



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Medicine

MPHP12, Public Health: Epidemiology and Public Health Research Methodology, 15 credits

*Folkhälsovetenskap: Epidemiologi och folkhälsovetenskaplig
forskningsmetodik, 15 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Committee for Biomedical, Medical and Public Health Education on 2016-02-10 and was valid from 2016-07-01, autumn semester 2016.

General Information

The course is a compulsory component of the Master (120 credits) of Medical Science programme in Public Health.

Main field of studies

Public Health Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

- explain the theory of science foundation for the research methodology that is used in public health studies
- explain key concepts and describe procedures for different epidemiological study designs and qualitative methods of relevance to public health issues
- compare the criteria that are of relevance to the assessment of the reliability of epidemiological and qualitative research results
- explain and account for how epidemiological and qualitative research designs jointly can contribute to an understanding of the health determinants at the levels of individuals, groups and communities

Competence and skills

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

- independently identify appropriate study designs and choose methods for data collection and analysis and argue for these choices
- design a qualitative interview guide and a short questionnaire for the collection of epidemiological data
- implement and interpret a basic encoding/analysis of qualitative data and execute a descriptive statistical analysis of epidemiological data
- critically analyse and provide arguments based on the contents of research in the field of public health studies

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

- independently assess, review and criticise public health research on the basis of ethical principles and guidelines
- reflect on and compare the limitations of different scientific approaches but also their complementary role for the development of knowledge

Course content

The course provides students with an overview of the theory of science background to different research approaches in the field of public health studies. The students obtain an overview of key concepts and procedures with regard to study design, data collection and analytical methods in relation to these different approaches. Global public health problems will be used as a starting point for the formulation of both epidemiological and more qualitative research issues. Following this, the students will pursue the research process and work in groups on the design of study protocols for epidemiological and qualitative studies. This assignment entails that the group is to arrive at different problem formulations that are to be put into operation with proposals for selection criteria, data collection method and type of analysis. The study protocol is also to include reflections on ethical issues and a discussion of how the credibility of results can be strengthened. The course includes supervised exercises in data collection, processing and interpretation of results within epidemiology and qualitative methods. Seminars led by students deal with project presentations and the critical review of research articles.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and group assignments. The seminars and group assignments require compulsory attendance.

Assessment

The assessment is based on three components: a course portfolio including a written and oral project presentation and documentation of participation in compulsory course components (5 credits) in groups, and two individual written exams, 2.5 and 7.5 credits respectively. The written exam of 2.5 credits aims to assess the attainment of the first learning outcome of knowledge and understanding. The exam of 7.5 credits aims to assess the attainment of the remaining learning outcomes.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

The grades awarded for the written exams are Fail, Pass or Pass with Distinction, and for the course portfolio Fail or Pass.

For a grade of of Pass with Distinction on the course as whole, students must have been awarded this grade on both written exams and the grade of Pass on the course portfolio.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have a Bachelor's degree or the equivalent. Specific entry requirement: English B from Swedish upper secondary school or the equivalent.

Subcourses in MPHP12, Public Health: Epidemiology and Public Health Research Methodology

Applies from H16

- 1606 Written examination, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1607 Written examination, 2,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1608 Course portfolio, 5,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass