



Dnr HS2018/125

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Curriculum for doctoral studies in Educational Work

(Forskarutbildning i Pedagogiskt arbete)

Curriculum Approval

The curriculum was approved 5 Nov. 2001 by the Faculty Board for Education, revised by the Faculty Board for Education on 9 Jun. 2004 and of the Faculty Board of Teacher Education on 12 Dec. 2012. Revised by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 6 Dec. 2017.

Doctoral programmes are offered to the extent allowed by available resources. General stipulations for doctoral programmes are provided in the Higher Education Act and Higher Education Ordinance.

1. General Information

Educational Work is a cross-disciplinary field focused on the profession and on issues relevant to schools and other educational institutions. The work of pupils and teachers, the socialisation of children and adolescents and learning in and outside schools as well as practice-based issues and phenomena are central in Educational Work.

The doctoral programme in Educational Work is organised and conducted in close cooperation with the centres for subject-specific education at Karlstad University and research schools and doctoral programmes in Education, nationally and internationally.

In accordance with Karlstad University's gender Equality Policy, perspectives on gender have to be included in doctoral education. Doctoral students should also gain insight into multidisciplinary methods and experiences through meetings across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

2. Aims and Objectives

The general objectives of licentiate or doctoral studies in terms of knowledge and understanding, competence and skills, and judgement and approach are specified in the Qualification Ordinance (Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, SFS 2006:1053):

Knowledge and understanding

For a degree of licentiate third-cycle students shall

- *demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research, including current specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field and a deeper knowledge of scientific methods in general and of methods in the specific field of research in particular.*

For a degree of **doctor** third-cycle students shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge in and systematic understanding of the field of research, together with deep and up-to-date specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field of research, and
- demonstrate familiarity with scholarly methods in general and with methods in the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

For a degree of **licentiate** third-cycle students shall

- demonstrate ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively, and proceeding with scientific precision, to plan a limited research project and other advanced tasks and to carry them out using appropriate methods within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge, and to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts, and
- demonstrate the skills required to independently participate in research and development work and to work independently in other advanced contexts.

For a degree of **doctor** third-cycle students shall

- demonstrate an ability to engage in scholarly analysis and synthesis and in independent, critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations,
- demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively, and proceeding with scientific precision, and to plan and, using appropriate methods, conduct research and other advanced tasks within specified time limits, and to scrutinise and evaluate such work,
- demonstrate, in a dissertation, their ability to make a substantial contribution to the development of knowledge by their own research,
- demonstrate an ability to present and discuss research and research results with authority, in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts,
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge, and
- demonstrate a potential to contribute to the development of society and support other people's learning, both in the field of research and education and in other advanced professional contexts.

Judgement and approach

For a degree of **licentiate** third-cycle students shall

- *demonstrate an ability to make ethical assessments in their own research,*
- *demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used, and*
- *demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.*

For a degree of **doctor** third-cycle students shall

- *demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly integrity and an ability to make ethical assessments relating to research, and*
- *demonstrate deeper insight into the potential and limitations of scholarship, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used.*

Licentiate/Doctoral Thesis

For a degree of **Licentiate** the third-cycle students shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis of at least 60 ECTS credits.

For a degree of **Doctor** the third-cycle students shall have been awarded a pass grade for a doctoral thesis of at least 120 ECTS credits.

Additional Subject-Specific Objectives

Knowledge and understanding

For a degree of *Licentiate* third-cycle students shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the education system from historical, future and contemporary perspectives,
- demonstrate knowledge of a specific area of the main field of study, and
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theories and research methods relevant to the field of Education.

For a degree of *Doctor* third-cycle students shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of the education system from historical, future and contemporary perspectives,
- demonstrate specialised knowledge of a specific area of the main field of study, and
- demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of theories and research methods relevant to the field of Education

Competence and skills

For a degree of *Licentiate* third-cycle students shall

- demonstrate competence and skills to conduct a limited research project in the education system, supported by theories and research methods relevant to the field of Education.

For a degree of *Doctor* third-cycle students shall

- demonstrate competence and skills to conduct research in the education system, supported by theories and research methods relevant to the field of Education.

Judgement and Approach

For a degree of *Licentiate* third-cycle students shall

- demonstrate ability to critically approach and evaluate knowledge on the education system, teacher training, and the professional practice in schools and preschools.

For a degree of *Doctor* third-cycle students shall

- demonstrate well-developed ability to critically approach and evaluate knowledge relevant to the education system, teacher training, and professional practice in schools and preschools.

The doctoral programme in Educational Work should in part prepare students for academic research careers and in part provide professional skills for assignments in the education system outside the academy. Possible career areas are development and evaluation work in the education system, oth locally and centrally.

Essential elements in the doctoral programme include gaining experience of cooperating with other researchers and thereby establishing a national and international network, and actively participating in the development of a stimulating research environment at Karlstad University.

3. Admission Requirements

Applicants to doctoral studies must meet the general admission requirements as well as the specific admission requirements and be judged to have the ability otherwise required to pursue the programme successfully.

3.1 General eligibility: *A person who has earned a master's degree of at least 240 ECTS credits of which at least 60 ECTS cr. are studies at master's level, or who in some other way in the country or abroad has acquired largely equivalent knowledge has general eligibility for admission. If there are special reasons for doing so, the higher education institution may grant an individual applicant exemption from the general eligibility requirement. (Higher Education Ordinance, Ch. 6)*

3.2 Special Eligibility

Admission to the doctoral programme in Educational Work requires a teaching degree, or equivalent qualifications earned in Sweden or abroad.

4. Admission Procedure

Applications for admission to doctoral studies are processed in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Board of Karlstad University.

5. Selection

Candidates will be selected on the basis of their assessed capacity to successfully complete a programme at the doctoral level. In the ranking and selection of the candidates, special attention will be paid to the candidates' previous academic record, particularly the quality of previous research and development projects, particularly at Master's level, as well as the quality of other submitted academic work, the candidates' language skills, their ability to participate actively in the daily activities of the research environment and available supervision capacity.

6. Content and Outline

The doctoral programme can lead to a doctoral or licentiate degree. The doctoral degree requires four years of study, the equivalent of 240 ECTS credits, and the licentiate degree requires two years or 120 ECTS credits. The programme includes coursework as well as independent thesis work. To earn a doctoral degree, the candidate must complete 90 ECTS credits of coursework and a doctoral thesis of 150 ECTS credits. To earn a licentiate degree, the candidate is required to complete 45 ECTS credits and a licentiate thesis of 75 ECTS credits.

6.1 Courses

Coursework for a licentiate degree totals 45 ECTS credits:

- 25.5 ECTS cr. basic mandatory courses:
 - Information retrieval, 3 ECTS cr.
 - Educational Work as research field, 7.5 ECTS cr.
 - Theories and research methods in Education, 15 ECTS cr.
- 19.5 ECTS cr. optional specialist courses

Coursework for a doctoral degree totals 45 ECTS credits:

- 37.5 ECTS cr. basic mandatory courses:
 - Communicating science, 4.5 ECTS cr.
 - Information retrieval, 3 ECTS cr.
 - Theories and research methods in Education, 15 ECTS cr.
 - Educational Work as research field, 7.5 ECTS cr.
 - Education and Society, 7.5 ECTS cr.
- 52.5 ECTS cr. optional specialist courses

Students on the doctoral programme actively participate in a research seminar throughout their study period. Students select specialist courses in consultation with supervisors, taking account of their specialisations and interests.

6.2 Doctoral and Licentiate Theses

Doctoral students are required to write a thesis for a doctoral or a licentiate degree, either as a monograph or as a compilation thesis. Candidates are required to defend their licentiate thesis at a seminar and their doctoral thesis at a public examination. Further information is provided in the policy documents “Doctoral Dissertation Requirements” and “Licentiate Dissertation Requirements”.

Theses are normally written in Swedish or English.

Thesis work must be presented at at least three seminars. At the first seminar, a plan for the thesis project is presented (planning seminar), the next seminar takes place during the thesis project, and the final one when the thesis is finished (final seminar).

6.3 Supervision

Doctoral students are entitled to supervision in accordance with the principles stated in the current policy document at Karlstad University. For doctoral students in Educational Work, supervision time is equally divided between individual supervision and joint supervision in seminar form. See the policy for supervision in Pedagogy and Educational Work.

6.4 Individual Study Plan

At the start of the doctoral programme, each student must draw up an individual study plan in conjunction with the supervisors. The plan should include a realistic time plan for course work, thesis work and supervision as well as an introduction to the proposed research field, problem, aim, methodological and theoretical frames, and relevant ethical considerations.

The individual study plan is subject to continual revision (at least once a year), taking the form of written comments and corrections, if applicable.

6.5 Examination

Doctoral students are examined in accordance with the requirements of each individual course syllabus. Doctoral or licentiate theses are examined in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (Ch.6 Sec. 40–47) and Karlstad University's current policy document.