



**Karolinska  
Institutet**

Course syllabus for

# **Sustainable Development in Healthcare, 7.5 credits**

Hållbar utveckling inom hälso- och sjukvård, 7.5 hp

This course syllabus is valid from spring 2020.

Please note that the course syllabus is available in the following versions:

[Autumn2012](#) , [Spring2014](#) , [Spring2015](#) , [Spring2017](#) , [Spring2019](#) , [Spring2020](#) , [Spring2023](#)

Course code	2XX028
Course name	Sustainable Development in Healthcare
Credits	7.5 credits
Form of Education	Higher Education, study regulation 2007
Main field of study	Public Health Sciences
Level	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Grading scale	Fail (U), pass (G) or pass with distinction (VG)
Department	Department of Global Public Health
Participating institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society</li><li>• Department of Laboratory Medicine</li></ul>
Decided by	Styrelsen för utbildning
Decision date	2012-04-13
Revised by	Education Committee GPH
Last revision	2020-10-05
Course syllabus valid from	Spring 2020

## **Specific entry requirements**

At least 120 credits within health care or medicine. Language skills equivalent to Swedish B and English A at Swedish upper secondary school are also required.

## **Objectives**

After the course, the student should be able to:

- Describe the concept of sustainable development and the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Agenda 2030
- Account for expected effects, on for example health of the main sustainability challenges and discuss how these can be prevented and met.

- Analyse and reflect on how collaboration between different professional groups and the health care organisation can promote increased security and improved health from the perspective of sustainable development
- Explain the relationship between health psychological aspects, and different aspects of sustainable development and discuss how collaboration and trust between people and various professions can be promoted

## Content

The course is based on the concept of sustainable development and its three aspects: the economical, the social and the ecological. Ecosystems and "planetary boundaries", economical growth and development theories such as social aspects (e.g. human rights, local adaptations, psychological aspects) will be discussed with regards to how they interact. The framework for the course discussions is systems theory: The global sustainability challenges are characterized by complex ecological, economic and social systems. To meet these global challenges we need to develop sustainable leadership, for example within health care, which takes account of the planet's society's organisations' others' and their own needs.

The other part of the course deals with the significance of sustainable development for the organisation of health care, such as how the work for sustainable health care systems can be organised and formulated from an interprofessional perspective. Working with these questions entails an exploration, critical examination and discussion also at the individual level - a processing of our values, norms, as well as cognitive, emotional and behavioural habits. In the final part, the concept is made concrete through discussions in a number of case studies, which demonstrate how work for sustainable development can be operationalised within Swedish and international health care, from an interprofessional perspective. Examples of such case studies can be "*Health effects of climate changes - risks and measures*", "*The importance of trust for sustainable societies - how do we enable trust at an individual and organizational level?*", "*Health equity*", , "*Prerequisites for an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable workplace*". The case studies can vary depending on the lecturers and aim to illustrate, how the promotion of sustainable development can be concretised within the scope of different health care professions.

## Teaching methods

The teaching consists of interactive lectures, workshops, case studies, seminars where the students work together in interprofessional groups, and independent project work, which incorporates an interprofessional perspective.

## Examination

The course is examined through participation in discussions at seminars and through an individual written assignment, which incorporates an interprofessional perspective of sustainable development.

### *Compulsory participation*

Seminars are compulsory. Absence from compulsory seminars is compensated by a written assignment, the form of which is specified by the course director at the beginning of the course. The examiner assesses if, and in that case how, absence from compulsory parts can be compensated. Before the student has participated in all compulsory parts or compensated absence in accordance with the examiner's instructions, the student's results for respective part will not be registered. Absence from a compulsory activity may result in that the student cannot compensate the absence until the next time the course is given.

Students who have not passed the regular examination are entitled to participate in five more examinations. If the student has not passed the exam after four participations, he/she is encouraged to visit the study advisor. If the student has failed six examinations/tests, no additional examination or new admission is provided.

The number of times that the student has participated in one and the same examination is regarded as an examination session.

Submission of blank exam is regarded as an examination session. An examination for which the student registered but not participated in, will not be counted as an examination.

If there are special grounds, or a need for adaptation for a student with a disability, the examiner may decide to deviate from the syllabus's regulations on the examination form, the number of examination opportunities, the possibility of supplementation or exemptions from the compulsory section/s of the course etc. Content and learning outcomes as well as the level of expected skills, knowledge and abilities may not be changed, removed or reduced.

## **Transitional provisions**

Examination will be provided during a time of two years after a possible cancellation of the course. Examination can take place according to an earlier literature list during a time of one year after the date when a major renewal of the literature list has been made.

## **Other directives**

Course evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines established by the the Committee for Higher Education.

## **Literature and other teaching aids**

*Hedenus, Fredrik; Persson, U. Martin; Sprei, Frances*

**Hållbar utveckling : nyanser och tolkningar**

Upplaga 1 : Lund : Studentlitteratur, [2018] - 135 sidor

ISBN:9789144121871 LIBRIS-ID:22451040

[Library search](#)

Additional articles and reports will be dealt out during the course.