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Faculty of Health, Science and Technology

# Curriculum for Third-Cycle Education in Nursing

(Forskarutbildning i Omvårdnad)

## Curriculum Approval

The curriculum was approved by the Faculty Board of Health, Science and Technology 2007-06-14 (FAK3 2007/218) and is effective from 2007-07-01.

Revised 2011-10-24 (DEK3 74/2011)

Revised 2015-02-23 (HNT 2015/51)

Revised 2016-12-09 (HNT 2016/345)

Revised by the Faculty Board of Health, Science and Technology 2020-06-12 (HNT 2020/356) and is effective from 2020-06-12.

General stipulations for third-cycle education are provided in the *Higher Education Act* and in the *Higher Education Ordinance*. The Licentiate/Doctoral 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 prepare 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, competence and skills, and judgement and approach are specified as follows in the *Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, SFS 2006:1053*):

### ***Degree of Licentiate***

#### ***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 ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, independently 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 ability 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 independently 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 ability 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 ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.*

## **Degree of Doctor**

### **Knowledge and understanding**

*For a **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.*

### **Competence and skills**

*For a **Degree of Doctor** the third-cycle student shall*

- *demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as 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, independently 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*
- 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.*

### **Judgement and approach**

For a **Degree of Doctor** the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate intellectual independence 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.*

## **3. Admission Requirements**

A person who meets the general admission requirements as well as the specific admission requirements and is judged to have the ability otherwise required for pursuing the programme successfully is eligible for admission.

### **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 credits 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 faculty board may grant an individual applicant exemption from the general eligibility (*Higher Education Ordinance, Ch.7*).

### **3.2 Special eligibility**

Specific entry requirements for admission to third-cycle courses and study programmes in Nursing include a degree in Nursing at the second-cycle level and completed courses in the subject/main area Nursing equivalent to at least 120 ECTS credits, with at least 30 ECTS credits at the second-cycle level, including a degree project equivalent to at least 15 ECTS credits, or equivalent knowledge acquired otherwise 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 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 requires two years of study, the equivalent of 120 ECTS cr. The doctoral degree requires four years of study, the equivalent of 240 ECTS cr. The studies include coursework and an independent project (licentiate thesis or doctoral thesis).

To earn a licentiate degree, the student is required to complete coursework of 30 ECTS credits and a thesis of 90 ECTS credits.

To earn a doctoral degree, the student is required to complete coursework of 60 ECTS credits and a thesis of 180 ECTS credits.

### 6.1 Courses

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 Licentiate degree

##### ***Mandatory Courses:***

- Philosophy and Theory of Science for doctoral students, 4.5 ECTS credits
- Research Ethics for Doctoral Students – Basic Course, 3 ECTS credits
- Research Ethics for Doctoral students – Human Subject Research, 2.5 ECTS credits

##### ***Subject Specific Courses and Activities Generating Credits:***

- Optional doctoral course in nursing, 9.5 ECTS credits
- Optional doctoral course in quantitative or qualitative method, 7.5 ECTS credits
- Seminars and presentation of the student's own research at an academic conference, 3 ECTS credits

#### For the Doctor's degree

##### ***Mandatory Courses:***

- Philosophy and Theory of Science for doctoral students, 4.5 ECTS credits
- Research ethics for Doctoral Students – Basic Course, 3 ECTS credits
- Research Ethics for Doctoral students – Human Subject Research, 2.5 ECTS credits
- To communicate Science, 4.5 ECTS credits
- Health from an interdisciplinary science perspective, 7.5 ECTS credits

##### ***Subject Specific Courses and Activities Generating Credits:***

- Optional doctoral courses in nursing, 16.5 ECTS credits
- Optional course in quantitative method, 7.5 ECTS credits
- Optional course in qualitative method, 7.5 ECTS credits
- Seminars and presentation of the student's own research at academic conferences, 6.5 ECTS credits

## **6.2 Licentiate and Doctoral Theses**

Third-cycle students are required to write a thesis for a licentiate or a doctoral degree, which may be a monograph or a compilation thesis. The latter alternative is recommended. The licentiate thesis is to be defended at a licentiate seminar and the doctoral thesis at a public examination. Further information is provided in the policy documents Regulations on the Licentiate Thesis and Regulations on Doctoral Thesis and Public Defence Procedures. The thesis topic for either degree is chosen in consultation with the advisor and examiner and must be related to the departmental research programme. The introductory chapter of a compilation thesis can be written in English, Swedish, Danish or Norwegian. The included articles should be written in English.

## **6.3 Supervision**

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

## **6.4 Individual Study Plan**

At the start of the studies, the student shall draw up an individual study plan (ISP) in consultation with the advisors within six months. The plan shall include a realistic estimate of time for course work, thesis work and supervision. The plan shall also include a project description and relevant ethical considerations. The project description is reviewed by representatives from the subject at a seminar within six months from the start of the studies.

The ISP is drawn up according to the form or system devised by the university.

The individual study plan is subject to continual revision (at least once a year) and shall be revised if changes in time or project plan are required.

Goal attainment in licentiate/doctoral studies shall be monitored on occasions in the course of studies. After one year, an individual qualifications matrix is formulated and attached to the student's individual study plan.

One year before the preliminary date of licentiate degree completion and two years before the preliminary date doctoral degree completion the outcome of the individual qualifications matrix is evaluated when the ISP is followed up. If the evaluation indicates that the goal attainment is not satisfactory, the study plan is revised to ensure that the national requirements are met at the time of the final examination. The revised qualifications matrix is attached to the individual study plan.

## **6.5 Examination**

Licentiate/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, sections 40-47) and Karlstad University's current policy document.