

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Master thesis in public health sciences
Examensarbete i folkhälsovetenskap

**30.0 Higher Education
Credits**
30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	PH21A0
Valid from:	Spring 2023
Date of approval:	2019-08-27
Changed:	2022-10-25
Department	Department of Public Health Sciences
Main field:	Public Health
Specialisation:	A1F - Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

Determined by the Board of the Department of Public Health Sciences.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

A degree comprising at least 180 credits, including an independent thesis comprising at least 15 credits, as well as English proficiency equivalent to English 6. At least 45 credits, including 7.5 credits worth of methods, within "Master's programme in public health sciences: Societal and individual perspectives".

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
2101	Examination I: Proposal	7.5
2102	Examination II: Master thesis	22.5

Course content

The aim of the course is to independently carry out a degree project, during which the student applies the knowledge and skills acquired during previous courses in the programme. In the first part of the course, the student chooses a research question and identifies a data material, analytical method, and literature of relevance for the research question. This work is summarised in a proposal which is to be discussed at a seminar. In the second part of the course, the student extends the proposal into a master thesis, which includes formulation of the research problem, overview of relevant literature, acquisition and analysis of data, as well as interpretation and discussion of the results. The master theses are discussed at seminars.

Learning outcomes

In order to receive a passing grade on the course, students are expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

1. Independently identify and formulate a research question of relevance for Public Health Sciences.
2. Integrate scientific theories, perspectives, and empirical studies of relevance for the research question in a critical and systematic way.

Skills and abilities

3. Plan and with adequate methods conduct an empirical study within the specified time frames.
4. Account for and critically discuss their conclusions as well as the underlying knowledge and arguments.
5. Make adequate assessments that include a consideration of relevant scientific, societal, and ethical

aspects.

6. Show ability to write in accordance with scientific criteria, with a well-turned language and in a correct manner link together the research question, theory, analysis, discussion, and conclusions.

Judgement and approach

7. Defend, present, and critically evaluate a scientific study.

8. Reflect on the scientific process in relation to their own competence development in the field of Public Health Sciences.

Education

The teaching will be based on supervision, lectures, and group seminars. Both parts of the course end with an examination seminar during which the student's proposal and master thesis, respectively, is presented, evaluated, and discussed.

The course will be taught in English.

See the course description (Guidelines for the master thesis course) for more detailed information. The course description will be available at least one month before the course starts.

Forms of examination

a) Forms of examination

The course is examined in two parts.

Examination I. Proposal

Learning outcomes 1-7 are examined during the first part of the course, through the submission of an individually written proposal. Moreover, the student will defend their own proposal as well as evaluate another student's proposal at a seminar. Grading will be based on a two-grade scale (U=Fail, G=Pass).

Examination II. Master thesis

Learning outcomes 1-7 are examined through the submission of an individually written master thesis. Grading will be based on a goal-oriented scale of A to F.

Other grading components

Learning outcome 8 is examined through active participation in the master programme's seminar series. Grading will be based on a two-grade scale (U=Fail, G=Pass). Participation is mandatory. In case of absence or insufficient participation, the student will be given a compensatory assignment.

Language

The examination will be in English.

Certificate of special pedagogical support

For students who have a certificate from Stockholm University with a recommendation for special educational support, the examiner can decide to customize the teaching, give a customized test or let the student complete the test in an alternative way.

b) Course grade

The course grade will be given as follows:

A = Excellent
B = Very good
C = Good
D = Adequate
E = Sufficient

Fail grades

Fx = Inadequate
F = Wholly inadequate

c) Grading criteria

The grading criteria will be presented to the students in writing when the course begins.

d) Final grade

In order to receive a passing grade in the course, the student must receive passing grades for Examination I-II and the other grading components. The final grade is based on the grading of Examination II.

If there are special reasons, the examiner may, after consultation with the responsible teacher, grant the student exemption from the obligation to participate in certain mandatory teaching or completion of mandatory parts. The student can then be assigned a compensation assignment.

e) Examinations

For each time the course is taught, at least three examinations must normally be offered within one year. In a year when the course is not taught, at least one examination must be offered.

Students who receive a failing grade two consecutive times from the same examiner have the right to request a different examiner to grade the examination. This request should be made to the Director of Studies.

Students who receive an E or higher grade may not be re-examined for the purpose of improving the grade received.

f) Supplementary revisions

Supplementary revisions should be submitted within a week after the examiner has announced the need for revisions.

Examination I

Revision of a U grade is allowed, if the student is close to passing.

Examination II

It is possible to make a revision of an Fx grade to a passing grade, if the student is close to passing.

The passing grades A-E may be received for supplementary revisions that are related to formality errors or concern a specific part of the examination.

The passing grade E may be received for supplementary revisions that reflect problems related to the more basic understanding of the material presented in the course.

If the supplementary revision of the grade Fx does not meet the requirements for a passing grade, the grade F is received.

Other grading components

It is possible to complement the grade U to G for the examining seminar.

g) Supervision

The student is entitled to 40 hours of supervision, of which approximately one-third consists of meetings. The supervision may be given to each individual student or in groups. Typically, supervision is only offered in the academic year during which the student is registered on the course.

h) Areas of assessment

The grading of the submitted master thesis is based on demonstrated theoretical understanding and analysis, methodological competences and skills, scientific meticulousness and accuracy throughout the process, opposition, and defence. For a passing grade, all criteria must be assessed as acceptable despite deficits.

See the course description for more detailed information about the grading criteria.

i) Change of supervisor

Under certain circumstances, the student has the right to change supervisor. This request should be made to the Director of Studies. If the request is approved, the student is entitled to any remaining hours of supervision.

j) Late submission

Students who do not finish their master thesis during the specified time frame, may apply to the Director of Studies for an extended period of supervision.

Interim

Students may request an examination in accordance with this syllabus up to three semesters after the course has ceased or changed significantly.

Limitations

The content of this course overlaps with the courses "Master thesis in public health" (course code: PH4000) and "Master's thesis in public health" (course code: PH4100) to the extent of 30 credits and, therefore, cannot be part of a degree in which "Master thesis in public health" or "Master's thesis in public health" are also included.

Misc

Plagiarism, cheating, and self-plagiarism is prohibited in all parts of the course. Suspicion of such cases is reported to the Disciplinary Board at Stockholm University.

This course is given as part of Term 4 of the Master's programme in public health sciences: Societal and individual perspectives.

Required reading

The current course literature will be published on the department's website (www.su.se/coursecatalog/PH21A0), at least two months before the course begins.