

VMFP16, A Multidisciplinary Course on Health in Alzheimer's Disease and Parkinson's Disease, 3 credits

Multidisciplinär kurs om hälsa vid Alzheimers och Parkinsons sjukdom, 3

högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Master's Programmes Board on 2025-05-20. The syllabus comes into effect 2025-05-20 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is a freestanding course and aimed at healthcare professionals throughout the entire care chain.

Language of instruction: English

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
Biomedical Laboratory Science	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Nursing	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Radiography	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
Biomedicine	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Audiology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Speech and Language Pathology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Physiotherapy	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The course aims to provide the participants with in-depth knowledge on the two most common neurodegenerative diseases: Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

Knowledge and understanding

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

- compare and contrast Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease in terms of common symptoms, consequences (for the "patient" and family members and from a societal perspective), neuropathological changes, diagnosis, and prognosis,
- explain, analyse and evaluate current theories of pathophysiological mechanisms in a way that is easily understood by different professions in a multidisciplinary team,
- describe commonly used evaluation methods (e.g. for diagnosis, prognosis and monitoring the course of the disease),
- explain and compare various treatment options (pharmacology, surgery and rehabilitation).

Competence and skills

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

- identify gaps in knowledge in at least one area (consequences of the diseases, diagnosis, prognosis, evaluation or treatment) and formulate questions to address them,
- critically assess and compare different diagnostic methods (clinical assessment, digital tools, brain imaging techniques and biomarkers) regarding their strengths and limitations,
- critically assess and compare the effects and evidence of different treatment options, including multidisciplinary team interventions.

Judgement and approach

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

- reflect on ethical considerations in research and clinical practice when the individual has cognitive and motor impairments, and when the person shows early signs of neurodegenerative disease that have not yet led to significant symptoms,
- identify the need to develop their own knowledge.

Course content

The course provides in-depth knowledge of Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, focusing on disease mechanisms, symptoms, consequences, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment.

Symptoms and consequences of the disease (e.g. disabilities, limitations in activity and participation and psychosocial consequences) are considered from multiple perspectives ("patient", family members and society).

Diagnostic and prognostic methods include clinical methods, digital testing, brain imaging and biomarkers. Evaluation methods that aim to identify problems (e.g. disabilities) and/or assess treatment effects are considered from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Treatment measures include pharmacological, surgical and non-pharmacological treatment (for example, rehabilitative measures such as exercise). We will also consider care and treatment; current evidence on the effects of a multidisciplinary team is also taken into account.

The course includes an in-depth assignment. This includes identifying gaps in knowledge in an area, formulating questions to address them and ethical considerations.

Course design

The course is offered at a rate of 25% of full-time study and is conducted remotely, without physical meetings. The course includes video lectures, digital seminars and group discussions distributed over the course period. The course starts with a couple of general and introductory lectures.

Student-active teaching methods include group discussions and seminars. Discussions take place in both large and small groups. Some seminars also include peer feedback. Digital discussion forums will be used to promote peer learning.

Assessment

The course is assessed through two components:

- Written test, 1.5 credits, Fail/Pass
- Specialisation assignment, 1.5 credits, Fail/Pass.
Includes the following components: written group assignment, oral presentation, discussion and peer review.

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

To be awarded the grade Pass for the course, the grade of Pass is required for all assessed components.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires a Bachelor's degree in one of the main areas of occupational therapy, audiology, biomedicine, physiotherapy, speech therapy, medicine, nursing, radiography or the equivalent, and English 6.