

Appendix to the grade list

The most significant characteristic of the bachelor program Health Sciences, Health Policy & Management is the structure of thematic blocks with

- a module Kennis (Knowledge), in which the disciplines of health sciences are taught,
- a module Academische Vorming & Vaardigheden (Academic Development & Skills), which includes research methodology and academic writing, among others
- an integration project where the students combine knowledge and research skills to explore the theme in-depth.

Moreover, a personal & professional development program was added to the curriculum. The elective track of 25 EC can be filled with minors & electives (also outside the health sciences domain), exchange, or an internship abroad. The final exam is an internship (research) project (20 EC).

Since the names of the courses on the grade list are not self-explanatory, we provide a short description of the content of the components of the curriculum.

Block “De Nederlandse Gezondheidszorg (Healthcare in The Netherlands)” examines the Dutch healthcare system and compares it to those of other countries. This block combines an introduction to the scientific disciplines health policy & administration, health law, and health economics with a historic overview of healthcare system development, addressing current policy issues and challenges. Academic Development & Skills in this block focuses on information skills and an introduction to scientific research. In their integration project, students investigate the challenges within a subdomain of the healthcare system.

Block “Ziekte en Gezondheid (Health & Illness)” introduces students to different perspectives on health and illness (and the grey area in between). It combines the scientific disciplines socio-medical sciences (specifically, health psychology, medical sociology, epidemiology), health law, and philosophy of science. Academic Development & Skills in this block focuses on an introduction into qualitative research and academic writing. In their integration project, students write a research report based on a small interview study with persons with a contested illness.

Block “Management van Zorgorganisaties” (Management of Care Organizations) deals with the challenges managing a healthcare organization. It combines organizational theory with the functional management disciplines Operations Management, Management Accounting & Control, and Information Management. Academic Development & Skills in this block focuses on an introduction into quantitative, univariate analysis using Excel. In their integration projects, students develop a management advice using the concepts and methods from the course.

The Block “Kwaliteit van Zorg (Quality of Care)” focusses on assuring, measuring, monitoring and improving quality of care at a healthcare system, organizational and individual patient level. This block has a multi-disciplinary approach and students evaluate quality of care from an economic, organizational, social-medical, health policy and judicial perspective. Academic Development & Skills in this block focus on research designs, bivariate statistical analysis, document analysis, and academic writing. In their integration project, students write a policy advice on a current topic in Dutch healthcare.

Block “Technologie en Innovatie (Technology and Innovation)” examines the development of technology in healthcare: the promises, pitfalls and challenges to demonstrate the value of technology and implement these innovations in practice. It combines health technology assessment, implementation & change management, and philosophy of technology. Academic Development &

Skills in this block introduces Design Thinking. In their integration project, students develop a prototype technological solution for their client, a care organization in the region.

Block "Marktordening in de Zorg (Market Regulation in Health Care)" deals with the question how to improve the functioning of the Dutch health care system. More specifically, how to optimally balance competition and government intervention. It combines theoretical insights from three disciplines: microeconomics, business economics and law. Academic Development & Skills in this block focuses on multivariate statistics (Analysis of variance, linear regression, logistic regression). In their integration project, students are asked to develop a new health insurance product for a specific target group, taking into account the rules and regulations of the Dutch health care system.

Block "Zorgen voor Later (Care for Later)" deals with the challenge of the aging population. It combines sociomedical, economic and organizational theory, looking into ageing as an individual transition, a policy issue and a challenge for integrated care. Academic Development & Skills in this block focuses on quantitative research designs and application of SPSS. In their integration project, students execute a quantitative study with a large dataset.

Block "Zorg en Welzijn (Care & Welfare)" deals with the decentralization of the social care system in The Netherlands, and the challenges that brings for municipalities and organizations that provide youth care and mental care. It combines theories from health policy, health law, sociomedical sciences and organizational science. Academic Development & Skills in this block advances on qualitative research methods. In their integration project, students execute a qualitative study, using interviews and document analysis.

Block "Choices and Dilemmas" / "Keuzes en Dilemma's" introduces an ethical perspective to the challenges in healthcare that are faced by policy makers and managers, such as high cost of medication, end-of-life decisions, and dealing with a pandemic. Academic Development & Skills in this block focuses on debating skills and academic writing. Students conclude this block with an essay on a moral topic of interest.

In the thesis project, which is a 5-month internship, students execute an assignment for a care organization, consultancy firm, health insurer, governmental organization, or research institute. The assignment requires them to apply their research skills and demonstrate their ability to communicate their findings in a written product. In addition, they write a report reflecting on their personal development. Students present and discuss their work in a concluding session.

The table below indicates the amount of EC for the different scientific disciplines and research methodologies within the bachelor Health Sciences, Health Policy & Management. This excludes the electives and internship project.

Discipline	EC
Law	13
Policy & governance	12
Economics	18.5
Socio-medical sciences	11
Philosophy & ethics	10.5
Management & organization science	18.5
Research methods	36
<i>General research methodology</i>	3
<i>Quantitative analysis</i>	15.5
<i>Qualitative analysis</i>	14
<i>Design Thinking</i>	3.5
Information & Communication skills*	12.5
Professional development	3

* information skills, academic writing, presenting, debating