



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Pedagogy

4PE81U Skoljuridik och myndighetsutövning, 10 högskolepoäng

School Law and the Exercise of Public Authority, 10 credits

Main field of study

Education

Subject

Educational Sciences/General Didactics

Level

Second cycle

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2024-01-22.

Revised 2025-01-30. Change of organisational affiliation to the Department of Pedagogy, and revision of the course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2025.

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements: Degree of Master of Arts in Primary School, Degree of Master of Arts/Science in Secondary Education/Upper Secondary Education, Higher Education Diploma in Vocational Education, Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Pre-school Education, or equivalent older degree.

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- describe the legal conditions for the school and preschool practice in the form of international agreements, the Education Act, applicable ordinances and other policy documents significant to the educational system,
- based on their mandate as a principal, identify, analyse, assess and solve legal issues, for instance in order to be able to make well-considered and legally well-founded decisions on issues that involve the exercise of official authority,
- clarify the core values that the education act is founded on, based on ethical perspectives at the level of society,
- identify and describe how these values are reflected in other laws and regulations at the programmatic level, as well as be able to draw conclusions about the practical consequences at the level of accountable authority and school unit,
- assess possible lines of action and alternative decisions, as well as argue for these by the use of laws, ordinances and other sources of law,
- describe how their own school unit can be structured for the children/pupils in a way that is in compliance with the rule of law, so that human resource support and allocation meet the statutory requirements on providing the requisite support to all children and pupils,
- distinguish and describe the mandate of the principal and the role as manager and educational leader in relation to the education act and curriculum, as well as any consequences of the mandate and role to the principal's responsibilities and room for action,
- identify perspectives of labour law relevant to the principal's responsibility as a manager, and argue for how decisions concerning personnel may be handled based on the current legislation.

Content

The course School Law and the Exercise of Public Authority provides an introduction to the field of jurisprudence, with a special focus on the statutes and value system of the educational system as well as its organisation and application. The emphasis is placed on the principal's assignment and mandate as a manager and educational leader, based on legal, educational as well as ethical perspectives. The course discusses the legal conditions of school, in the form these are stipulated in the laws, ordinances and policy documents that govern the educational system as well as their application in the principal's administrative responsibility.

Special emphasis is placed on the school mission, focusing on an equal and legally secure education for all children and pupils. In addition to the regulations in force regarding the school practice and pupils' rights, the principles according to constitutional and administrative law significant to the school practice are also discussed, such as public access and secrecy as well as perspectives of labour law that concern the principal's role as manager of the school personnel .

On the basis of the course content, issues and areas for improvement that are looked into on a collegial basis are identified. Limited interventions in the form of improvement activities in their own organisations are also implemented, documented and shared.

Issues in relation to civil law frequently occurring in school are also addressed, such as the obligation of the school and pupils in terms of the law of damages. Issues concerning what working in a politically governed organisation entails as well as managing the organisation concerning the governance between central government and

organiser of the school are also discussed on the basis of the legal perspective.

Type of Instruction

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures, active compulsory seminars, and professional supervision in groups as well as individually in relation to improvement activities in their own organisations.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U) or Pass (G).

Examination of the course takes place by means of four written assignments and three oral presentations.

In order to receive a grade of Pass, the course objectives must be attained.

A retake of the examination is provided in accordance with the Local Regulations for First-cycle and Second-cycle Courses and Examination at Linnaeus University.

Should the university determine that a student is entitled to special educational support due to disability, the examiner may provide the student with an adapted or alternative examination.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course.

Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course:
4UV81U School Law and Exercise of Public Authority, 10 credits.

Other Information

The National School Leadership Training Programme is a contract education/professional training and development for principals and other personnel with corresponding managerial function in school, preschool, extended school.

The head of school at the workplace where the applicant is employed is responsible for submitting the request to Skolverket regarding the individuals that wish to study the programme. For admission to the course, the applicant must have employment in accordance with the above-mentioned description.

Should it not be possible to accept all applicants to the study programme at the wanted time, the head of school shall ensure that principals are primarily offered a place, and newly employed principals are to be prioritized. The admission regulations, the overall purpose and aim of the professional development/study programme are regulated in the ordinance (2011:183) on professional training and continuing professional development for principals and other personnel with corresponding managerial function in school, preschool and extended school.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Boström, Viola & Lundmark, Kjell (eds.) (latest edition). *Skoljuridik*. Stockholm:

Liber. (246 pages).

Englund, Tomas (latest edition). *Utbildning som medborgerlig rättighet. Föräldrarätt eller barns rätt eller ...?* Göteborg: Daidalos. (154 pages).

Fisher, David (latest edition). *Mänskliga rättigheter – En introduktion*. Stockholm: Norstedts Juridik. (102 pages).

Nilsson Rådeström, Nina & Sidenhag, Lina (latest edition). *Juridisk metod i skolan – en handbok för rektorer*. Stockholm: Liber. (106 pages).

Rapp, Stephan, Linda Löfgren, Skoglund, Peter & Katarina Ståhlkrantz. (2025). *Konflikter och kriser i rektors vardag. Juridik, profession, pedagogik*. Gleerups.

Rapp, Stephan & Skoglund, Peter. (latest edition). Rektorsprofessionen i ett rättsperspektiv. (12 pages). In Ahlström, Björn, Berg, Gunnar, Håkansson Lindqvist, Marcia & Sundh, Frank (eds.) (2021). *Att jobba som rektor – om rektorer som professionella yrkesutövare*. Studentlitteratur.

Rapp, Stephan (latest edition). Huvudmannens roll och utmaningar enligt lag och förordning. In Johansson, Olof. & Svedberg, Lars. (eds.) (2020). *Att leda mot skolans mål*. Third edition Malmö: Gleerup utbildning AB. (14 pages).

Sverker Scheutz (ed.) (latest edition). *Rättssäker utbildning*. Uppsala: Institutet för utbildningsrätt. (52 pages).

Söderlöf, Göran (latest edition). *Arbetsrätt för skolledare och pedagoger*. Stockholm: Nordstedts Juridik. (200 pages).

Von Essen, Ulrik (latest edition). *Arbete i offentlig förvaltning*. Stockholm: Norstedts Juridik, (222 pages).