



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology
Common

Syllabus

Systematic Reviews in Health Sciences

Course Code: 7OMV001
Course Title: Systematic Reviews in Health Sciences
Systematiska översikter inom hälsovetenskaper
Credits: 7.5 ECTS
Degree Level: Doctoral

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology, 03 May 2017 and is valid from the autumn semester 2017.

Language of instruction

Teaching is in English and Swedish. English will be used as the course language if there are international students.

Prerequisites

Qualification requirements are admission to a doctoral programme in Health Sciences or at a minimum a Masters Degree in Health Sciences, or equivalent. The course is primarily for PhD students at Karlstad University, secondly for PhD students admitted to other universities, and thirdly for students with a Master Degree.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to

- differentiate and compare different types of systematic reviews
- demonstrate the ability to develop a protocol for a Systematic or integrative Review
- apply a systematic literature search
- identify and evaluate the criteria and steps required in different types of Systematic Reviews
- apply and evaluate critical appraisal/quality appraisal and data extraction methods to the Systematic Review process
- select appropriate methods for data synthesis and meta-analysis
- report and disseminate findings of Systematic Reviews in a relevant format

Course Content

The aim of this course is to provide an introduction to systematic review methodology and critical appraisal skills. The focus will be on health sciences research. This course will start with an intensive week of study on campus using a combination of lectures, workshops and seminars. Thereafter the students work on their examination paper, consisting of a protocol for a planned systematic review. The course concludes with an opponent and respondent seminar where the doctoral students discuss their individual examination tasks.

- Formulating a systematic/integrative review question
- Different types of Systematic Reviews e.g. Meta-Analysis, Meta-synthesis, and Mixed Studies Reviews/Integrative Reviews.
- Systematic Review Protocols
- Criteria and steps in different types of systematic/integrative reviews
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria for included studies
- Search strategies and literature searching
- Critical Appraisal/Quality Appraisal
- Data extraction
- Methods for data analysis and synthesis
- Reporting and disseminating systematic/integrative reviews

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

The course will be examined by an individual written paper, which will be critically reviewed at an opponent and respondent seminar.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U) or Pass (G) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

The course convenor has a duty to encourage a continuous dialogue on learning processes and goal fulfilment. A written evaluation is carried out at the conclusion of the course combined with a joint student-teacher discussion of all aspects commented on. The result of the evaluation is collated and made available in accordance with *The Higher Education Ordinance*, Chapter 1, § 14.

Course Certificate

Course certificate is issued on request.