



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

MPH211 Public health science: foundations and applications, 15 credits

Folkhälsovetenskapens utgångspunkter och tillämpningsområden, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Institute of Medicine on 2019-03-18 and was last revised on 2019-05-06 to be valid from 2019-05-06, spring semester of 2019.

Field of education: Medicine 100%

Department: Institute of Medicine

Position in the educational system

The course is a part of Master's Programme in Public Health. The course can be offered as an eligible course on advanced level.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Public Health (M2PHP)

Main field of studies

Public Health Sciences

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

A Bachelor's degree or professional degree qualification corresponding to at least 180 credits or equivalent, within the main areas of health science or social science.

Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- describe fundamental concepts, theories and models within the field of public health science, that are used to explain processes leading to population variations in health and the burden of disease
- on a basic level, identify and discuss the practical implications of public health science and the role of different public health stakeholders from international to local levels
- on a basic level, explain how the societal context, e.g. welfare state systems, health coverage, access to education, and health behaviours are linked to population and individual health
- on a basic level, identify central ethical norms of relevance to public health science and their relationship to human rights

Competence and skills

- apply internationally established norms and standards for scientific quality and ethics (e.g. plagiarism) in the evaluation of, and reference to public health literature
- distinguish between theoretical literature, original research and reviews/meta-analysis, synthesize and present these in a scientific manner, orally and in writing
- develop and apply a plan for group work that integrates aspects of group dynamics, communication, conflict management, and strategies for promoting group members' well-being and academic performance

Judgement and approach

- based on principals of ethics and human rights, identify and discuss challenges and dilemmas in responding to health inequality and health inequity
- evaluate and draw conclusions based on access to, and quality of evidence in a specified field within public health science

The course is sustainability-focused, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria. The content also constitutes the course's main focus.

Course content

From the starting point of health as a basic human right the course will provide an introduction to public health science and its fundamental theories and concepts, including health equity, social determinants of health, public health interventions, life-course perspective, health and human rights, and public health ethics.

From an overview of theories and empirical evidence the students will reach a basic understanding of the link between both formal (e.g. welfare systems and legislation) and informal (e.g. gender, class, ethnicity) social structures, and individual and population health. The students will also gain knowledge about academic writing and how to avoid plagiarism and other disciplinary offences.

Form of teaching

The course adopts a mix of lectures, seminars, and group activities.

Language of instruction: English and Swedish

Assessment

The course will be examined through:

- 1 individual written exam (i.e. in exam hall)
- 4 compulsory elements (3 seminars + 1 extensive group assignment including an oral presentation, a written report, and peer-assessment)

Absence from compulsory assignments have to be compensated for with written assignments in accordance with instructions from the course leader.

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 responsible for the course 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).

For the grade Pass (G) the student must have achieved a Pass (G) on both the final written exam and all four compulsory elements in the course (i.e. three seminars and one group assignment). To pass with distinction (VG) the student must have achieved a VG on the final written exam and the grade Pass (G) on all four compulsory elements in the course (i.e. three seminars and one group assignment).

Regarding the application of ECTS scales, please see Vice-Chancellor's decision 2007-05-28, dnr G 8 1976/07 as well as 2011-02-28, dnr O 2009/5545.

Course evaluation

The course evaluation is carried out in writing and orally with the students. The course leader is responsible for analyzing the evaluations and giving propositions for improvement. The analysis and propositions of development is shared with the students through the program council and the learning platform. The result and potential changes should be shared to both the students who carried out the evaluation and the students that are about to start the course.