Course Syllabus
FHV810, Micro Perspectives of Health Economics, 7,5 higher education credits
Second Cycle

1 Confirmation
The syllabus was confirmed by the Programme Committee of Nutrition and Public Health on 2009-06-02.
The syllabus is valid from the spring term of 2010.
Field of education: Medicine
Main field of study: Public Health with Health Economics
Responsible institution: Medicine

2. Position in the educational system
The course is given as a single subject course.

3. Entry requirements
To be eligible for the course a Bachelor degree is required.
Special eligibility in English (Eng B/course B):
- IELTS 6.0 no band below 5.0
- TOEFL Paper based: 550 TWE score 4.0, computer based: 213 Essay rating 4,
  Internet based: 79 TWE score 17

4. Course content
The course consists of four different parts:
1. The first part consists of a short introduction to the microeconomic theories needed for a deeper understanding of health economics. This part of the course covers consumption theory, production theory, and the analysis of markets under different structures such as perfect competition, monopoly, and oligopoly. Fundamental theories of welfare economics are also discussed. The content of this part covers approximately 20% of the course.

2. The second, which is the most extensive part of the course, focuses specially on health economics. It covers topics such as the demand for health and health care, Grossman’s model, the production and delivery of health care, health economic policy, and different types of financing of the health care sector. The content of this part covers approximately 60% of the course.

3. The third part will provide the tools necessary to understand how the market of medical treatments such as pharmaceuticals and medicine works. The topics that will be covered are the following: pricing with monopoly power, price discrimination, and investment decisions of firms producing medical treatments. The subsidy of medicine is also discussed. The content of this part covers approximately 10% of the course.

4. The fourth and final part of the course will cover issues of cost-effectiveness analysis to link epidemiology with health economics. The assessment of health economic evaluation, both of medical treatments and public health programs, is also covered in this part of the course. The content of this part covers approximately 10% of the course.

5. Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
After completion of the course the student is expected to have:

- knowledge and understanding of microeconomic theories and how these can be applied within health economics,
- knowledge and understanding of the theory and determinants of the demand for health and health care,
- knowledge and understanding of the theory of the production and delivery of health care,
- understanding of market failures in health markets and health economic policy,
- basic knowledge of the functioning of the market of medical treatments and investment decisions of firms producing medical treatments,
- basic knowledge of the application of epidemiology on health economic evaluations.

Skills and abilities
After completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

- interpret scientific research in microeconomics and understand its application on health economic issues,
- discuss strengths and weaknesses in the use of microeconomic theories on health related issues,
• explain how health related markets work and how welfare is affected by different market structures,
• choose the most appropriate type of design for a health economic evaluation.

Judgement and approach
After completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:
• identify a health related problem and suggest the appropriate method to perform a health economic analysis of the selected issue,
• reflect on the difficulties of using economic theory on health related problems,
• suggest different ways to apply and adjust economic theory to analyse issues related to health.

6. Required reading
List of required reading enclosed.

7. Assessment
Seminar and home exam. Active participation in the seminar is required to pass the course.

A student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiners, if it is possible. A written application should be sent to the Department.

8. Grading scale
The grading scale comprises Fail, (U) and Pass (G).

Regarding the application of ECTS scales, please see Vice-Chancellor’s decision 2007-05-28, dnr G 8 1976/07.

9. Course evaluation
A written course evaluation will be performed after the course. The course evaluation will be compiled by the course leaders and will be made official. The course leaders will analyse and suggest changes in the curriculum if required for the next course.

10. Additional information
The main language will be English. In case of only Swedish speaking participants, both Swedish and English will be used.
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7.5 higher education credits

The list of required reading was confirmed by the Program Committee of Nutrition and Public Health on 2009-12-03.

Course literature

Book
