



Faculty of Medicine

MPHP52, Public Health: Qualitative Methods, 7.5 credits

Folkhälsovetenskap: Kvalitativa metoder, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Master's Programmes Board on 2026-03-10. The syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-10 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

Compulsory component of the Master's Programme in Public Health.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study Specialisation

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

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

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

- explain the epistemological foundations of qualitative methodology,
- describe the distinctive features of a qualitative research process,
- describe strategies for enhancing trustworthiness in a qualitative study.

Competence and skills

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

- develop a research protocol for a qualitative study based on the methodological literature,
- present a qualitative research protocol orally and in academic writing,
- justify the choice of qualitative methods based on the methodological literature,

- critically evaluate qualitative research literature using established criteria.

Judgement and approach

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

- reflect on ethical challenges in qualitative research and propose strategies to address them,
- discuss reflexivity in relation to qualitative studies.

Course content

The course covers the scientific foundations of qualitative methods and their application in public health science. Key themes include the structure of the research process, study design, data collection and analysis. The course addresses strategies for enhancing trustworthiness, reflexivity and ethical aspects in qualitative research. The content also includes a critical review of qualitative literature and a discussion of methodological choices in relation to research questions.

Course design

The course is based on a student-centred approach that emphasises active learning. Teaching takes place through interactive lectures, seminars, workshops and group exercises in which students work on the course's central themes. All seminars are compulsory, as they provide students with the opportunity to practise the skills required to achieve the course's learning outcomes. In the event of absence from compulsory components, the examiner may decide to set a supplementary assignment in connection with the course.

Assessment

The course is assessed through two assessed components:

- Individual written take-home assignment, 5 credits
Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction
Assesses the student's ability to plan a study that applies qualitative research methods in terms of study design, choice of methods and ethical considerations.
- Oral presentation, 2.5 credits
Fail/Pass
Assesses the student's presentation of their work and peer review of a student's work.

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

To achieve a grade of 'Pass with Distinction' (VG), students must obtain a VG grade for the individual written take-home assignment and pass the oral presentation.

To achieve a grade of 'Pass' (G) for the entire course, students must obtain a G grade in all assessed components.

Entry requirements

A Bachelor's degree comprising at least 180 credits, as well as English B.