

VMFN45, Inequality in Health - Measurement and Causes, 7.5 credits

Ojämlighet i hälsa - orsaker och kvantifieringsmetoder, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Master's Programmes Board on 2022-12-06. The syllabus comes into effect 2022-12-13 and is valid from the autumn semester 2023.

General information

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

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

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

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

- explain how inequalities in health are related to socioeconomic status, poverty, economic development and income disparities,
- explain the most common empirical methods for quantifying inequalities in health,
- explain and compare methods for describing inequalities in health and methods for analysing the underlying reasons for inequality in health,
- account for and explain the implicit value judgements about equality in economic evaluations (cost-effectiveness analyses), and

- account for alternatives to (standard) economic evaluations which also consider equality.

Competence and skills

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

- evaluate the quality of academic quantitative research on inequality,
- actively contribute to policy discussions about inequality in health, its origin and how inequality can be addressed,
- identify strengths and weaknesses and assess the suitability of different quantitative methods for evaluating inequality in health, and
- apply methods for quantifying inequality.

Judgement and approach

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

- reflect on and provide arguments for their own positions in relation to the debate about health and inequality based on the different parts of the course,
- critically assess how public health policy influences inequalities in health, and
- assess and discuss why inequalities are worrying from an ethical and social perspective.

Course content

The course provides an introduction to the measurement and causes of health inequalities. The purpose of the course is to go beyond a purely descriptive analysis of inequalities in health and also aims to evaluate how public health interventions and policy can address inequalities. The course has a strong quantitative focus but also discusses ethical aspects around inequalities in health.

The course is divided into four modules:

1. Basic methods
2. Determinants of inequalities in health and differences in health
3. Income and income inequality and their impacts on health
4. Inequality and economic evaluations (cost-effectiveness analyses).

Course design

The course consists of several different types of types of teaching. These include lectures and exercises in which students are trained to solve specific assignments, normally with a quantitative focus.

Assessment

The examination is based on an individual written examination and a course portfolio consisting of written group assignments and participation in compulsory exercises.

Written examination: 4.5 credits

Course portfolio consisting of active participation in exercises and passed group assignments: 3 hp

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

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 grading scale for the written examination is: Pass with distinction, Pass and Fail.

The grading scale for the course portfolio is Pass or Fail.

For the grade Pass on the whole course, the student must obtain the grade of Pass on all examination elements.

To pass the course with distinction, the student must obtain the grade of Pass with distinction on the written examination and the grade of Pass on the 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.

Basic biostatistics 7.5 credits or the equivalent.