



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Curriculum Approval

The curriculum was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 29 January 2015. General stipulations for doctoral programmes are provided in the *Higher Education Act* and in the *Higher Education Ordinance*. The doctoral programme is offered to the extent permitted by available funding

1. General Information

Information Systems was introduced as an academic discipline at Karlstad University College

For a degree of **Doctor** research students shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge in and systematic understanding of the field of research, together with deep and up-to-date specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field of research; and
- demonstrate familiarity with research methods in general and with methods in the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

For a degree of **Licentiate** research students shall

- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, independently and creatively and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake a limited research project and other qualified tasks within specified time limits, in order to contribute to the development of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate the ability to clearly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts; and
- demonstrate the skills required to independently participate in research and development work and to work independently in other qualified contexts.

For a degree of **Doctor** research students shall

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as to review and assess, new and complex phenomena, issues and situations independently and critically;
- the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake demonstrate research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work;
- demonstrate through a dissertation their ability to make a significant contribution to the development of knowledge through their own research;
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss research and research results with authority, in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts;
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need of further knowledge; and
- demonstrate the capacity to contribute to the development of society and support the learning of others through research and education, and in other qualified professional capacity.

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Licentiate thesis/doctoral thesis

For a degree of Licentiate the research students shall have received a pass grade for a

User-Oriented Systems Development and Project Management. Systems development models are treated in a historical perspective. The concept user-oriented systems development is introduced and methodological implications are discussed. Project management models and methods are examined. Similarities and dissimilarities in design, structure and content of methods are clarified. Also treated are why, what and how methods support development efforts.

The general courses are mandatory for the licentiate and the doctor's degree, but can be replaced by corresponding courses at other universities, e.g. partner universities in research schools. Specialisation courses for both degrees are chosen in consultation with the examiner. Students who have not taken the course Advances in Information Systems Modelling at Master's level are encouraged to do so at doctoral level (15 ECTS cr). **Specialisation courses can be taken in response to the special knowledge required by the dissertation topic.** The examiner decides if any of the mandatory courses can be replaced by equivalent qualifications acquired at research schools or in conjunction with other subjects and departments.

6.2 Doctoral and Licentiate Theses

Doctoral students are required to write a thesis for a doctoral or a licentiate degree either as a monograph or as a compilation of papers. The dissertation topic is chosen in consultation with the advisor and examiner. Candidates are required to defend their licentiate thesis at a seminar and their doctoral thesis at a public examination. Candidates who have been awarded a licentiate degree may extend the licentiate dissertation into a doctoral one if they are admitted to the doctoral studies programme. The degree thesis can be written in Swedish, Norwegian, Danish or English, German, French. If a language other than English is chosen, there must be a summary in English.

Before the doctoral dissertation is submitted for assessment, the advisor, candidate and examiner should discuss the quality criteria issued by SISA (Swedish Information Systems Academy):

- < Relevance: Well formulated, delimited and founded research questions
- < Well articulated and considered research design
- < Cumulativity: Selected and well described theoretical frame which is used
- < Well described empirical base
- < The validity of knowledge contributions (empirically and theoretically well founded)
- < The transferability of knowledge contributions (abstraction)
- < Innovative value of knowledge contributions
- < Independence of the thesis work
- < Communicability: Clarity, transparency and conceptual acumen
- < Internal congruence: Integrated and consistent argumentation
- < Subject consistency
- < Exemplarity
- < International exposure/appraisal

Further information is provided by the policy documents "Doctoral Dissertation Requirements" and "Licentiate Dissertation Requirements".

6.3 Supervision

Doctoral students are entitled to advisors in accordance with the principles stated in the current policy document at Karlstad University.

6.4 Individual Study Plan

Each doctoral student must draw up an individual study plan in conjunction with the advisors. The plan should include a realistic estimate of time for course work, thesis work and supervision as well as an introduction to the proposed research field, problem, aim, methodological and theoretical frames, and relevant ethical considerations.

The individual study plan is subject to continual revision (at least once a year).

7. Examination

Doctoral students are examined in accordance with the requirements of each individual course syllabus. Doctoral or licentiate dissertations are examined in accordance with the *Higher Education Ordinance* (Ch.6, §§ 40-47) and Karlstad University's current policy document.