

Faculty of Health, Science and Technology

Curriculum for Doctoral Studies in Nursing

Approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 14 June 2007 (Reg.no. FAK3 2007/218), and effective from 1 July 2007. Revised on and effective from 24 Oct 2011 (DEK3 74/2011). Revised on and effective from 23 Feb. 2015 by the Faculty Board of Health Science and Technology (Reg.no HNT 2015/51).

Curriculum Approval

The curriculum was approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 14 June 2007, and is valid from 1 July 2007.

Revised on and effective from 24 Oct 2011 (DEK3 74/2011): Adjustment to change in the Higher Education Ordinance 1 Jan. 2011. Revised on and effective from 23 Feb. 2015 by the Faculty Board of Health Science and Technology (Reg.no HNT 2015/51).

General stipulations for PhD programmes are provided in the *Higher Education Act* and in the *Higher Education Ordinance*. The PhD programme is offered to the extent permitted by available funding.

1. General Information

The graduate school in health studies functions as a forum for doctoral students who in a broad sense are interested in health issues. The graduate school offers a wider and more creative environment for doctoral studies than a single discipline can provide. Graduate school activities enhance the quality and content of supervision and coursework. Doctoral courses are developed and continuously offered in the graduate school. In addition, interdisciplinary seminars and workshops are arranged.

In the research field of nursing, issues related to health care are studied as basic and applied research with the aim to develop theories, methods and applications in nursing. At Karlstad University, research in nursing is carried out as part of the research programme “Promoting health and quality of care”.

Doctoral studies in nursing prepares students for further academic activities and independent research in higher education institutions or in health care facilities.

In accordance with Karlstad University’s equal opportunities policy, gender issues are addressed throughout the programme. Doctoral students are also introduced to multi-disciplinary approaches and involved in interdisciplinary experiences.

2. Aims and Objectives

The general objectives of licentiate or doctoral studies in terms of knowledge and understanding, skills and abilities, and judgement and approach are specified as follows in Qualification Ordinance (*Higher Education Ordinance, annex 2, SFS 2006:1053*):

Knowledge and understanding

For a degree of **Licentiate** research 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** research 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 research methods in general and with methods in the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

For a degree of **Licentiate** research students shall

- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, independently and creatively and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake a limited research project and other qualified tasks within specified time limits, in order to contribute to the development of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate the ability to clearly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the academic 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 qualified contexts.

For a degree of **Doctor** research students shall

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

Judgement and approach

For a degree of **Licentiate** research students shall

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

For a degree of **Doctor** research students shall

- demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics relating to research; and
- demonstrate specialised insight into the potential and limitations of scholarship, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

Licentiate thesis/doctoral thesis

For a degree of Licentiate the research students shall have received a pass grade for a licentiate thesis of at least 60 ECTS credits.

For a degree of Doctor the research students shall have received a pass grade for a doctoral thesis of at least 120 ECTS credits.

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 (*Higher Education Ordinance, Ch.6*).

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 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 (*Higher Education Ordinance, Ch.7, § 39*).

3.2. Special eligibility

A person who has earned at least a Master's level degree in nursing or a field judged equivalent has special eligibility for admission to doctoral studies in nursing.

3.3. Transitional Provisions

Students who met the general admission requirements for admission to doctoral studies before 1 July 2007 shall be considered generally eligible for admission to the doctoral level until 30 June 2015 (SFS 2006:1053).

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 relevance of the proposed research area to the departmental research programme and supervision capacity and to the candidates' intention to be present and participate in the research environment.

6. Content and Outline

The doctoral programme can lead to a doctoral or licentiate degree. The licentiate degree can be seen as a step towards the doctor's degree and be included in it. The doctoral degree requires four years of study, the equivalent of 240 ECTS credits, and the licentiate degree two years or 120 ECTS credits.

The studies include course work as well as independent thesis work. To earn a doctoral degree, the candidate must complete 60 ECTS credits of course work. To earn a licentiate degree, the candidate is required to complete 30 ECTS credits of course work.

6.1 Courses

Cross-faculty courses for all doctoral students at Karlstad University shall be included in the programme to the extent required by local regulations.

Cross-faculty courses

For the **Licentiate** degree:

Philosophy and History of Scientific Thought 7.5 ECTS credits

For the **Doctor's** degree:

Philosophy and History of Scientific Thought, 7.5 ECTS credits, and

To communicate Science, 4.5 ECTS credits

Subject Specific Courses

For the **Licentiate** degree:

- Research ethics 4.5 ECTS cr
- Optional doctoral course in nursing, 7.5 ECTS cr
- Quantitative *or* qualitative method, 7.5 ECTS cr
- Seminars and presentation of the student's own research at an academic conference, 3 ECTS cr

The choice of doctoral courses is based on the student's research project. Courses are chosen in conjunction with the supervisors and examiner.

For the **Doctor's** degree

- Health from an interdisciplinary science perspective, 7.5 ECTS cr
- Research ethics 4.5 ECTS cr
- Optional doctoral courses in nursing, 14.5 ECTS cr
- Quantitative method, 7.5 ECTS cr
- Qualitative method, 7.5 ECTS cr
- Seminars and presentation of the student's own research at academic conferences, 6.5 ECTS cr

The choice of doctoral courses is based on the student's research project. Courses are chosen in conjunction with the supervisors and examiner.

Doctoral and Licentiate Thesis

Doctoral students are required to write a thesis for a doctoral or a licentiate degree, either as a monograph or as a compilation of previously published papers. The department recommends the latter. Candidates are required to defend their licentiate thesis at a seminar and their doctoral thesis at a public examination. Further information is provided by the policy documents "Regulations on the Doctoral Thesis" and "Regulations on the Licentiate Thesis".

The thesis topic is chosen in consultation with the supervisors and the examiner and must be related to the departmental research programme.

The introductory chapter of a compilation thesis can be written in Swedish, Danish, Norwegian or English. Articles included in the thesis must be written in English.

6.2 Supervision

Doctoral students are entitled to supervisors in accordance with the principles stated in the current policy document at Karlstad University.

6.3 Individual Study Plan

Each doctoral student must draw up an individual study plan in conjunction with the supervisors. The plan should include a realistic estimate of time 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 written revision (at least once a year).

6.4 Examination

Doctoral students are examined in accordance with the requirements of each individual course syllabus, participation in graduate school seminars and conference presentations at international academic conferences. Doctoral or licentiate theses are examined in accordance with the *Higher Education Ordinance* (Ch.6, §§ 33-34) and Karlstad University's current policy document.