



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Medicine

## **MPHN40, Public Health: Master's Thesis in Public Health, 30 credits**

*Folkhälsovetenskap: Examensarbete på masternivå i  
folkhälsovetenskap, 30 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Committee for Biomedical, Medical and Public Health Education on 2014-12-03 and was last revised on 2017-12-05 by The Master's Programmes Board. . The revised syllabus applied from 2017-12-06. , spring semester 2018.

### **General Information**

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Public Health Science

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

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

### **Learning outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

- In a substantially deeper way account for the present state of knowledge and current research in a limited area within the field of public health
- In a substantially deeper way account for methods applicable to a limited area within the field of public health and for the possibilities and weaknesses of the methods

#### **Competence and skills**

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

- Independently formulate specific research questions of relevance to the knowledge development within the main field, on the basis of relevant theories and in the current state of knowledge
- Independently search for, select and assess sources by means of structured strategies and use information from the literature in the implementation of a research project
- Carry out a study, collect data, analyse results and independently compile and critically assess the significance and limitations of these on the basis of the formulated research question and chosen method
- Discuss scientific methods applicable to the area of specialisation and the possibilities and limitations of the methods, and provide arguments for the choice of methods in the thesis project
- Independently identify and reason about the principles of research ethics of specific relevance to the own and other students' thesis projects
- Identify the need of further knowledge that might be required within the area of specialisation
- Plan and independently write a research paper in English and a popular science summary of the paper
- Independently account for and discuss, in English, the thesis project and the knowledge and arguments on which the thesis is based, in dialogue with both researchers and students
- Carry out an opposition on another students thesis project by critically

### **Judgement and approach**

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

- Assess his/her need of further knowledge and take responsibility for his/her knowledge development
- Make assessments with respect to aspects of research ethics with specific relevance to his/her thesis project

### **Course content**

The aim of the thesis project is to give the students an opportunity to specialise and broaden within the

main field and hereby practise on searching for, critically review and compile research information

including research in public health. The student is to formulate a research question and complete a study

based on collected primary and secondary data, alternatively a meta-analysis or a systematic literature

review in cases where a meta-analysis is formally impossible to carry out, and present the results in the

form of a research article.

### **Course design**

The course participant will carry out his/her own (i.e. the work should be individual and is not possible to do in a

group) supervised scientific project. Developing a project plan that must be approved by the course

leaders. The project can be carried out in Sweden or abroad. The project will be presented in a seminar.

## **Assessment**

A written report in the form of a paper written in English in the structure of a research article, which should include an abstract and a popular science summary. The thesis is presented and defended orally; including a critical review and opposition on a fellow student's thesis project at a presentation seminar, and active participation at other presentation seminars.

A student who has failed an examination is entitled to four more opportunities for examination. More examination opportunities may be offered in individual cases.

If there are special reasons, other examination formats can 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.

To receive a Pass with Distinction for the entire course, the grade Pass with Distinction on the paper is required.

## **Entry requirements**

A Bachelor's degree (180 credits) or equivalent, and proficiency in English equivalent to English B. A Pass on the courses Epidemiology and Public Health Research Methods (MPHP12), 15 credits, and the course portfolio in course Applied Public Health Research Methods (MPHP19), 5 credits should be completed, or equivalent.

## Subcourses in MPH40, Public Health: Master's Thesis in Public Health

Applies from V15

- 1301 Paper, 25,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1302 Defence, 2,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1303 Opposition, 1,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1304 Seminars, 2,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass