



School of Economics and Management

NEKG61, Economics: Health Economics, 7.5 credits

Nationalekonomi: Hälsoekonomi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by The Board of the Department of Economics on 2011-06-07 and was last revised on 2014-12-09. The revised syllabus applied from 2015-08-31, autumn semester 2015.

General Information

This is a single subject intermediate course in economics belonging to the 'Health and Labour Economics' specialisation. The course is also an optional sub-course within NEKG11 'Intermediate Economics'. The course is optional within a number of undergraduate programmes at Lund University.

Language of instruction: English

Teaching is in English. (In some semesters the course can be taught in Swedish, see the appropriate application catalogue.)

Main field of studies

Economics

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

1. Knowledge and understanding

The student shall acquire a good understanding of how economic theory and methodology can be used to analyse

- individual health-related behaviour and demand for health care,
- the characteristics of the health care market and the actors on this market (physicians, hospitals, patients etc),
- the characteristics of health insurance,
- different ways of organising and financing health care,

- the relevance of socio-economic and gender-related differences in health care consumption,
 - prioritisation in health care,
- and
- have a good understanding of methods of economic evaluation in health care.

2. Skills and abilities

Students shall be able to

- independently identify relevant health-economic problems, and to analyse them,
- analyse the effects of reforms in the health care sector,
- assess various sorts of economic evaluations in health care,
- explain and communicate the results of their analyses in a concise and precise manner, orally as well as in writing.

3. Applying knowledge and making judgements

Students shall develop their ability to conduct independent studies in health economics and to write papers and essays on health economic issues. The student shall also develop their skills in seeking and evaluating information.

Course content

Health economics comprises economic analyses of health and health care. The main aim of the course is to provide a good knowledge of how economic theory and methodology can help us understand the underlying conditions and characteristics of health care. We discuss the different areas of health economics, such as the demand for health, health care and health insurance, the providers in health care, the physician-patient relationship, the organisation and financing of health care, economic evaluation and equity issues. Illustrations are frequently taken from the problems and reforms in Swedish health care. Gender-related aspects are taken into consideration. The course includes guest lectures by health economists working outside academia. Economic evaluation is a particular focus in the course.

Course design

1. Teaching: Teaching consists mainly of lectures but they are supplemented by an obligatory seminar on evaluation methodology. In addition, there are usually a number of guest lectures.

Assessment

1. Examination: The examination consists of two parts. The main part is a written individual exam at the end of the course based on the textbook and a selection of articles. There will be further opportunities for examination close to this date. The second part consists of the student actively participating in the obligatory seminar and undertaking an obligatory home assignment. The grade is based on the sum of the

points from the two parts. Seminar participation must take place during the same term as the rest of the examination.

2. Limitations on the number of examination opportunities: –

The University views plagiarism very seriously, and will take disciplinary action against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and assessments. Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specified period.

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

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

1. Grading: The official grading scale is A, B, C, D, E and Fail.
2. Weighting grades from different parts of the course: –
3. Grading scales for different parts of the course: –

Entry requirements

At least 20 ECTS-credits from the introductory course in economics, of which at least 7.5 ECTS-credits in microeconomics are needed for admission till all intermediate courses in economics. The course "Econometrics" of 15 ECTS in statistics are recommended.

Further information

1. Transitional regulations: The course replaces NEK17 "Health Economics".
2. Limitations in the period of validity: –
3. Limitations: The course cannot be included in the same degree as the sub-course in health economics in NEKG11 "Economics: Level 2" or NEKK17 "Health Economics".
4. Similar courses: The course has the same content as the sub-course in health economics in NEKG11 "Economics:Level 2".
5. Limitations in renewed examination: –

Subcourses in NEKG61, Economics: Health Economics

Applies from H12

1101 Health Economics, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A