MEVN14 Medical Science: Pain

7.5 credits Second cycle A1N

General information

Main field
Occupational therapy, nursing and physiotherapy

Type of course
The course is a second cycle course in the field of Medical Science. It is an optional course that can be included in degrees in occupational therapy, physiotherapy and nursing. The course complies with the regulations of the Higher Education Ordinance (Swedish Code of Statutes 1993:100 with later amendments). It can also be studied as a free-standing course.

Language of instruction
Swedish, but some of the tuition may be in English.

Learning outcomes

The course aims to provide students with specialised knowledge in the assessment, treatment, rehabilitation and evaluation of individuals with non-malignant pain from a multi-professional perspective.

Knowledge and understanding
On completion of the course, students shall be able to
- account for the demography of chronic pain
- explain the physiology of acute and chronic pain and mechanisms of pain relief
- describe common medical treatments of pain
- account for sociocultural and psychological aspects of chronic pain
- describe assessment and evaluation methods of relevance for each discipline
- explain the significance of inter-professional teamwork for individuals with chronic pain

Competence and skills
On completion of the course, students shall demonstrate the ability in their own discipline to
- apply an evidence-based approach to the review of information sources on the assessment, treatment, rehabilitation and evaluation of individuals with chronic pain
- applying a scientific approach, describe, discuss and judge the role of their own profession in assessment, treatment, rehabilitation and evaluation
- apply knowledge of pain physiology, medical treatment, sociocultural and psychological aspects to patient cases and clinical practice
Judgement and approach
On completion of the course, students shall demonstrate the ability to
- reflect on and discuss attitudes when approaching individuals with acute and chronic pain

Course content
Demography and epidemiology.
Pain physiology, pain relief mechanisms.
Sociocultural and psychological aspects of chronic pain.
Assessment, treatment, rehabilitation and evaluation of individuals with chronic pain in medicine, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and nursing.

Subjects examined
Passed assignments, 7.5 credits

Instruction and assessment

Instruction
The course includes lectures, seminars and online assignments.

Assessment
For a grade of Pass students must:
- participate actively in online discussions and presentations and pass written assignments and group reports at seminars.

Grades
Grades are set for a completed course. One of the grades Pass or Fail is awarded.
A student who has passed a course will be given a certificate to that effect by the higher education institution, on request.

Admission requirements
To be admitted to the course, students must have a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing, Occupational Therapy or Physiotherapy (180 credits including a degree project worth 15 credits) or an equivalent qualification in medical science.

Further information
Examination opportunities, new examiner etc.

Theoretical courses
One ordinary examination and one opportunity for re-examination are offered in conjunction with the course. A student who has failed to achieve a pass on either of these occasions will be offered a further opportunity for re-examination at a later date. A student is entitled to four opportunities for re-examination in a theoretical course.
New examiner
A student who has taken two examinations in a course or a part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to have another examiner appointed, unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Swedish Code of Statutes 2006:1053). The request is to be submitted to the programme director.

Literature
See appendix
Appendix: Literature

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Norrbrink C & Lundeberg T, eds. Om Smärta - ett fysiologiskt perspektiv. Lund: Studentlitteratur, 2010
SBU report “Methods of Treating Chronic Pain” (no 177 1+2): 2006

Research articles