



Faculty of Medicine

MPHP37, Public Health: Cost-effectiveness and Impact Evaluation of Health Interventions, 7.5 credits

*Folkhälsovetenskap: Kostnadseffektivitet och effektutvärdering av
hälsointerventioner, 7,5 högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Master's Programmes Board on 2023-12-05. The syllabus comes into effect 2023-12-05 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

Elective course on the Master's Programme in Public Health Sciences (T3), can also be taken as a freestanding course or as an elective within the Medical programme.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study Specialisation

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

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

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- give an account of and explain the purpose of evaluating health interventions and policies,
- describe the main methods for effect evaluation of health-related policy and health interventions,
- give an account of how one designs and carries out health economics evaluations.

Competence and skills

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- discuss health-related policy and health interventions from a health economics perspective, based on relevant and current evidence,
- identify strengths and weaknesses of different effect evaluation methods in specific public health contexts,
- identify strengths and weaknesses in existing economic evaluations in the field of public health.

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- reflect on ethical aspects and consequences of evaluations of health-related policy and health interventions.

Course content

The course constitutes an introduction to methods used to evaluate health promoting interventions, including both broad policies with relevance to public health and targeted health interventions. The course consists of two parts: health economic evaluations, and methods in quasi-experimental impact evaluations. Both parts support one another and are tied together during the course.

The part of the course concerned with health economic evaluations (cost-effectiveness) has a focus on prevention, interventions, and treatments to improve or protect the health of the individual or the population. The course will examine why economic evaluations are performed, how they are designed and carried out, and how the results are presented and interpreted. The course places special importance on the ability to assess existing economic evaluations in the current literature in terms of relevance and methodological rigour.

The other part of the course includes the four most common quasi-experimental methods for effect evaluation (i.e. regression, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, and difference-in-differences analysis). The methods are used to replicate the conditions in a randomised experiment. Advantages and drawbacks of each method are discussed, along with how one can assess the application of the method in current examples from the literature.

The course has an international perspective with respect to applications and analyses.

Course design

Throughout the course, three different types of working methods are applied. The first is lectures based on the reading list, with elements of active learning and readiness tests. The second is training sessions where the students are trained to solve specific assignments, generally with quantitative approaches. The third form is examination seminars. The student is to come well prepared to each timetabled component in order to be able to absorb active learning elements.

Compulsory components include active participation in training sessions and seminars with complementary written assignments for students who for various reasons do not complete the components. Active participation means active and relevant participation in discussions and problem-solving.

Assessment

The examination consists of an individual written examination, a written assignment, a course portfolio consisting of documentation of active participation in compulsory seminars and practice sessions and successfully passed multiple-choice readiness tests.

- Written examination: 4.5 credits, Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction
- Written assignment: 1.5 credits, Fail/Pass
- Course portfolio, 1,5 credits: Fail/Pass:
Active participation in seminars and training sessions, passed exercises and readiness test.

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

A course grade of Pass requires the student to have passed all assessed components.

A course grade of Pass with distinction requires the student to have achieved a grade of Pass with distinction on the individual written assignment and the grade of Pass on the written assignment and course portfolio.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent. Specific entry requirement: English B from Swedish upper secondary school or equivalent. At least 4.5 credits statistics/econometrics/biostatistics/epidemiology or an equivalent discipline.

Further information

Overlapping course:

MPHP34 Public Health: Cost efficiency and impact evaluation of health interventions, 7.5 credits