



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

HNE780 Health Economics, 7.5 credits

Hälsoekonomi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Economics on 2015-05-19 and was last revised on 2016-01-29 to be valid from 2016-01-29, spring semester of 2016.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Economics

Position in the educational system

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Programme in Business and Economics (S1HEM)

Main field of studies

Economics

Specialization

G2F, First Cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Admission to Health Economics (HNE780) requires a pass of a minimum of 105 higher education credits of which at least 45 credits must be in Economics from NEG100 and NEG200 or equivalent.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall be able to:

1. describe, and demonstrate a general insight about, a wide range of health economic models and applications, including models of economic evaluations, health inequality measurement, and standard theory.
2. independently use the economic toolbox from undergraduate microeconomics to analyze complex health economic problems and dilemmas.

3. use the literature to discuss and evaluate the quality of empirical studies and economic evaluations.
4. critically assess the core concepts within health economics, such as the theoretical models, the underlying assumptions of empirical methods, the implicit (ethical) value judgements in Health Inequality Measurement, and the underlying assumptions in economic evaluations.

How overall learning goals of the Bachelor's degree are related to the learning outcomes of the course:

Overall Learning goals Bachelor's degree	Learning outcomes
Knowledge and understanding	1
Skills and abilities	2,3
Judgement and approach	4

Course content

The main purpose of the course is to teach students to use the microeconomic toolbox of theory and methods to analyze and understand problems within health economics. This course presents students with general economic questions related to demand, supply and production of health and health services. In particular the course will discuss the role of (asymmetric) information in health, health care, and health insurance markets; finance and organization of health care and insurance; and the determinants of health and health behavior. The course will also discuss distributional and inequality issues, and students will discuss how to approach problems of monitoring and measuring inequality and equity in health. Students will also practice critical assessment of both theory and empirical methods. The course also presents the basic models of economic evaluations of health care programmes and interventions, providing students with basic practical tools and understanding of the pros and cons of these models.

Form of teaching

The coursework mainly consists of lectures and group work. Details are provided in the course guide available on the course web page.

Assessment

The Department of Economics encourages different types of assessments, but the most commonly used form of assessment is written exams. However, assignments, case studies and oral presentations are also frequently used. Details regarding assessment for this specific course are provided in the course guide available on the course web page.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the Department of Economics and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). All assessment components must be passed in order to achieve a pass grade for the course. Students are expected to attend and be active at seminars. Supplementary short reports may make up for non-participation at individual seminars.

Course evaluation

The course will be evaluated upon completion. Course evaluation takes place anonymously via the course web page, alternatively with a written questionnaire, in connection to a lecture on the course and/or in connection to the exam. The results from the course evaluations are used as a basis for discussion on the course committee meetings where relevant measures for improvement and development of the course is decided upon. The course committee consists of student representatives as well as faculty representation.