

## Suicidology for doctoral students, 4 credits

### *Suicidologi för forskarstuderande, 4 högskolepoäng*

<b>Course Code/Codes</b>	75MV013
<b>Subject Area</b>	Medical Science
<b>School/equivalent</b>	Örebro University, School of Medical Sciences Karolinska Institutet/LIME/NASP Uppsala University, Department of Medical Sciences, psychiatry
<b>Valid from</b>	2023-08-01
<b>Approved</b>	2023-04-05
<b>Revised</b>	
<b>Approved by</b>	Head of School
<b>Translation to English, date and signature</b>	2023-01-27 EK

## 1 Course content

The course discusses evaluation of literature, research questions and also research related to suicide. The course includes elements of theoretical models, challenges in choosing research methodology, and ethical considerations.

### Parts of the course:

- Part 1: Terminology of suicidology, epidemiology, risk factors, suicide prevention, prediction of suicide and current evidence. Suicide risk assessment in practice
- Part 2: Theoretical explanatory models for the development of suicidality, research methodologies and interventions
- Part 3: Ethical reflection and approach in suicide research, examination

## 2 Outcomes

### 2.1 The course in relation to the doctoral programme

The course shall primarily refer to the following intended learning outcomes for third-cycle courses and study programmes as described in the Higher Education Ordinance, i.e. the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field (part of outcome 1)
- advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field (part of outcome 1)
- familiarity with the methods of the specific field of research in particular (part of outcome 2)

#### *Competence and skills*

- the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis (part of outcome 3)
- the ability to review and evaluate research and other qualified tasks (part of outcome 4)
- the ability to identify the need for further knowledge (outcome 7)

#### *Judgement and approach*

- the ability to make assessments of research ethics (part of outcome 9)
- specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used (outcome 10)

The intended learning outcomes are listed in the same order as in the general syllabus for the programme.

## **2.2 Intended course learning outcomes**

The learning outcomes of the course are that the doctoral student shall gain knowledge and understanding of suicidology as a research field (part of outcome 1, part of outcome 2), have ability to critically review and evaluate research on suicide (part of outcome 4), be able to identify appropriate methods for answering different research questions, and to identify limitations in different methods (part of outcome 10). Another learning outcome is that the doctoral student shall be able to carry out a suicide risk assessment (part of outcome 1), and to ethically reflect on suicide research including how to treat and reply towards research informants who himself may have experiences of suicidality or be a close one of someone with suicidality (part of outcome 9). Finally, the outcome for the doctoral student is to show capacity to scientific analysis and synthesis (part of outcome 3) as well as an ability to identify the need for additional knowledge in suicidology (outcome 7)

To obtain a passing grade, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

#### Knowledge and understanding:

- Knowledge of theoretical explanatory models for the development of suicidality
- Knowledge of suicide prevention and interventions from a research perspective

#### Competence and skill:

- The ability to carry out a structured suicide risk assessment
- The ability to critically review and evaluate the quality of research on suicide
- The capacity for scientific analysis and synthesis
- The ability to identify appropriate method choices to answer various research questions, and to identify the suitability and limitations of scientific methods

#### Judgement and approach

- The ability to reflect on ethical considerations in suicide research

## **3 Reading list and other teaching material**

The following course readings and teaching material will be used on the course:

#### Mandatory literature:

Fazel S, Runeson B. Suicide. *N Engl J Med.* 2020;382(3):266-74.

Klonsky ED, Dixon-Luinenburg T, May AM. The critical distinction between suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. *World Psychiatry.* 2021;20(3):439-41.

Turecki G, Brent DA. Suicide and suicidal behaviour. *Lancet.* 2016;387(10024):1227-

#### Reference/in-depth literature:

Bryan CJ. Rethinking Suicide: Why Prevention Fails, and How We Can Do Better.

Oxford University Press, Oxford, England; 2022.

Chiles JA, Strosahl KD, Weiss Roberts L. Suicidala patienter. En klinisk handbok för bedömning och behandling. Stockholm: Natur & Kultur; 2020.

Wasserman D, editor. Oxford Textbook of Suicidology and Suicide Prevention. Second ed. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press; 2021.

Wasserman D, editor. Suicide an unnecessary death. Second ed. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press; 2016.

Additional publications will be announced during the course, as well as literature to read before the journal club and quality review.

## **4 Teaching formats**

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

Lectures

Seminars with group discussions

Journal Club

Role play

Study assignments on your own or in a group that are presented and discussed as a whole group

## **5 Examination**

The course is assessed through an examination consisting of the components listed below. The individual components are not graded separately but together they provide the basis for assessment and grading.

- A individual written assignment
- An oral presentation of the individually written assignment. Active participation is required to receive a passing grade
- The course participants oppose each other's presentations. Active participation is required to receive a passing grade.

*For examinations consisting of several examination components, the following applies:* If during the course it is concluded that a doctoral student is unable to complete a certain examination component, the examiner may set a substitute assignment provided that circumstances do not reasonably allow for the course component to be completed at a later date during the run of the course.

## **6 Grades**

Examinations on third-cycle courses and study programmes are to be assessed according to a two-grade scale with either of the grades 'fail' or 'pass' (local regulations).

The grade shall be determined by a teacher specifically nominated by the higher education institution (the examiner) (Higher Education Ordinance).

To obtain a passing grade on examinations included in the course, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the intended course learning outcomes as described in section 2.2. Alternatively, if the course consists of multiple examinations generating credit, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the outcomes that the examination in question refers to in accordance with section 5.

A student who has failed an examination is entitled to a retake.

If an examination consists of several examination components, and a student fails an examination component, the examiner may, as an alternative to a retake, set a make-up assignment with regard to the examination component in question.

A doctoral student who has failed an examination twice for a specific course or course element is entitled, upon his/her request, to have another examiner appointed to determine the grade.

## **7 Admission to the course**

### **7.1 Admission requirements**

To gain access to the course and complete the examinations included in the course, the applicant must be admitted to a doctoral programme at Örebro University.

Furthermore, the applicant may be admitted to doctoral programme at another Swedish higher education institution.

### **7.2 Selection**

This course is given in collaboration between Örebro University, Uppsala University and Karolinska Institutet, applicants from these three universities will have priority to the course.

Selection between applicants who have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Örebro University and who otherwise meet the admission requirements as listed above is made according to the following order of precedence:

If no other selection criteria are specified in this section, priority shall be given to applicants with a lower number of course credits left before the award of their degree over applicants with a higher number of remaining course credits. Should two or more students have equal number of credits, selection will be done through the drawing of lots. This also applies within any selection groups listed unless otherwise stated.

### **7.3 Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University**

Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University may be given access to the course on the grounds of provisions for and/or agreements regarding contracted courses, joint degrees, national graduate schools or cooperation in other respects with other universities.

Any decisions on what such other applicants may be given access to the course are made separately and on the basis of the provisions and/or agreements that occasion the student to apply for the course.

For participation in the course in other respects, the same provisions shall apply as for doctoral students admitted to Örebro University.

## **8 Transfer of credits for courses, study programmes and other experience**

Provisions on the transfer of credits can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance and on the university's webpage.

## **9 Other information**

## **Transitional provisions**