



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MPH401 Degree project in public health science with health economics, 30 credits

Examensarbete i folkhälsovetenskap med hälsoekonomi, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Institute of Medicine on 2017-10-10 to be valid from 2017-10-10, spring semester of 2018.

Field of education: Medicine 100%

Department: Department of Medicine

Other participating department

Department of Medicine

Position in the educational system

The course, Degree project in Public Health Science with Health Economics, 30 credits is included in the master programme of public health science with health economics given at semester 4.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Public Health Science with Health Economics (M2FHH)

Main field of studies

Public Health Science with Health Economics

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have obtained approved results in at least one of the methods courses within the program (MPH102 Quantitative and qualitative methods, 15 credits alternatively MPH301 Epidemiology and Biostatistics with special focus on social epidemiology, 15 credits) or equivalent. In addition the students must

have obtained approved results in at least two of the courses within the main areas of the program: MPH101 Public health foundations, welfare systems, and health equity 15 credits; MPH202 - Health economics and evaluation, 15 credits or MPH301 - Epidemiology and biostatistics with a special focus on social epidemiology, 15 credits or equivalent.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- summarize and present in-depth knowledge in a selected area and describe the link between this selected area and the overall field of public health

Competence and skills

- independently and innovatively identify and formulate a scientific question focused on a topic that is relevant to the field of public health;
- identify and apply the appropriate theoretical and methodological framework to answer the scientific question posed in the thesis work;
- independently and in cooperation with supervisors, organize and conduct, within given time frames, the degree work and present the findings both in writing and orally;
- discuss and clearly motivate the rationale underlying a research process and conclusions derived from the study;
- critically review a scientific work, present both its strengths and weaknesses, as well as make suggestions for improvement;

Judgement and approach

- independently and systematically evaluate and analyze empirical material in order to achieve sufficient validity and reliability in results and conclusions;
- reflect over and appraise relevant scientific, ethical and sustainability aspects of research and development work, including the researchers own responsibility in different environments

The course is sustainability-related, 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.

Course content

In the course, the student will independently plan, implement, document and present a scientific work.

Form of teaching

The course starts with an introduction to the research process, during which the student formulates his/her field of study. The student, together with the course

coordinator, identifies a scientific supervisor who guides the student through the entire research process and, if necessary, an assistant supervisor with practical knowledge of the field of study. The student formulates a project plan that briefly describes the purpose of the study, questions, study design and schedule for implementation. The project plan is presented and discussed with the supervisor. The student then continues with the planned study, data collection and so forth and is continually supported by an academic supervisor. After half the term, an half-time report/draft is presented in writing.

The course ends with the student presenting their own thesis work in writing and orally for an opponent, their supervisor if they can join, fellow students, course coordinator(s) and an examiner at a final seminar. The supervisor, together with the student, should assist in deciding whether the degree project is of such quality that it can be presented at the final seminar. The course also includes the student reviewing and evaluating another student's work as well as discussing the work at a seminar. In connection with the final seminar, the examiner will report grades and necessary revisions to the student. The student remedies revisions, in consultation with their academic supervisor, before the thesis work is again sent to the examiner for review.

Language of instruction: English

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

Assessment

The major part of the course is examined by the student presenting a written work corresponding to the requirements for master's degree project. In addition to this, the course contains three other exams: 1) a project plan describing the study plan, 2) a half-time report of the thesis work, and 3) discussion of another student's work at the final exam seminar.

If the examiner at the final seminar announces that revisions need to be made for approval of the thesis, the student must clearly show how these have been carried out before the new version of the degree project is reviewed by the examiner. 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). In order to earn a passing mark (G), the student must be approved in all examinations. In order to achieve a Pass with Distinction (VG), the student must pass (G) the project plan, half-time report, and opposition, and achieve VG on the individual, written and orally presented work.

Course evaluation

Course evaluation takes place in writing via the Gothenburg University Learning Platform, GUL, and orally in dialogue with the students and course coordinator. The course coordinator compiles the analysis of course evaluation and provides suggestions for development of the course. This analysis will then be discussed with teachers and students in the program council. Analysis and suggestions are communicated to both students who completed the evaluation and to the students who start the course.