



GENERAL SYLLABUS FOR EDUCATION AT THIRD-CYCLE LEVEL IN HEALTH SCIENCES

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1 Subject Area

Health Sciences is an interdisciplinary field focusing on humans in healthy states, when ill and when having special needs, as well as health and well-being. Health sciences includes the study of processes, methods, diagnoses and treatments that relieve symptoms, provide support and improve, or are otherwise designed to influence people as individuals in cooperation with others and in relation to their surroundings and society.

2 Programme curriculum

Education at third-cycle level in Health Sciences that concludes with a Degree of Licentiate comprises a total of two years' full time study (120 credits) and consists of a study programme that gives 30-60 credits and a licentiate thesis of 60-90 credits.

Education at third-cycle level in Health Sciences that concludes with a Degree of Doctor comprises a total of four years' full time study (240 credits) and consists of a study programme that gives 60-120 credits and a doctoral thesis of 120-180 credits.

An individual study plan is drawn up for every individual third-cycle student (according to a fixed model) where the study programme is specified in detail. The individual study plan shall be followed up at least once a year by the third-cycle student and his/her supervisor and is then approved by the Head of Department, as delegated by the Board of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The research and the results obtained are presented and discussed at both internal seminars open to the institution's staff and national and international conferences through academic and popular science publications, as well as to the surrounding community.

Approximately half way through the study period, the third-cycle students admitted to third-cycle education for a Degree of Doctor shall conduct a mid-way review in the form of a seminar with an external reviewer. The objective of the mid-way review is for the supervisor and third-cycle student to receive support in being able to determine whether the education is progressing according to the individual study plan. The mid-way review can be replaced by the Degree of Licentiate.

Prior to the degree being awarded, a seminar is conducted where the comprehensive summaries of the doctoral and licentiate theses are presented and provides the opportunity to submit questions and discuss. An additional seminar takes place in the form of a rehearsal prior to the disputation and licentiate seminar.

3 Eligibility and selection

3.1 General eligibility requirements



An individual fulfils the general eligibility requirements for the third-cycle educational programme when he or she 1) has completed a second-cycle degree, 2) has completed higher education courses worth at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 are for second-cycle courses, or 3) in some other manner, in this country or abroad, has acquired the equivalent qualifications. The faculty board may permit an exemption from the requirement of basic eligibility in the case of an individual applicant, if there are special grounds Chapter 7, Section 39 of the Higher Education Ordinance (2010:1064). Also refer to the local guidelines laid down in the Admission Rules for Third-cycle Education at Luleå University of Technology.

3.2 Specific eligibility requirements

Master of Arts with main field/main subject occupational therapy, health sciences, medical science, nursing, physiotherapy, or other related fields at second-cycle level/ professional qualification within healthcare 120 credits/180 HE credits and at least 80 credits/120 HE credits in the main field/main subject according to the above.

Good command of oral and written communication in Swedish and/or English.

3.3 Selection

Selection from among applicants meeting the requirements shall be made with reference to their ability to benefit from the education. The mere fact that an applicant is deemed able to receive credit towards the education for previous education or working activities may not alone give the applicant precedence over other applicants in the selection process, Chapter 7, Section 41 of the Higher Education Ordinance (2010:1064). Also refer to local guidelines laid down in the Admission Rules for Third-cycle Education at Luleå University of Technology.

In the selection of third-cycle education in Health Sciences, the following applies to the selection criteria:

- Knowledge relevant for this project.
- Personal qualities relevant for third-cycle education.

4 Examinations included in the education

The education consists of courses and an academic thesis. Normally, third-cycle courses are interspersed with academic work. Examinations included in third-cycle programmes are graded Pass or Fail. Course and licentiate thesis grades are decided by specially appointed teachers (examiners). Doctoral thesis grades are decided by a specially appointed grading committee.

4.1 Courses

During third-cycle education, the third-cycle student undertakes third-cycle courses with general specialisation and with specialisation in the specific research work. Goal attainment is tested by means of the form of examination specified in the syllabus. Compulsory courses at third-cycle level in Health Sciences are research ethics, theory of knowledge as well as a course(s) with specialisation in quantitative and/or qualitative methods. These courses should be completed for the Degree of Licentiate or in connection to the mid-term review.

4.1.1 Recognition of prior studies

As specified in the local guidelines laid down in the Admission Rules for Third-cycle Education at Luleå University of Technology.

4.2 Academic thesis



An academic project in the form of a licentiate thesis or doctoral thesis in Health Sciences shall normally be presented as a brief summary – comprehensive summary – of academic essays (compilation thesis), that the third-cycle student has written alone or together with another person or persons. Under certain conditions, a licentiate thesis or doctoral thesis in Health Sciences can be presented as a homogenous, cohesive academic work (monograph).

The licentiate thesis consists normally of 2 separate works, of which at least 1 is to have been published or accepted for publication in an international (*peer-reviewed*) academic journal. The doctoral thesis normally consists of 4 separate works, of which at least 2 are to have been published or accepted for publication in an international (*peer-reviewed*) academic journal.

The licentiate thesis is defended orally at a public licentiate seminar and is graded Pass or Fail. When the thesis is graded both the content of the thesis and the defence of the thesis are taken into consideration. The grade of a licentiate thesis is decided by an examiner appointed by the Head of Department.

The doctoral thesis is defended orally at a public disputation and is graded Pass or Fail. When the thesis is graded, both the content of the thesis and the defence of the thesis are taken into consideration. Grades for a doctoral thesis should be decided by a grading committee that is appointed for each thesis.

Prior to the disputation, those documents or monograph that make up the doctoral thesis will be pre-reviewed by the grading committee, who evaluate whether the material in the thesis is of sufficient scope and quality for it to be approved for disputation.

5 Degree

In Health Sciences, a third-cycle student who has been admitted to a Degree of Doctor has the possibility to take a Degree of Licentiate after completing one part of the education, giving at least 120 credits, which will be concluded with a Degree of Doctor.

5.1 Degree objectives

As specified in the Qualifications Ordinance (Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2 – Degree Ordinance). See also the Annex below.

5.2 Degree title

A third-cycle student who takes a Degree of Licentiate in Health Sciences receives the degree title of Licentiate of Philosophy.

A third-cycle student who takes a Degree of Doctor in Health Sciences normally receives the degree title of Doctor of Philosophy.

Requests for another degree title are made according to established guidelines.

6 Entry into effect and interim regulations

The previous general syllabus will cease to apply for third-cycle students who are admitted to education at third-cycle level after 1 July 2007. Third-cycle students admitted before this date may choose either to follow the previous curriculum or transfer to the present curriculum.



ANNEX

Goal for education at third-cycle level (Qualifications Ordinance, Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2):

1 Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate 120 credits (higher education credits), the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research including current specialist knowledge in a limited area of this field as well as specialised knowledge of research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

For a Degree of Doctor 240 credits (higher education credits), the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate broad knowledge and a systematic understanding of the research domain, together with deep and current specialist knowledge within a limited area of this research domain and
- demonstrate familiarity with academic methodology in general and with the specific research domain's methods in particular.

2 Competence and skills

For a Degree of Licentiate 120 credits, the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate the skills to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake a limited piece of research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames in order to contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the skills in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity.

For a Degree of Doctor 240 credits, the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work,
- demonstrate through a dissertation the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research,
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and
- demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity.



3 Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Licentiate 120 credits, the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate skills to conduct ethical research assessment in their own research,
- demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate skills to identify the need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for one's knowledge development.

For a Degree of Doctor 240 credits, the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and
- demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

4 Academic thesis

For a Degree of Licentiate 120 credits, the third-cycle student shall:

- have completed an academic thesis of at least 60 higher education credits.

For a Degree of Doctor 240 credits, the third-cycle student shall:

- have completed an academic thesis (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 higher education credits.