
GENERAL SYLLABUS FOR EDUCATION AT THIRD-CYCLE LEVEL IN IN PHYSIOTHERAPY

FFN chair 2018-12-20

1 Subject Area

Physiotherapy is characterized by its view on humans as physical, psychological, social and existential wholes from a health perspective. Central concepts are the human body, movement, function and interaction as related to health from a biopsychosocial perspective. Central aspects of this knowledge are the understanding that there are healing mechanisms and resources for change within human beings and that they can affect their health through awareness of their bodies and adequate movement. Movement is also seen as a foundation for all human functions and as a means for humans to achieve goals in relation to their surroundings.

2 Programme curriculum

Education at third-cycle level in Physiotherapy 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 results in 30-60 credits and a licentiate thesis that results in 60-90 credits.

Education at third-cycle level in Physiotherapy that concludes with a Degree of Doctor is comprised of a total of four years' full time study (240 credits) and consists of a study programme that gives 60-80 credits and a doctoral thesis that results in 160-180 credits.

An individual study plan is drawn up for every third-cycle student (according to a fixed model) where the study programme is specified in detail. A follow-up of the plan is held at least once a year by the third-cycle student and his/her supervisor and is approved by the Head of Department at least once a year, as delegated by the Vice-Chancellor.

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

Approximately half way through the study period, the third-cycle students admitted to thirdcycle education for a Degree of Doctor shall conduct a mid-way review in the form of a seminar with external review. 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 exam, a seminar is conducted where the doctoral thesis's and licentiate thesis' comprehensive summary 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

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/Degree of Master with the main subject/main field Physiotherapy 80 credits/120 HE credits, second-cycle. Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy and completion of course requirements of at least 160 credits/240 HE credits, with at least 80 credits/120 HE credits in Physiotherapy. Degrees in other equivalent subject/areas can be examined as specific eligibility requirements upon admission to third-cycle studies in Physiotherapy.

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 Physiotherapy, 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 Physiotherapy are Research Ethics, Theory of knowledge as well as a course/courses 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 Physiotherapy shall normally be presented as a brief summary – comprehensive summary – of academic essays (composite 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 Physiotherapy can be presented as a homogenous, cohesive academic work (monograph).

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

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, the doctoral thesis will be externally pre-reviewed to establish whether the thesis is of sufficient scope and quality for it to be approved for disputation.

5 Degree

In Physiotherapy, 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 giving at least 120 credits of the education that 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 Physiotherapy receives the degree title of Licentiate of Philosophy.

A third-cycle student who takes a Degree of Doctor in Physiotherapy 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

General syllabus for Physiotherapy applies for admission of third-cycle students admitted 2019-01-01 and later.

Qualifications ordinance (Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2)

Contents

the qualifications that may be awarded in the third cycles, and
the requirements to be fulfilled for the award of each qualification (qualification descriptors).

THIRD-CYCLE QUALIFICATIONS

General qualifications

Degree of Licentiate [Licentiatexamen]

Scope

A Degree of Licentiate is awarded

either after a third-cycle student has completed a study programme of at least 120 credits in a subject in which third-cycle teaching is offered,

or after a third-cycle student has completed one part comprising at least 120 credits of a study programme intended to conclude with the award of a Degree of Doctor, if a higher education institution decides that a licentiate of this kind may be awarded at the institution.

Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate 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.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Licentiate 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.

Judgement and approach

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

- demonstrate the skills to make assessments of ethical aspects of his or her own research
- demonstrate 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 the skills to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Thesis

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a Pass grade for a research thesis of at least 60 credits.

Miscellaneous

Specific requirements determined by each higher education institution itself within the parameters of the requirements laid down in this qualification descriptor shall also apply for a Degree of Licentiate with a defined specialisation.

Degree of doctor**Scope**

A Degree of Doctor is awarded after the third-cycle student has completed a study programme of at least 240 credits in a subject in which third-cycle teaching is offered.

Outcomes**Knowledge and understanding**

For the Degree of doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field, and
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.
- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
- demonstrate the skills to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate through a dissertation the skills to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research
- demonstrate the skills 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
- demonstrate the skills 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.

Judgement and approach

For the Degree of Doctor 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.

Research thesis (doctoral thesis)

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a Pass grade for a research thesis (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 credits.

Miscellaneous

Specific requirements determined by each higher education institution itself within the parameters of the requirements laid down in this qualification descriptor shall also apply for a Degree of Doctor with a defined specialisation. Ordinance (2008:132)