



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

MPH241 Master's thesis in public health science, 30 credits

Examensarbete i folkhälsovetenskap, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Institute of Medicine on 2020-01-22 to be valid from 2021-01-18, spring semester of 2021.

Field of education: Medicine 100%

Department: Institute of Medicine

Other participating department

Institute of Medicine

Position in the educational system

This examination course is compulsory in the program.

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

Main field of studies

Public Health Sciences

Specialization

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course, the students are expected to have acquired 15 credits in MPH211 (Public health science: foundations and applications, 15 Credits), 7.5 credits in MPH212 (Health equality and the right to health, 7.5 credits) and MPH213 (Qualitative methods in public health science, 7.5 credits) and 15 credits in MPH 221 (Epidemiology and biostatistics, 15 credits) and 15 credits in MPH222 (Health economics: foundations, areas of application and methodology, 15 credits) or MPH 223 (Social epidemiology:

theories, methods and practical implications, 15 credits) or equivalent.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate subject and method knowledge at a research preparatory level within the chosen degree project

Competence and skills

- identify knowledge gaps and formulate a research question based on previous public health research
- reflect and apply suitable methods for empirical data collection and analysis for the degree project
- based on a scientific approach and in line with guidelines for academic writing, formulate a timetable for carrying out the research, write the degree project, and orally present and defend one's own degree project
- discuss and reflect on the practical implications of the results of the degree project for the selected public health focus area

Judgement and approach

- critically evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the thesis work, including the selected method and obtained results
- critically exam the strengths and weaknesses of a fellow student's thesis work and lead an oral discussion at an examination seminar
- reflect on and critically evaluate ethical and sustainability-related aspects in one's own work and that of your peers.

Course content

The purpose of the course is for the student to write a scientific master's thesis. During this course, the student will have the opportunity to show their abilities to independently plan and carry out their degree project, as well as orally and in writing presents the research area within the field of public health science. This means that the student must formulate a research question(s), choose the appropriate method(s), collect primary or secondary data, analyze data and present and discuss the results in relation to previous scientific research in the chosen research area. This course provides the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills acquired during previous courses within the master's in public health program. The course includes a final seminar in which the

degree project is presented and discussed. Throughout the thesis work a critical and scientific approach is necessary, as well as the use of academic language both in written and oral communications.

Form of teaching

The teaching method for this course consists largely of individual supervision, but also features some lectures, workshops and seminars where the student's learning process is supported. All teaching elements have an interactive character, so that students and teachers together contribute with ideas, feedback and independent reflections. The supervisor's time totals 30 hours.

Language of instruction: English

Students may conduct work in another language but all course documents, including the final thesis, must be written in English and oral presentations and discussions must be held in English.

Assessment

The learning outcomes will be evaluated through the following examinations:

1. A written project plan
2. A written half-time report of the thesis progress
3. A written peer assessment of one peer's half-time thesis report
4. A discussion of another student's work at the final seminar where the student serves as an opponent
5. A final oral presentation seminar of the Master's thesis
6. A written Master's thesis

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

The assessment criteria are described in detail in an appendix given to all students, supervisors and examiners. In order for a thesis to be graded as Pass (G), all criteria must be met to a reasonable extent. To earn a Pass in the course, all compulsory assessments must be complete and the thesis work must earn a Pass (G). To earn Pass with distinction (VG) on the course, all compulsory assessments must be complete with a passing score and the thesis work must earn a VG.

Course evaluation

Course evaluation takes place in writing and orally in dialogue between the students and course coordinator. The course coordinator compiles the analysis of course evaluations and provides suggestions for development of the course. This analysis will then be discussed with teachers and students in the program council. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.