



JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY
School of Health and Welfare

General syllabus for third-cycle programme in
Health and Care Sciences
within the Research School of Health and Welfare

Degree of Licentiate 120 credits

Degree of Doctor 240 credits

Established by: The Board of Education and Research Education (NUF) 12/12/2012

Revised: The Board of Education and Research Education (NUF) 23/02/2016

Degree regulations

The regulations of the Higher Education Act (1993:792) concerning the authorisation to issue certain degrees constitute the basis for third-cycle studies at Jönköping University. The requirements imposed on a doctoral degree are found in the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) Appendix 2 System of Qualifications. The specific goals and degree requirements laid down in the general syllabus for third-cycle studies in the subject also apply, as well as the local regulations for third-cycle programmes established by the Board of Education and Research Education (NUF) at Jönköping University.

Subject description

The field of **Health and Welfare** is multidimensional and focuses on health and welfare throughout the life cycle. Health and welfare concerns the individual, group and societal perspective. Within the field, individuals, groups, organisations, and systems are studied, as well as the interaction between them.

Research within Health and Welfare includes different paradigms and works with both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The generated knowledge shall maintain high academic quality and contribute to the current state of knowledge. The knowledge aims to contribute to the improvement of medical and social care, increased health and welfare, and sustainable development. An interdisciplinary approach enables synergistic effects in research work and results, and thus broadens the understanding of the research area in question.

The subject of **Health and Care Sciences** is interdisciplinary and relates to the academic study of health and care throughout the life cycle, which can be described and problematised from an individual, group or societal perspective. The subject involves the study of how people's experiences and their own resources can best be utilised to promote, maintain or regain physical, mental and social health, as well as the ability to manage changes in health status. The influence of environmental factors is also studied, e.g., social networks, work/leisure, and healthcare as an organisation and system, as well as the various effects of measures on health and daily functionality.

Programme description

Third-cycle studies in Health and Care Sciences within the Research School of Health and Welfare at Jönköping University seek to develop theoretical and methodological knowledge along with the capacity for independent and critical research within the field. The thesis shall be an independent academic project, which produces new knowledge within the field. The programme shall have an international element and develop the doctoral student's ability to exchange information at a scholarly level.

The main responsibility for the third-cycle programme in Health and Care Sciences within the Research School of Health and Welfare falls to the School of Health and Welfare. The programme is conducted in cooperation with all departments at the School of Health and Welfare, other schools at Jönköping University and partner university colleges. Instruction is mainly provided in Swedish through courses, supervision and seminars, but also in English when this is required for the participation of international doctoral students.

Degree of Licentiate

Goals

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding within Health and Care Sciences, including current specialist knowledge within a defined area of the subject, and advanced knowledge of scientific methodology in general and the methods of the specific research field in particular

Skills and abilities

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively, and, with scientific accuracy, identify and formulate research problems, to plan and, using adequate methods, carry out a limited research project and other advanced assignments within given timeframes and thereby contribute to the development of knowledge, and to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability to, in both national and international contexts, and orally and in writing, present and discuss their own research in dialogue with the academic community and society in general
- demonstrate the skills required to independently participate in research and development work and to work independently in other advanced contexts

Evaluation ability and approach

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make ethical research assessments in their own research
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge

Degree of Doctor

Goals

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and a systematic understanding of Health and Care Sciences, as well as in-depth and current specialist knowledge within a defined area
- demonstrate familiarity with academic methodology in general and the methods within Health and Care Sciences in particular

Skills and abilities

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the capacity for scientific analysis and synthesis and the ability to independently and critically examine and assess new and complex research problems, hypotheses, phenomena and situations
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively, and with academic accuracy, identify and formulate research problems, to plan and, using adequate methods carry out research and other advanced assignments within given timeframes and to review and evaluate this workthrough producing a thesis, demonstrate their ability to significantly contribute to the development of knowledge through their own research
- demonstrate the ability to, in both national and international contexts, and orally and in writing, present and discuss with authority their own and others' research in dialogue with the academic community and society in general
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need for further knowledge
- demonstrate the ability to, both within research and education, and in other professional contexts, contribute to societal development and support the learning of others

Evaluation ability and approach

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly integrity as well as the ability to make ethical research assessments
- demonstrate in-depth insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used

Programme structure and content

The programme for a Degree of Doctor normally requires four years of full-time studies and includes 240 credits broken down into one course element comprising 60 credits and one thesis element comprising 180 credits. A Degree of Licentiate can constitute an intermediate goal or conclusion of third-cycle studies.

The programme for a Degree of Licentiate requires the equivalent of two years of full-time studies and includes 120 credits broken down into one course element comprising 30 credits and one thesis element comprising 90 credits. The emphasis in the education is on the thesis project. Each doctoral student is appointed a principal supervisor and as many assistant supervisors as are required for the thesis work. The principal supervisor shall be a docent/professor at the School of Health and Welfare, or at another higher education institution pursuant to special agreement.

Courses

Coursework and thesis work should be conducted in parallel. The course element for a Degree of Doctor comprises 45 credits from mandatory courses and other points from courses relevant to the field of Health and Care Sciences.

Mandatory courses for a Degree of Doctor

- a course on multidisciplinary and an interdisciplinary approach (7.5 credits)
- a course on philosophy of science and theory of science (7.5 credits)
- a course on the design of scientific studies (7.5 credits)
- a course on research ethics (7.5 credits)
- a course on quantitative research methodology (7.5 credits)
- a course on qualitative research methodology (7.5 credits)

The course element for a Degree of Licentiate comprises 22.5 credits from mandatory courses.

Mandatory courses for a Degree of Licentiate

- a course on multidisciplinary and an interdisciplinary approach (7.5 credits)

and two of the following courses:

- a course on philosophy of science and theory of science (7.5 credits)
- a course on the design of scientific studies (7.5 credits)
- a course on research ethics (7.5 credits)
- a course on quantitative research methodology (7.5 credits)
- a course on qualitative research methodology (7.5 credits)

Courses/specific literatures within the subject and/or of significance to the research area, including participation in seminars and academic conferences, for a total of 15 credits for a Degree of Doctor and a total of 7.5 credits for a Degree of Licentiate are selected by the doctoral student together with their supervisor.

Course syllabi for the third-cycle programme in Health and Care Sciences within the Research School of Health and Welfare are prepared by the programme committee and established by the Programme Council at the School

of Health and Welfare. Doctoral students are also encouraged to take courses at other international and/or national higher education institutions.

Academic seminars

Within the framework of the third-cycle programme, a credit-based seminar series is organised. The purpose of these seminars is to give doctoral students the opportunity to practice their critical and creative thinking and to participate in an academic debate regarding their own and others' work. Doctoral students who participate in research seminars arranged by the Research School of Health and Welfare, a research environment/programme or partner university/partner college, once a month, i.e., 10 times per academic year during their third-cycle studies, can be accredited with 7.5 credits for a Degree of Doctor or 4 credits for a Degree of Licentiate.

A doctoral student shall also, within the framework of third-cycle studies, act as an opponent/discussant at six research seminars arranged by the Research School of Health and Welfare.

Academic thesis (Degree of Doctor)

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall have received a passing grade on an academic thesis (doctoral thesis) of 180 credits.

Academic paper (Degree of Licentiate)

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall have received a passing grade on an academic paper of 90 credits.

Quality assurance

Quality control is achieved through examining the doctoral student's research plan (RSP) and two mandatory review seminars (mid-way and final review), continuously through following up the ISP (Individual Study Plan), and through doctoral students presenting their work at national and international conferences.

Theses within the third-cycle programme are normally compilation theses which usually consist of 2 and 4 articles for a licentiate and doctoral thesis, respectively, at least half of which should be accepted for publication in peer-reviewed international journals or equivalent at the time of seminar/defence. It is the express goal of the third-cycle programme that all articles in the theses are published in reputable journals or equivalent.

Eligibility criteria and entry requirements

General entry requirements

To be admitted to a programme at the third-cycle level in the subject of Health and Care Sciences in the Research School of Health and Welfare, the applicant must meet the general entry requirements for third-cycle studies according to the Regulations and guidelines for education at Jönköping University. An applicant has satisfied the general entry requirements for third-cycle studies if they have

- a second-cycle qualification
- completed course requirements of at least 240 credits, of which 60 credits are at the second-cycle level, or
- in some other way, within or outside the country, essentially acquired the equivalent knowledge.

The specific entry requirements set in the general syllabus will be necessary for doctoral students to successfully benefit from the programme.

Specific entry requirements

An applicant has satisfied the specific entry requirements for admission to third-cycle studies in the subject of Health and Care Sciences within the Research School of Health and Welfare if they have obtained at least 90 credits in a subject relevant to Health and Care Sciences and have conducted an independent project of at least 15 credits within the subject. The specific entry requirements are also met if the applicant has in some other way,

within or outside the country, essentially acquired the equivalent knowledge.

Selection and admission

Admission is pursuant to guidelines established by the Dean of the School of Health and Welfare. Applicants are evaluated based on past academic qualifications, research focus and suitability for third-cycle studies, as well as their ability to successfully complete the programme within the set study period. Decisions regarding admission are made by the Dean in consultation with subject representatives and the research school's director, and are communicated to the Steering Group for the Research School of Health and Welfare.

Credit transfer

Doctoral students who, at another higher education institution, have passed exams at a third-cycle level in a field relevant to the subject, are entitled to transfer these credits following approval by the principal supervisor and the subject representative.

The transfer of credits from third-cycle courses shall always be based on an individual examination of the course's content, scope, level of literature and forms of examination, as well as the competence of the examiner. The examination shall be approved by the principal supervisor in consultation with the subject representative and be documented on a special form which is available on the website of the Research School of Health and Welfare.

Second-cycle courses that are at a higher level than the eligibility for third-cycle studies (i.e. equivalent to year two in a Master's (120 credits) programme) can be credited if the courses are relevant to the third-cycle programme's theoretical orientation and/or are closely associated with the thesis work. The examination shall be conducted with great care and cover the same aspects as mentioned above.

Grades and examinations

Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Health and Care Sciences and Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Health and Care Sciences are the degree titles of the programmes covered in this syllabus. An approved Degree of Doctor or Licentiate requires a passing grade on all exams included in the programme as well as on the thesis and its defence.