



Faculty of Medicine

BIMA44, Biomedicine: Biomedical Ethics, 1.5 credits

Biomedicin: Biomedicinsk etik, 1,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Master's Programmes Board on 2016-06-07 to be valid from 2016-07-01, spring semester 2017.

General Information

This course is a compulsory component of the Bachelor of Medical Science programme in Biomedicine.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of studies

Biomedicine

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Competence and skills

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

- identify and describe in writing ethical issues of a biomedical research project so that a non-expert can understand and determine whether ethical permission is required or not
- describe in writing their own ethical considerations and relate them to basic ethical theory

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

- reflect on the individual researcher's responsibility for conducting ethically defensible research
- reflect on and justify their own ethical positions to family, friends and society at large

Course content

The course provides students with an introduction to ethical issues in biomedical research and an overview of the laws and regulations governing how research should or may be carried out. The topics addressed include which type of research is allowed in society, animal testing, human testing, ethical use of research results, genetic information, biobanks and stem cells. Also more philosophical issues are addressed, including the beginning of life and the position of human beings in relation to other life forms. Furthermore, the course includes study of a research project, in which the students are to analyse ethical issues and identify which parts of the project require ethical permission from different ethical committees. Focus is placed on the ethical execution of the project, the aspects requiring an application for ethical permission and the permissible use of data and sample materials.

Course design

Lectures including interactive elements introduce key ethical concepts and theories, and the work of ethical review boards. Using authentic research projects, students work in groups to define ethical boundaries and engage in individual reflection. Subsequently, the students get the opportunity to discuss what has emerged from the group tuition and independent study with the whole group of students and with teaching staff with expertise in biomedicine and philosophy.

Assessment

The assessment is based on an individual written assignment, which is to review a research project from an ethical perspective and clearly demonstrate the student's individual position.

Other forms of examination can be used, if there are special reasons.

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

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed three semesters of the Bachelor of Medical Science programme in Biomedicine or the equivalent.

Subcourses in BIMA44, Biomedicine: Biomedical Ethics

Applies from V17

1601 Individual written assignment, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass