the discipline. There is a need in nursing for qualified skills in the form of critical thinking, reflection and independent decision-making as well as for the knowledge required to initiate and carry out quality improvement and evidence-based research projects in clinical practice. Courses in the nursing discipline are linked to the research fields Quality of Care and Safety, Health and Quality of Life, and Health Care Environment and Resources. Students with a Master-level specialist nursing degree will be credited for previous studies.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

Education at Master's level must build on the knowledge required at undergraduate level or equivalent, and entail a deepening of knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to previous studies. In addition it should

- further develop students' ability to independently integrate and implement knowledge,
- develop students' ability to handle complex phenomena, issues and situations,
- develop students' capacity for occupations requiring a high degree of independence or for research and development work.

(Ch. 1 §9 Higher Education Law 1992:1434)

The Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) further stipulates the general requirements for various Degree types and the local institution's right to add specific requirements.

National Objectives for the Master's Degree:

Knowledge and understanding

To earn a Master's degree, students should be able to demonstrate

- knowledge and understanding of the main field of study, including a broad command of the field and deeper knowledge of selected areas, as well as in-depth insight into current research and development, and
- deeper knowledge of theory and method in the main field of study.

Skills and abilities

To earn a Master's degree students should be able to demonstrate

- the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, problems and situations, even when having access only to a limited amount of background information,
- the ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate problems, and the ability to plan, carry out and evaluate advanced tasks and assignments within a given deadline, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge,
- the ability to communicate and interact with various groups in presenting and discussing information and conclusions both orally and in writing, nationally and internationally, and
- the skills required to take active part in research and development or to work independently in other qualified areas.

Judgement and approach

To earn a Master's degree, students should be able to demonstrate

- the ability to make appropriate judgements in the main field of study with respect to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects, and an awareness of ethical issues in research and development,
- insight into the possibilities and limitations of scientific research, the role of science in society, and our responsibility for its use,
- the ability to identify their own need for further knowledge and training and take responsibility for updating it.

Independent project (Degree project)

For a Degree of Master students must have completed an independent project (degree project) worth at least 30 higher education credits (ECTS) in their main field of study. The independent project may comprise less than 30 higher education credits, but not less than 15 higher education credits, if the student has already completed an independent project at the second level worth at least 15 higher education credits in their main field of study, or an equivalent project in a foreign educational programme.

Programme Structure

The programme comprises 120 ECTS credits, of which at least 60 ECTS cr are in the main field of study. Courses of at least 90 ECTS cr must be at Master's level, which means that Bachelor-level courses can be included if they are not main field of study courses and do not exceed 30 ECTS cr.

The programme structure is flexible and the pace of study may vary. In consultation with the student advisor, an individual study plan is drawn up for each student, based

on their interests and availability of courses at Karlstad University or at other universities.

Programme Content

The programme comprises main field of study courses as well as elective courses, offered at Karlstad University, or at other universities.

Mandatory courses:

- Courses in the main field of study of at least 60 ECTS cr, including a degree project of at least 30 ECTS cr. The degree project can, and must if the student settles for a one-year Master's, be divided into two courses of 15 ECTS credits each, one of which completed to meet the requirements for the one-year Master's degree.
- Course in scientific research method of at least 15 ECTS cr. The credits can be included in the main field of study or count as other courses. The methods course must be offered at the Master's level.
- Other courses of 60 ECTS credits are electives, except for the research methods course if this is not included in the main field of study. Other electives can be courses offered at Bachelor's level (no more than 30 ECTS cr).

Examination

Examination formats are specified in each syllabus.

Degree Title

Upon completion of the programme, students are awarded a Master of Science in their chosen Major.

Master of Science (120 ECTS credits). Major: Public Health Science

Master of Science (120 ECTS credits). Major: Nursing

It is also possible to earn a Master of Science Degree of 60 ECTS credits if the following requirements for studies at Master's level are met: at least 30 ECTS cr, including a degree project of 15 ECTS cr in the Major and/or included course in research methodology of at least 7.5 ECTS cr.

Transfer of Credits

Students have the right to transfer credits from other universities in Sweden or abroad. The recognition of previous education as credit for part of a course is subject to approval by the examiner. The recognition of previous education as credit for an entire course is subject to approval by Student Centre officers.

Additional Information

Local regulations for the Bachelor's and Master's level at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.