**General Study Plan for the Doctoral Program in**

**Analytical Sociology**

Established by the Board of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on 8 June 2017

The study plan applies to the program that leads to a PhD in Analytical Sociology and the program that leads to a Degree of Licentiate in Analytical Sociology.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The purpose of the doctoral program in Analytical Sociology is to broaden and deepen the student’s knowledge in the subject of Analytical Sociology, and to fully prepare the student for independent research, teaching and educational development. The objective of the program is for the student to acquire the ability to independently and critically plan and carry out an advanced research project, as well as to present and disseminate the findings and knowledge nationally and internationally, both within and beyond academia.

**1. Program objectives**
For a PhD, the student shall:

*Knowledge and understanding*

* demonstrate wide-ranging skills and systematic understanding of Analytical Sociology, as well as specialized knowledge within the student’s research project.
* exhibit familiarity with scientific methodology in general, and with the scientific methodology associated with the specific field of research in particular

*Skills and abilities*

* demonstrate the ability to perform scientific analysis and synthesis, as well as the ability to perform independent critical reviews and assessments of new and complex phenomena, questions and situations
* demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and rigorously identify and formulate research questions, as well as to plan and, using adequate methods, conduct research and other advanced projects within predetermined time constraints, along with reviewing and evaluating such efforts
* carry out a thesis project in order to demonstrate the ability to conduct research that makes a substantial contribution to the advancement of knowledge
* demonstrate the ability to authoritatively present and discuss research and findings in oral and written dialogue with the national and international scientific and general communities
* demonstrate the ability to identify needs for additional knowledge, and
* demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and the spread of knowledge, both within research, education and other advanced professional contexts.

*Judgement and approach*

* demonstrate intellectual autonomy and scientific conscientiousness, as well as ability to perform research ethical assessments, and
* demonstrate in-depth insight regarding the potential and limitations of science, its role in society, as well as its responsible use.

For a Degree of Licentiate, the student shall:

*Knowledge and understanding*

* demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Analytical Sociology, including specialized knowledge within the student’s research project, as well as in-depth knowledge of scientific methodology in general, and with the scientific methodology associated with the student’s research project.

*Skills and abilities*

* demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and rigorously identify and formulate research questions, as well as to plan and employ suitable methods of conducting research and other advanced projects within predetermined time constraints in order to contribute to the advance of knowledge, along with evaluating such efforts
* demonstrate the ability to present and discuss research and findings in oral and written dialogue with the national and international scientific and general communities, and
* demonstrate the skills required to independently participate in research and development projects, as in well as other advanced initiatives.

*Judgement and approach*

* demonstrate the ability to perform research and ethical assessments concerning the research that is being conducted
* demonstrate insight regarding the potential and limitations of science, its role in society, as well as its responsible use
* demonstrate the ability to identify personal needs for additional knowledge and assume responsibility for its acquisition

**2. Conditions for admission**

**2.1 Basic regulations**

Admission to the doctoral program requires the applicant to meet both the basic qualifications and the special qualifications as stated below. Furthermore, the applicant must be judged to have the ability to satisfactorily complete the programme.

**2.2 Basic qualifications**

Basic eligibility for admission to the doctoral program requires that the applicant holds a degree from an advanced-level education program; or has fulfilled course requirements of at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits at the advanced level; or that the applicant by some other means within or outside the country has essentially acquired the corresponding knowledge. If there are particular reasons for it, the faculty board may allow exemptions from the “Basic qualifications” requirement for an individual applicant.

**2.3 Special qualifications**

An applicant with 90 credits in an area or discipline of fundamental significance for Analytical Sociology has special qualifications.

An applicant who has graduated with a corresponding older degree, or who has acquired the corresponding knowledge within or outside the country, is also considered to have fulfilled the requirements for special qualification.

**3. Admission**

**3.1 Application**

The application for admission to the doctoral program in Analytical Sociology is to be submitted to the head of the Department of Management and Engineering, Linköping University.

**3.2 Limitations of admissions and selection criteria**

Only as many doctoral students as can be offered appropriate supervision and acceptable study conditions in general, and who have funding for their studies, may be offered admission to the doctoral program. The limitation of admission to the doctoral program applies if the number of qualified applicants exceeds available openings. The basis for selecting among qualified applicants for the doctoral program in Analytical Sociology is the degree of ability to master said education. During selection, the following factors are taken into consideration:

* study results that demonstrate creativity, maturity and the ability to perform independent assessments and critical analysis. Particular importance is awarded to scientific projects, such as thesis work or other scientific production.
* specific knowledge and experience of the applicant, for instance professional activities that may promote the ability to master and benefit from the doctoral program.
* relevant language skills.

The selection is made primarily on the basis of certified material provided by the applicants themselves, for example independent study work, and certificates of professional activities. In addition, other bases for decision such as interviews with the applicant and verification of certified professional work activity could be of significance. During the admissions process, the expertise of the potential supervisors linked to the doctoral program are also taken into consideration.

**3.3 Admissions decisions**

The Department of Management and Engineering makes decisions on admitting students to the doctoral program.

**4. Design of the program**

**4.1. General**

The doctoral programme comprises 240 credits, consisting of a taught course section of 60 credits, and a research thesis section of 180 credits.

The licentiate program comprises 120 credits, consisting of courses of 30 credits and a research thesis of 90 credits. The licentiate degree can either constitute a final objective of the program, or a stage in the doctoral program.

Doctoral students should begin their scientific thesis work during the first year of studies, and hence conduct research alongside coursework.

**4.2. Courses**

The doctoral degree includes 60 credits of course work, consisting of:

* Specified mandatory courses in scientific methodology, including theory of science, research ethics, as well as quantitative and qualitative methods (22.5 credits)
* Specified mandatory courses that aim at providing wide-ranging knowledge of Analytical Sociology (15 credits)
* Individual elective courses that provide the student with in-depth knowledge relevant to the individual student’s research topic (22.5 credits)

The licentiate degree includes 30 credits of course work, consisting of:

* Specified mandatory courses in scientific methodology, including theory of science, research ethics, as well as quantitative or qualitative methods (15 credits)
* Specified mandatory courses that aim at providing wide-ranging knowledge of Analytical Sociology (15 credits)

Most courses are classroom based whereas some are independent reading courses.

Doctoral students who teach are required to complete a course in the pedagogics of higher education. These credits may be counted as part of elective courses.

Modifications in the above schema may be made for individual students, with consideration of the prior knowledge of the student, as well as in relation to the demands for participation in the research environment. The principal supervisor establishes the program of individually tailored courses in consultation with the assisting supervisor and the doctoral student.

Advanced-level courses that are not included in the conditions for special qualifications may, after approval by the principal supervisor, be credited as parts of the required quota of courses.

The doctoral program also includes participation at seminars. The doctoral student is expected to present the thesis project at seminars, and to actively participate at the seminars of other doctoral students as well as at seminars given by invited guests.

**4.3 Detailed information**

Detailed information about the doctoral program is available from the Institute for Analytical Sociology The Department of Management and Engineering

**4.4 Doctoral thesis**

To receive a PhD, the student shall compose an academic thesis, the scope of which corresponds to 180 credits. The thesis shall be based on independent research work and be of significance for research within the chosen field. The thesis shall be designed either as a consistent and coherent scientific work (monograph thesis) or in the form of academic articles and essays that the doctoral student has authored alone or jointly with others, supplemented with a summarizing discussion (compilation thesis). The articles *should preferably* have been published or accepted for publication by renowned scientific journals, and *shall* otherwise at least meet the quality standards for such a publication. In cases of joint authorship, it must be possible to distinguish and review the quantity and quality of the work put in by the individual doctoral student.

The thesis shall be defended at a public defence. The rules of procedure for a defence are stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, in addition to which there are local implementation regulations established by Linköping University and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The manuscript of the thesis is to be discussed at a public seminar well ahead of when the decision is made concerning printing of the thesis and defence date.

**4.5 Licentiate thesis**

To receive a Degree of Licentiate, the student shall compose an academic thesis, the scope of which corresponds to 90 credits. The thesis shall be based on independent research work. The thesis shall be defended at a public seminar. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences decides on the more detailed forms for the submission and presentation of the scientific thesis.

**5. Program structure**

**5.1 Individual study plan**

All doctoral students are to have an individual study plan. The study plan shall contain a timetable for the entire period of doctoral studies, information regarding the organisation of supervision, a description of the student’s other commitments, as well as other criteria for assuring that the program is pursued in an efficient manner. The Department of Management and Engineering establishes the individual study plan, as delegated by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, in consultation with the doctoral student and all supervisors. The individual study plan is to be followed up at least once a year, including a written assurance from the student and supervisors that they have reviewed and approved of its contents.

**5.2 Learning**

Learning is provided primarily through lectures, seminars and supervision. The doctoral student shall contribute to scholarly activities by means of active participation in seminars, guest lectures, etc. The doctoral student may be given the opportunity to participate in courses and examinations at other departments or institutions of learning. It is essential that the research environment offer doctoral students opportunities to take part in courses and international conferences.

**5.3 Supervision**

Doctoral students are entitled to supervision corresponding to four years of full-time studies for a PhD and two years for a Degree of Licentiate. The choice of thesis topic takes place in consultation between the doctoral student and all supervisors.

The supervisors in the doctoral program are its professors, docents and specially appointed instructors. They assume a collective responsibility for supervision. Each doctoral student shall have two or more supervisors. One of them is to be the principal supervisor. The choice of supervisors takes place after consultation with the doctoral student. The principal supervisor shall meet qualifications for a docent, be employed by Linköping University and have undergone training in research supervision. The assisting supervisor must have a PhD or corresponding scientific competency. A doctoral student who so wishes is entitled to change supervisors.

The Vice-Chancellor has adopted guidelines for reviewing the right to supervision and other resources for doctoral students.

**6. Examination**

Knowledge is audited primarily through oral or written examination, and shall ensure that the objectives for the degree have been met. Exams or tests are evaluated with a mark of either ‘pass’ or ‘fail’. The principal supervisor is examiner for those courses for which no particular examiner has been appointed. The principal supervisor also documents the completion of the modules of the doctoral program that are not associated with course work or with the thesis.

An examining committee evaluates the doctoral thesis in accordance to the provisions of the Higher Education Ordinance, in addition to which there are local implementation regulations established by Linköping University and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. In issuing a grade, both the level of independence, the contents of the thesis and its defence are taken into consideration. The thesis is to be evaluated with a mark of either ‘pass’ or ‘fail’.

The Faculty of Arts and Science decide on the more detailed procedures for submission of a licentiate thesis. The thesis is to be evaluated with a mark of either ‘pass’ or ‘fail’.

1. SFS 2006:1053 and the Linköping Rules and Regulations are in force as the superordinate documents to this general study plan [↑](#footnote-ref-1)