



Teaching and Examination Regulations

Master's Degree Programme

B. programme-specific section

M Health Sciences

Academic year 2017-2018

Section B: Programme-specific section

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Section B: Programme-specific section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Definitions

Not applicable

Article 1.2 Degree programme information

1. The programme M Health Sciences CROHO number 66851 is offered on a full-time basis and the language of instruction is English.
2. The programme has a workload of 60 EC.
3. Courses comprise 6 EC each, with the exception of Scientific Writing in English (3 EC), and the scientific placement comprises 27 EC.
4. The programme uses a 8-8-4 schedule (see under section 4 Curriculum structure).

Article 1.3 Intake dates

The programme is offered starting in the first semester of the academic year (first week of September).

2. Programme objectives and exit qualifications

Article 2.1 Programme objective

The programme is aimed at mastering knowledge and skills contributing to a multi- or interdisciplinary approach to health problems, health promotion, and healthcare.

The master programme Health Sciences contains the following five specialisations, which aim to give the student an opportunity to focus on a specific domain of Health Sciences:

- Health Policy
- Infectious Disease & Public Health
- International Public Health
- Nutrition and Health
- Prevention & Public Health

The master Health Sciences offers a special route for Midwifery Science. This route is for students who have obtained: a) BSc Midwifery (= HBO-Verloskunde) AND b) the premaster Health Sciences.

Article 2.2 Exit qualifications

Dublin descriptor 1 Knowledge and understanding

The graduate:

- Understands that the core of Health Sciences requires a multi- and interdisciplinary approach of health and health care problems;
- Has knowledge of the central role of evidence-based research in the development of health promotion and healthcare and recognizes evidence-based scientific outcomes;
- Can play a professional role at an academic level in the broad field of Health Sciences and has understanding of the role of diversity in health status between different groups and the determinants causing these differences;
- Suggests relevant interventions based on evidence from empirical epidemiologic population studies;
- Can explain the different perspectives on health depending on the social economic, beliefs and cultural background;
- Has the ability to compare and integrate the different levels of the problem (micro-, meso- and macro).

The five specialisations of the master Health Sciences enable students to combine research skills with in-depth knowledge in a specific domain of Health Sciences. For this reason the end terms of the specialisations overlap, particularly in relation to research, communication and professional judgment. However, the graduate should have specialized theoretical and practical knowledge within the field of the specialisation.

The graduate of the specialisation Infectious Disease & Public Health:

- Possesses knowledge of the immunological aspects, development and expression of infectious disease and of the epidemiology, control and elimination of various infectious pathogens, as well as of the appropriate vaccinations;
- Knows the life cycle, virulence and transmission of infectious pathogens, and of the

outcome of diseases, in addition to being able to describe the various diagnostic laboratory tests for parasitic infections;

- Is able to describe the relationship between nutrition and the appearance/development of infectious diseases, knows the causes and effects of malnutrition and over-nutrition in relation to infectious diseases with a special focus on vulnerable groups and/or populations;

The graduate of the specialisation Prevention & Public Health:

- Has a thorough understanding of health promotion and disease prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary); concepts, definitions and history
- Is able to explain the most relevant models and theories of behavior change and behaviour explanation at the individual and environmental level
- Has knowledge of the most important psychosocial concepts and theories that are related to treatment and management of (chronic) diseases
- Is able to explain and apply a planned, evidence-based and theory-based approach in the development, evaluation and implementation of health promotion and disease prevention
- Has knowledge of the multi-disciplinary character of health promotion and disease prevention

The graduate of the specialisation International Public Health:

- Is familiar with the relevant methods and techniques (and with their pros and cons) needed to analyse international health issues from an interdisciplinary perspective;
- Possesses proven knowledge and understanding of interdisciplinary research aimed at solving international public health issues;
- Possesses knowledge and understanding of the concepts and theories that underpin effective communication and collaboration.

The graduate of the specialisation Nutrition and Health:

- Understands the role of nutrition in health and the development of chronic disorders within the scope of other life style factors.
- Is able to design, conduct and interpret nutrition related quantitative research
- Has knowledge on the impact of preventive or therapeutic nutritional interventions both in terms of their potential as well as actual health benefits

The graduate of the specialisation Health Policy:

- Has comprehension and appreciation of main healthcare issues, - including but not limited to - rising healthcare costs, healthcare system efficiency, market incentives, rationing, coverage of cost effective interventions, access of vulnerable groups, quality of healthcare, labor limitations and patient rights;
- Is aware of the structures that govern the Dutch healthcare system, including the stakeholders and interest group landscape and the governance structure with quality and competition authorities and internal (in organization) governance;
- Is able to apply economic theories to analyse healthcare issues at healthcare system, organizational and intervention level, and from both societal and stakeholder perspectives;
- Is able to identify, select, evaluate and summarize relevant scientific evidence and translate it into evidence based healthcare policy
- Is able to select research designs to study health policy subjects

Dublin descriptor 2 Application of knowledge

The graduate should be experienced in carrying out research, in applying techniques specific to the subject area and applying scientific knowledge to problems raised in society.

The graduate is able to:

- compare and critically evaluate the different approaches to healthcare problems to decide what is the best approach according to circumstances and in relation to theory as well as professional experience;
- plan, perform, evaluate and write up results of a scientific study in Health Sciences;
- translate evidence from quantitative or qualitative studies to a lay audience, professionals and

- decision makers alike;
- select, build and apply valid and reliable measurements for health and disease at the individual, household and community levels;
- combine biomedical knowledge with expected health prognoses/outcomes;
- understand that different healthcare professionals may have a different perspective on healthcare problems;
- ability to change from the individual perspective to a more organizational or policy perspective;
- identify and collect health related information from different sources and use this information to analyse health (care) problems;
- express the central theories of Health Sciences in different contexts;
- develop an appropriate qualitative or quantitative research design for a health-related research question within the constraints of available time and resources.

Dublin descriptor 3 Critical judgment

The graduate should be able to independently and critically judge information.

The graduate:

- can evaluate the role of ethics in public health and upholds a well-defined ethical and moral standard when it comes to research;
- understands the ethical aspects of health research and its applications and considers these arguments in making decisions;
- foresees the technical, methodological and ethical limitations and consequences of health research within the chosen specialisation;
- judges the scientific and societal relevance of research within the discipline and is able to interpret and evaluate a variety of different methodological approaches;
- takes into account the moral and ethical implications of conducting health sciences research

Dublin descriptor 4 Communication

The graduate should be able to transfer knowledge and skills related to the subject area to other persons and to adequately reply to questions and problems posed in society.

The graduate:

- can report orally on research results in English;
- can produce an English written draft of a scientific article;
- is able to communicate knowledge, insight and moral and ethical views with a professional attitude;
- is able to discuss the actual themes in healthcare.

Dublin descriptor 5 Learning skills

The graduate should develop learning skills that enable him/her to further self-education and development within the subject area.

The graduate:

- can identify, retrieve and analyse health-related data in specific populations;
- has the ability to interpret research data and to understand, translate and evaluate these data in the context needed;
- is familiar with computer software for data retrieval and analysis (SPSS, MAXQDA);
- is able to identify a path towards further professional development drawing on the strengths and weaknesses of his/her own learning preferences.

3. Admission requirements

Article 3.1 Admission requirements

- Admission to the Master's programme is possible for an individual who can demonstrate that he/she has the following knowledge, understanding and skills at the Bachelor's degree level, obtained at an institution of academic higher education:
 - knowledge: epidemiology, biostatistics, biomedical/health sciences.
 - understanding: epidemiology, biostatistics, public health
 - skills: biostatisticsThe total number of credits required for admission is: epidemiology (6 ECs), biostatistics (12 ECs).
- The Admissions Board will investigate whether the applicant meets the admission requirements.

3. In addition to the requirements referred to in the first paragraph, the Board will also assess admission applications for proficiency in English for international and national students, see article 3.5.
4. Any individual who has obtained a Bachelor's degree in academic higher education on one of the degree programmes below meets the requirements referred to in paragraph 1:
Bachelor Health Sciences
Bachelor Health & Life sciences
Premaster Health Sciences VU University Amsterdam
Bachelor University Colleges with sufficient knowledge and understanding of epidemiology, biostatistics/qualitative research methods, public health/health sciences.
5. When the programme commences, the candidate must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme or pre-Master's programme allowing admission to this Master's programme.

Article 3.2 Pre-Master's programme

1. Students with a non-University Bachelor's degree in a field that corresponds to a sufficient extent with the subject area covered by the Master's programme can request admission to the pre-Master's programme Health Sciences at VU University.
2. The pre-Master's programme comprises 30 EC (5 units of 6 EC) and is made up of the following courses:
 - a. Methodology & applied biostatistics 1
 - b. Methodology & applied biostatistics 2
 - c. Methodology & applied biostatistics 3
 - d. Qualitative research methods

and one of the following courses that prepares students for a specific specialization:

- e. Infectious disease
- f. Health policy
- g. Nutrition
- h. Prevention
- i. International public health

Students who have graduated from a relevant Bachelors program that has been certified as a so called HBO++ program are exempted from passing one of the courses that prepares for a specific specialization. Their program thus consists of 24EC. However, these students are encouraged to follow one of the courses preparing students for a specific specialization or if necessary to prepare themselves in an alternative way, to ensure appropriate background for the specialization choice.

Students who follow the Pre-Master as part of their Bachelor, have to pass the regular 30 EC program, irrespective of whether their program is certified as HBO++ or not.

3. Proof of a successfully completed pre-Master's programme within 1 year serves as proof of admission to the Master's programme in the subsequent academic year.

Article 3.3 Limited programme capacity

Not relevant.

Article 3.4 Final deadline for registration

1. Students who wish to apply for a Master's programme and have not obtained their Bachelor's degree at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and want to start the Master's programme in September 2016 must apply up to and including 31 May 2017.
2. As an exception to section 1, students who wish to use the services of the International Office for assistance in securing visas and housing need to apply before 1 April 2017.
3. Registration for a Master's programme that officially starts September 2017 is only possible up to and including 31 August 2017.
4. Students who have obtained their Bachelor's degree from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and wish to register for the related Master's programme can apply and register up to and including 31 August 2017.

Article 3.5 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes

1. International and national applicants are required to pass an English language proficiency test. The applicant must demonstrate that he/she is proficient in English by having met at least one

of the following conditions no more than two (= 2) years before the start of the degree programme:

- IELTS: 6.5
 - TOEFL paper based test: 580
 - TOEFL internet based test: 92
 - Cambridge Advanced English: A, B or C
 - Cambridge Proficiency in English.
 - VU-test English-language proficiency: TOEFL ITP
2. Exemption is granted by the admissions board from the examination in English referred to in the first paragraph to students who:
- a. completed an English-taught secondary or higher education degree in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia.
 - b. have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in an English-taught programme accredited by NVAO in the Netherlands
 - c. have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an accredited English-taught programme in another member state of the European Union.

4. Curriculum structure

Article 4.1 Composition of programme

1. The master programme Health Sciences has a workload of 60 EC and contains five specialisations. Students are expected to choose one of the following specialisations before starting the programme.
1. Infectious Disease & Public Health
 2. Prevention & Public Health
 3. International Public Health
 4. Nutrition & Health
 5. Health Policy

Courses from other specialisations can be chosen as elective course(s), but students can only follow one specialisation.

2. The programme consists of the following components:
- a. Compulsory courses
 - b. Elective courses
 - c. Compulsory practical training (see Placement Manual 2017-2018 for further details)

If the student wishes to take a different course outside the master of Health Sciences programme, permission must be obtained in advance from the Examinations Board.

Infectious Disease & Public Health

Article 4.2 Compulsory courses of study

The compulsory courses of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
Care and Prevention Research	AM_470806	6	Sept/Oct	
Nutrition and Infectious Disease	AM_470816	6	January	
Parasitology	AM_470052	6	Nov/Dec	
Scientific Writing in English	AM_471023	3	February	

Article 4.3 Compulsory practical training = Internship

Internship Health Sciences	AM_1115	27	Academic year	
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Article 4.4 Electives

The student must take at least one of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
Containment Strategies Infectious Diseases	AM_470127	6	Sept/Oct	
Advanced statistics	AM_470826	6	Nov/Dec	

Prevention & Public Health**Article 4.2 Compulsory courses of study**

The compulsory courses of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
Care and Prevention Research	AM_470806	6	Sept/Oct	
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	AM_470811	6	Nov/Dec	
Scientific Writing in English	AM_471023	3	February	

Article 4.3 Compulsory practical training = Internship

Internship Health Sciences	AM_1115	27	Academic year	
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Article 4.4 Electives

The student must take at least one of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
Communication Campaigns and Research	AM_470129	6	January	
Health Psychology	AM_470730	6	Nov/Dec	
Prevention and Policy	AM_470823	6	Sept/Oct	
Prevention of Mental Health Problems	AM_470840	6	January	

International Public Health**Article 4.2 Compulsory courses of study**

The compulsory courses of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
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Research Methods for Needs Assessment	AM_470817	6	Sept/Oct	
Containment Strategies Infectious Diseases	AM_470127	6	Sept/Oct	
Policy, Management and Organisation in IPH	AM_470819	6	Nov/Dec	
Scientific Writing in English	AM_471023	3	February	

Article 4.3 Compulsory practical training = Internship

Internship Health Sciences	AM_1115	27	Academic year	
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Article 4.4 Electives

The student must take at least one of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
Disability and Development	AM_470588	6	Nov/Dec	
Health, Globalisation and Human Rights	AM_470818	6	Nov/Dec	
International Comparative Analysis of Health Care Systems	AM_470820	6	January	
Nutrition and Infectious Disease	AM_470816	6	January	

Nutrition and Health

Article 4.2 Compulsory courses of study

The compulsory courses of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
Care and Prevention Research	AM_470806	6	Sept/Oct	
Public Health Nutrition	AM_470815	6	Nov/Dec	
Nutrition in Health and Disease	AM_470841	6	Sept/Oct	
Scientific Writing in English	AM_471023	3	February	

Article 4.3 Compulsory practical training = Internship

Internship Health Sciences	AM_1115	27	Academic year	
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Article 4.4 Electives

The student must take at least one of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
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Advanced statistics	AM_470826	6	Nov/Dec	
Nutrition and Infectious Disease	AM_470816	6	January	
Advanced Dietetics*	AM_1036	6	Jan-May	

*This course is only available for dietitians

Health Policy

Article 4.2 Compulsory courses of study

The compulsory courses of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
Care and Prevention Research	AM_470806	6	Sept/Oct	
Advanced Health Economics	AM_470843	6	Nov/Dec	
Scientific Writing in English	AM_471023	3	February	

Article 4.3 Compulsory practical training = Internship

Internship Health Sciences	AM_1115	27	Academic year	
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Article 4.4 Electives

The student must take at least two of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
Advanced Statistics	AM_470826	6	Nov/Dec	
Regulation and Organisation of Healthcare	AM_470809	6	Nov/Dec	
Economic Evaluation	AM_470828	6	Sept/Oct	
Advanced Health Law	AM_470844	6	January	
Management in Health Organisation	AM_470822	6	January	

Article 4.4 Other electives

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Level
*Advanced Midwifery Science 1 Big Four	AM_1188	6	Sept/Oct	
*Advanced Midwifery Science 2 Vulnerable Groups	AM_1189	6	Nov/Dec	
**Migration, culture, health & research	AM_470813	6	January	

*This courses are only available for prior premaster students with a BSc Midwifery (= HBO-Verloskunde) degree

** This course is available for students of all specializations

Article 4.5. Free curriculum

1. Subject to permission from the examination board, the student has the option of compiling a curriculum of his/her own choice, which deviates from the curricula prescribed by the programme.
2. The concrete details of such a curriculum must be approved by the Examinations Board before starting the programme.
3. The free curriculum is put together by the student from the units of study offered by VU University Amsterdam and must at least have the size, breadth and depth of a regular Master's programme.
4. The Midwifery route is embedded within the Free curriculum.
4. The following conditions must at least have been met in order to be eligible for the Master's degree:
 - a. at least 15 EC must be obtained from the regular curriculum, 6 EC of which must consist of either the course Care and Prevention Research or Research Methods for Needs Assessment and 3 EC of scientific writing.
 - b. The internship must be organized through the MSc Health Sciences.
 - c. the level of the programme must match the objectives and exit qualifications that apply for the MasterHealth Sciences programme for which the student is enrolled.

Article 4.5 Sequence of examinations

Students may only participate in the internship after passing Care and Prevention Research or Research Methods for Needs Assessment and two other courses (a total of 18 ECs). These other courses are not specified.

Article 4.6 Required attendance

Students must meet all requirements of the course, including required attendance of work groups, tutorials, practical sessions or excursions, at the discretion of the instructor of the course.

Article 4.7 Maximum exemption

A maximum of 6 EC of the curriculum can be accumulated through granted exemptions after a request for exemption to the Examination Board.

Article 4.8 Validity period for results

No further specific provisions.

Article 4.9 Degree

Students who have successfully completed their Master's final examination are awarded a Master of Science degree. The degree awarded and the specialisation followed are stated on the diploma.

5. Transitional and final provisions

Article 5.1 Amendments and periodic review

1. Any amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations will be adopted by the faculty board after taking advice, and if necessary approval by the Programme Committee concerned. A copy of the advice will be sent to the authorised representative advisory body.
2. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations requires the approval of the authorised representative advisory body if it concerns components not related to the subjects of Section 7.13, paragraph 2 sub a to g and v, as well as paragraph 4 of the WHW and the requirements for admission to the Master's programme.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations can only pertain to an academic year that is already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

Article 5.2 Transitional provisions

Notwithstanding the current Teaching and Examination Regulations, the following transitional provisions apply for students who started the programme under a previous set of Teaching and Examination Regulations:

1. Compulsory components

No course has been added or removed.

For students who started their programme before academic year 2014-2015 the courses below are not compulsory:

a. *Specialization Infectious Diseases and Public Health:*

- AM_470052 Parasitology (6 EC)

The internship below is changed by name:

New component	Former component
AM_1115 Internship Health Sciences	AM_471105 Internship Infectious Diseases and Public Health
AM_1115 Internship Health Sciences	AM_471104 Internship Prevention and Public Health
AM_1115 Internship Health Sciences	AM_471106 Internship International Public Health
AM_1115 Internship Health Sciences	AM_471107 Internship Nutrition and Health
AM_1115 Internship Health Sciences	AM_1109 Internship Health Policy

2. Elective components that have been removed from the curriculum

- a) AM_470842 Nutrition in clinical practice

3. Elective components that have been added to the curriculum:

None

4. Total of 60 EC

The final examination programme should always total 60 EC.

Article 5.3 Publication

1. The faculty board will ensure the appropriate publication of these Regulations and any amendments to them.
2. The Teaching and Examination Regulations will be posted on the faculty website and deemed to be included in the course catalogue.

Article 5.4 Effective date

These Regulations enter into force with effect from September 1, 2017.

Advice from Programme Committee, on the 19th of April 2017

Approved by authorised representative advisory body, on 6 July 2017

Adopted by the Faculty Board, on 21 July 2017