



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Medicine

MPHP19, Applied Public Health Research Methods, 12.5 credits

Tillämpad folkhälsovetenskaplig forskningsmetod, 12,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Master's Programmes Board on 2017-09-12 to be valid from 2017-09-13, autumn semester 2017.

General Information

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

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Public Health Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

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

- compare the philosophical and theoretical foundations of public health research methodology (quantitative and qualitative)
- compare key concepts of study design and analytical methods in relation to public health research methodology
- compare the quality criteria of public health research methods and how to make a relevant assessment using these

- explain how social science theories can be used to interpret public health research results

Competence and skills

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

- independently formulate a research question, identify the relevant public health research methodology to respond to the question, apply this/these and subsequently present and discuss the results
- independently identify research articles, reports and research material of relevance to a specific research issue
- discuss the results in relation to methodological, societal and ethical aspects
- review and provide relevant feedback on a study protocol

Judgement and approach

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

- independently reflect on ethical dilemmas and critically evaluate public health research on the basis of ethical principles and guidelines
- discuss both the societal relevance and limitations of public health science
- critically evaluate and discuss their own research findings from a methodological perspective and in relation to current research

Course content

Overview

The course starts with an overview of the procedure for quantitative (epidemiology and biostatistics) and qualitative data analyses in public health. This overview will also include social science theories of relevance to the interpretation of research results and how the quality of research is assessed in quantitative and qualitative studies.

Specialisation

In the next phase, the students will specialise in different analytical approaches in public health, in one of three tracks.

Track 1: Quantitative method

The students on this track will specialise in one of the following analysis methods of public health: logistic regression, linear regression and survival analysis.

Track 2: Qualitative method

The students on this track will specialise in one of the following analysis methods of public health: qualitative content analysis and grounded theory.

Track 3: Elective method

Students will have the opportunity to choose other analytical methods. This track includes a significant amount of independent study with support and guidance from the course directors.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, exercises and assignments.

The seminars, exercises and assignments are compulsory.

Assessment

The assessment consists of an individual written assignment as well as a course portfolio including active participation in seminars, exercises and assignments.

If there are specific reasons, other forms of assessment may be applied.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

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

For the grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must be awarded this grade on all assessed components.

For a Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must be awarded this grade on the individual written assignment, and be awarded a Pass on the course portfolio.

Entry requirements

Proficiency in English corresponding to English B from Swedish upper-secondary school or the equivalent, and a passing grade on the course MPHP12.

Subcourses in MPHP19, Applied Public Health Research Methods

Applies from H17

1701 Individual Written Assignment, 7,5 hp

Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

1702 Course Portfolio, 5,0 hp

Grading scale: Fail, Pass

The course portfolio consists of active participation in assignments, exercises and seminars