

MPHP22, Public Health: Epidemiology, 7.5 credits

Folkhälsovetenskap: Epidemiologi , 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Master's Programmes Board on 2018-12-04. The syllabus comes into effect 2018-12-05 and is valid from the spring semester 2019.

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 study *Specialisation*

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| Public Health Science | A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements |
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Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

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

- explain the philosophy of science foundation for the research methodology that is used in the field of Epidemiology
- explain key concepts and describe procedures for different epidemiological study designs of relevance to public health issues
- explain and reflect on the criteria that are of relevance to the assessment of the validity of epidemiological research results
- explain and account for how epidemiological research designs 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 short questionnaire for the collection of epidemiological data
- Perform a descriptive statistical analysis of epidemiological data, compile results and correctly interpret the results.
- critically analyze and provide arguments based on the contents of Epidemiologic research in the field of public health

Judgement and approach

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

- independently assess, review and criticize epidemiologic 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 an overview of the philosophies of science on which Epidemiologic research in public health are based, as well as key concepts and approaches in terms of study design, data collection and methods for analysis, in relation to Epidemiologic research. Global public health issues will be used as the basis for the formulation of epidemiological research questions. Student will receive supervised training in data collection, processing and interpretation of results in epidemiology. Students will then follow the research process to produce an individual course paper addressing quantitative methodology. In this assignment, the students will work individually and together to develop problem formulations that are to be operationalized, and propose sampling strategies, data collection methods, and types of analysis. In this assignment, the students are also to reflect on ethical issues and discuss how to enhance the credibility of results. The assignment also includes peer review of other students' assignments. The course also includes student- led seminars and critical reviews 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 of the course is based on the following components: a course portfolio that includes active participation in compulsory individual and group course components (1.5 credits); and Individual written exam (2.5 credits); One individual course paper (3.5 credits) including a peer review assignment of other students' written assignments.

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.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: 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 the three written exams and the individual written assignment the grades awarded are Fail, Pass, and Pass with Distinction. For the course portfolio, the grades awarded are Fail and Pass.

For a Pass with Distinction on the full course, the student must achieve a combined weighted average based on the three written exams and the individual written assignment that is considered to fulfil the criteria for a Pass with Distinction, and be awarded a 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.