



SYLLABUS Dnr M 2011/2000

Approved by the Committee for
Biomedical, Medical and Public Health
education (NBMFU), 2011-12-07
Valid for spring 2012

LUND UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Medicine

Master's Programme in Public Health

MPHN06 Health Economics and Health Systems

15 credits (hp)

Level A1N

General information

Main field of study

Public Health

Subject

Health Economics

Type of course and its place in the education system

Obligatory course within the Master's Programme in Public Health

Language of instruction

English

Goals

Knowledge and understanding

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

- account for basic theories of economics that are relevant for health economics
- explain basic health economic theories
- account for and explain analyses and applications of health economics on a second-cycle level

Skills and abilities

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

- analyse and critically examine economic evaluations on a first-cycle level with relevance to the field of public health
- analyse and critically examine regulations and incentive structures within the health market, both nationally and internationally, on a first-cycle level with relevance to the field of public health

- classify and compare different systems for health systems and financing on a first-cycle level with relevance to the field of public health
- initiate, execute and report a basic health economic analysis within the field of public health
- present and analyse methods and results of health economic studies with relevance to the field of public health
- judge and critically examine health economic analyses with relevance to the field of public health, as well as identify strengths and weaknesses of his/her own in the respect of health economic analyses
- judge and criticise a public health oriented policy discussion from a health economic perspective based on relevant and current literature
- contribute to the execution of basic health economic analyses with relevance to the field of public health in a multidisciplinary and international environment

Judgement and approach

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

- critically judge ethical aspects and consequences of health economic analyses with relevance to the field of public health, focussing particularly on weak groups and stigmatisation

Course Content

The course provides an overview of theories and applications of health economics with relevance to the field of public health. The course is divided into four parts, each of which deals with a specific area within economics and health economics: (1) Microeconomic theory, (2) Health economic evaluation, (3) Market analysis, regulation and intervention, (4) Health service systems. The course has an international perspective, particularly as regards applications and analyses.

Part 1 aims to give a fundamental understanding of the economic principles and theories (microeconomics) on which the rest of the course content is based. Part 2 discusses health economic evaluations (cost-revenue analysis), focussing on prevention and efforts to improve or protect public health in a population. Part 3 looks at different markets for health services and the circumstances under which these can be expected to function optimally. An important element of this part of the course is the study of market failures and the measures that may be taken by state and market representatives to regulate these markets. Part 4 studies health service systems from a macro perspective. Special attention is given to the objectives and roles of the systems and how their quality can be measured.

The teaching is comprised of three main elements. The first one consists of lectures based on the main textbook as well as supplementary material. The second consists of seminars that deal with particularly important aspects of public health from the perspective of economics. Finally, the course also contains a number of training sessions, where the students practise solving specific, usually quantitative, problems.

Teaching and Examination

The course includes classroom- and internetbased lectures and seminars. The students will be given three assignments for submission (corresponding to parts 2-4 above), which are to be completed in small groups, as well as one longer, individually written essay on a subject with relevance to the field

of public health of the student's own choice. Feedback on the assignments and essay will be given by the teachers.

The examination consists of the three written group assignments, the written individual essay, active participation in seminars as well as a written individual exam.

Examination credits:

Written individual exam 7.5 credits

Written group assignments 3 credits

Written individual essay 3 credits

Seminar participation 1.5 credits

Marks

1. Pass and Fail are the marks used.
2. In order to achieve a passing grade for the entire course, the student must pass the individual written exam, the three written group assignment, the individual essay as well as actively participate in seminars.

Access Requirements

A Bachelor's degree (180 credits) or equivalent and proficiency in English equivalent to English B.

Literature List

Available as a separate appendix.