

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The learning outcomes of the core competence modules describe the required competence that the student must achieve in order to complete the degree. The degree requirements include language studies, which are to be completed, according to instructions, as part of the core competence studies. Finnish Students are also required to demonstrate their proficiency in both national languages (Finnish and Swedish) and in English, as part of the core competence of the degree. In addition, Finnish students must obtain the proficiency in the second national language (Swedish or Finnish) required of personnel in the service of public bodies. Apart from the core competence modules, students complete complementary studies to reach the required scope of the degree.

Degree requirements regarding core competence

The scope of core competence is 150 credits. The following learning outcomes have been specified for core competence in each module:

1) Working with Clients in Social Services (30 cr):

The module develops interaction skills needed to support the customer in various life situations.

After completing the module, students are able to reflect on their own activities and interactive skills in relation to working with customers. The students are able to analyse the needs of customers in different life situations, of different ages and from varying cultural backgrounds. They have mastered the basic assumptions of guidance and work aiming to prevent exclusion. The students are capable of creating professional and dialogical interactive and cooperative relationships and have the capacity to support and guide customers and groups of customers. The students are able to communicate orally and in writing, and communicate in English in professional contexts. They are able to improve their language skills.

2) Service Systems, Inclusion and Developing a Better Society (30 cr):

In this module, the students develop their capabilities in examining and analysing social and structural factors affecting work and service needs in social services. They also develop their skills in applying the methods of influencing society.

After completing the module, the students are able to analyse service systems supporting welfare and social security and are familiar with the relevant legislation. They recognize global and social trends and needs for change. They have the capacity to participate in the work to influence society in cooperation with customers and other actors. The students are capable of identifying elements that contribute to social exclusion and poverty in society. The students are able to communicate orally and in writing, and communicate in the other national language in professional contexts. Students also achieve the level of competence in the other national language required from public servants. They are able to improve their language skills.

3) Approaches and Methods of Work in Social Services (30 cr):

In this module, the students develop capabilities to apply the theoretical and methodological work approaches in social services in various customer processes.

After completing the module, the students know how to apply and assess different theoretical work orientations, methodological traditions and methods of working with customers. They are able to assess the service needs of different customers and have the capacity to support the inclusion of different customers and the adoption and strengthening of resources. Students are able to act as specialists in social services in multiprofessional working groups and networks and enhance the functioning of the customers' safety networks.

4) Developing Client-oriented Social Services (30 cr):

The module develops the student's ability to create and maintain a social service business. He or she is able to develop a service business cost-effectively and in line with ethical principles. The student is able to assess the importance of individual services provided to clients and work with clients. The student is able to develop his or her entrepreneurial capabilities and act in a client-oriented and entrepreneurial manner. He or she is able to act responsibly as a member of a team or as a manager.

5) Expert in Development and Work Place Innovation (30 cr):

The objective of the module is to develop the students' abilities to study individually and in teams, to prepare to carry out research and development work, and to support career development and the creation of a work identity.

At the beginning of their studies students acquire familiarity with the tools required in higher education and the operating methods of development-based learning. After completing the module, students are able to work responsibly both independently and as team members. They are able to assess and develop themselves as learners and are capable of identifying development targets in the workplace.

Students are able to plan, implement and evaluate a project in cooperation with different networks in the workplace. They are able to employ appropriate research methods and the methods of development activities and project work. Students are able to identify creative and innovative solutions for the challenges of workplace development.

Students are able to report the results of their development work using a style of writing characteristic of research. Students are able to plan their studies, development and career with an eye on the development prospects of their own field.

Degree requirements regarding complementary competence

The rest of the degree (60 cr) consists of complementary competence studies. Degree certificate in Social Services is granted only if the student has completed at least 30 credits complementary competence studies related to Social Services.

At Laurea we encourage everyone to take part in voluntary work during their studies. The objective is that everyone develops their professional competences during their studies by participating in voluntary work in a role they choose themselves. You can fit voluntary work into any stage of your studies and gain credits.