

Master of Philosophy in Health Systems and Services Research

Programme description

Health systems and services research is a multidisciplinary field of health research that studies the following: governance, financial and delivery arrangements for health care and public health services, implementation of considerations for reforming or strengthening these arrangements, and broader economic, legal, political and social contexts in which these arrangements operate and are negotiated. The purpose of health systems and services research is to improve the understanding and performance of health systems.

The teaching and learning strategy in each module is determined by the nature of the subject. Modules are presented within the framework of a student-centred approach with the purpose of stimulating critical thinking. The programme uses formal lectures, interactive learning, group sessions and e-learning. Independent learning is encouraged. A research assignment is completed under the guidance of a supervisor.

Specific admission requirements

To be admitted to the programme, students shall hold the following qualifications:

- a four-year professional BSc;

or

- a BScHons in the relevant health sciences;

or

- an Honours in social sciences.

Duration

The programme is offered on a part-time basis over a minimum period of two years.

Presentation

English.

Notes

The offering of this programme is subject to approval by the Higher Education Quality Committee.

Module outline and credit values

The programme consists of modules with a total of 120 credits and an assignment as a research project of 60 credits. Students shall complete ten modules of which eight are compulsory and two are elective modules.

Compulsory modules

Introduction to Health Systems and Services Research	875(12)
Fundamentals of Epidemiology	875(12)
Biostatistics I	875(12)
Economic Evaluation	875(12)
Research Proposal Writing and Grantsmanship	875(12)
Qualitative Research Methods	875(12)
Survey Methods	875(12)
Writing and Reviewing Scientific Papers	875(12)

Elective modules

Participatory (Action) Research Methods	875(12)
Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis	875(12)
Randomised Controlled Trials	875(12)
Biostatistics II	875(12)
Health Policy Analysis	875(12)

Monitoring and Evaluation	875(12)
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Research project

Assignment*	875(60)
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*The research project is completed over the course of the programme.

Assessment and examination

The summative assessment for each module is composed of assessment (50%) during the module and the final examination in the module (50%). Students shall achieve a minimum pass mark of 45% in the assessment during a module before being allowed to write the final examination in the module.

A student shall submit a satisfactory research assignment, demonstrating his ability to conduct an independent scientific investigation, interpret results and draw conclusions from the results. The research assignment is assessed according to the guidelines of Stellenbosch University.

The final mark for the programme is calculated according to the credit weighting of the individual modules. A student shall obtain a final mark of at least 50% to pass the programme.

Enquiries

Programme coordinator: Prof Lilian Dudley

Administrator: Ms Anita Bergstedt

Tel.: (021) 938 9201 E-mail: ldudley@sun.ac.za or alb@sun.ac.za

