



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

NEK305 Health Economics, 7.5 credits

Hälsoekonomi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Economics on 2019-08-07 and was last revised on 2021-01-17 to be valid from 2021-01-18, spring semester of 2021.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Economics

Position in the educational system

This is a 7.5 ECTS advanced course in economics within the first-cycle level.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Program in Environmental Social Science (S1SML), 2) Program in Environmental Social Science (S1SMI), 3) Programme in Business and Economics (S1HEP), 4) Programme in Business and Economics (S1HEG) and 5) Bachelor's Programme in Business and Economics (S1EKA)

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 the course requires a minimum of 60 credits of Economics, of which at least 45 credits have obtained a passing grade. Prior knowledge corresponding to 7,5 credits in Microeconomics at intermediate level and 15 credits in Statistics is recommended.

Learning outcomes

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

1. demonstrate a general insight about an overview of health economic models and applications, including models of economic evaluations and standard theory.
2. independently use the economic toolbox from undergraduate microeconomics to analyze health economic problems and dilemmas, and convey such analysis in both oral and written form.
3. use the literature to discuss and evaluate the quality of empirical (health) economic research, and critically assess the underlying assumptions of empirical methods.

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

Overall learning goals	Learning outcomes
Knowledge and understanding	1
Skills and abilities	2+3
Judgement and approach	3

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. 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 content of the course is presented mainly at lectures and in group exercises. A large part of the knowledge acquisition on the course is done through own work by the student.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Learning outcomes are assessed through written reports, a final exam (in two separate parts), and active seminars including oral student presentation(s). In order to pass the course, the student need to pass all assessment components, including the two parts of the exam. Students are expected to attend and be active at seminars. Supplementary short reports may make up for non-participation at individual seminars, but not all. For further details on assessment see the present course guide on the course homepage.

If a student, who has failed the same examined element on two occasions, wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, such a request is to be submitted to the department in writing and granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

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, though at most two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to work experience and VFU, although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Excellent (A), Very good (B), Good (C), Satisfactory (D), Sufficient (E) and Fail (F).

Course evaluation

Course evaluation is done digitally and anonymously via the course website in connection to a lecture on the course. Students can also fill in the survey at a later date.

The survey material is compiled and the results from the course evaluation and proposals for possible improvement measures are discussed at the course committee meeting. After the course evaluation is completed, the result will be published at the course homepage.

If a change of course is done based on the course evaluation, this will be communicated at the course introduction for the upcoming student group.

Additional information

1. Transitional rules: The course replaces the sub-course "Health Economics, 7.5 ECTS" within the course block "NEG300".
2. Limitations: The course may not be included in the same degree as the sub-course "Health Economics, 7.5 ECTS", which is part of NEG300, NE0300, as well as HNE780.