1. Confirmation

The syllabus is confirmed by the Council for Postgraduate Studies 2013-12-19, after delegations according to the Academy's work plan and plan of delegation.

The syllabus is valid from spring semester 2014.

Responsible institute: Institute of Medicine.

2. Position in the educational system

The course is part of the obligatory course for the PhD education at the Sahlgrenska Academy. The course should be completed at the latest when, according to the individual study plan, the remaining part of the PhD education corresponds to two years full time study.

3. Entry requirements

For admission to the course it is required that the PhD student is admitted to postgraduate studies and has passed the obligatory PhD course Introduction to Research, 8 credits (part I).

4. Contents

The course Half time seminar, 5 credits, comprises together with the course Introduction to Research, 8 credits, and the PhD Proficiency Course, 2 credits, the obligatory course of all-together 15 credits at the third cycle level at the Sahlgrenska Academy. The course comprises two parts, a half time report and a seminar, both of which are assessed by an assessment committee.
Half time report:

The half time report comprises a written compilation of the scientific work at hand at half time. The report is to contain:

1) A short summary of the research project, including background, aims and results,
2) a research plan for the remaining PhD education time, and
3) eventual papers/manuscripts or a detailed description of the scientific work that is at hand.

Seminar:

The seminar is an open seminar where the research project, achieved results, as well as the research plan for the remaining education time is presented orally.

5. Goals

After completed course the PhD student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- show knowledge and understanding within the research area, including up-to-date specialist knowledge, and be able to formulate research questions, and
- show in-depth knowledge in scientific methodology in general and in the specific research area in particular.

Skills and ability

- critically, independently, creatively, and with scientific accuracy identify and formulate research questions,
- plan and with adequate methods perform a limited research task within given time limits, thereby contributing to the knowledge development, and to evaluate the performed work,
- present and discuss, orally and written, research and results thereof in dialogue with the research community.

Evaluation ability and way of relating

- make judgments with regard to research ethics in the PhD student’s research, and
- identify the PhD student’s need for additional knowledge and take responsibility for the knowledge development.

6. Literature
7. Forms for appraisal

Examination is individual. The half time report is examined by the written presentation of the research project, achieved results, and the research plan. The seminar is examined by the oral presentation of the research project, achieved results, and the research plan. An assessment committee comprising three researchers with PhD degree that are actively doing research at the Sahlgrenska Academy judges the quality of the two course parts and reports a written statement to the examiner. For criteria and composition of assessment committee, see "Rules and Regulations for postgraduate studies at Sahlgrenska Academy". The assessment is done according to the assessment form for Half time seminar (appendix 1).

A student has the right to request a change of examiner if failed twice on the same exam, if this is practically possible. Such a request should be put forward in writing and addressed to the department.

8. Grading scale

The grading scale comprises the grades Failed (U) and Pass (G).

9. Course evaluation

Course evaluation is carried out in writing through Sahlgrenska Academy’s joint course questionnaire published in GUL (the University of Gothenburg's learning platform) as well as through a discussion with the PhD students. The teacher responsible for the course compiles an analysis of the course evaluations and makes suggestions for the development of the course. Analyses and suggestions are conveyed to the students and published on the University of Gothenburg's learning platform, GUL.

10. Additional information

*The half time control (administrative event) comprises:*

- submitted half time report
- performed seminar