COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 34459
Name: Legal medicine and public health
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 4.5
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1204 - Degree in Medicine	Facultat de Medicina i Odontologia	5	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1204 - Degree in Medicine	Social medicine and communication skills	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

ORTEGA AZORIN CAROLINA

GUILLEN DOMINGUEZ MARIA LUISA

SUMMARY

Legal Medicine

The Legal Medicine is the conjoint of medical and biological knowledge necessary for the problem solving that the Law raises, both in the law practical application and in its improvement and evolution. It deals with the study of the medical-juridical problems that are related with the person and corpse and includes questions about the medical legislation and professional responsibility.

Public Health

Public health is the science that ensures health in the population as a whole, understanding health as a fundamental right of all people and taking into account the wide range of causes of health problems. Public health advocates the development of policies, policies, and interventions that favour healthy social and physical environments.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1204 - Degree in Medicine

Acknowledge diversity and multiculturality.

Assume the role to play in preventive measures and protection against diseases, injuries or accidents, and the maintenance and promotion of health, both individually and in communities

Capacity for communicating with professional circles from other domains.

Consideration of ethics as a fundamental value in the professional practise.

Criticism and self-criticism skills.

Develop ones professional practise with respect towards the autonomy of patients, their beliefs and culture.

Is able to compile medical and legal documents.

Is able to design and elaborate simple statistic studies by using computer programming and interprets the results.

Is aware of the necessity to maintain ones professional skills.

Key knowledge of the national health care system and of health legislation.

Know of the national and international health organisations, and the environment and determining factors in several health systems.

Knows how to evaluate healthcare quality and the patients safety strategies. Is aware of the importance of vaccines.

Knows how to evaluate risk factors and disease prevention. Recognises health determinants in population. Health indicators.

Knows of the aspects of communication with patients, their relatives and their social environment: clinical relationship models, interview, verbal and non-verbal communication and interferences. Delivering bad news.

Knows of the social and legal implications of death. Recognises the normal evolution of a corpse. Knows the basis of a post-mortem diagnose and the foundations of medical criminology.

Knows the legal foundations of the medical practise and profession. Informed consent. Confidentiality.

Knows the planning systems of health programmes, as well as programming and evaluation ones.

Knows the principles and applies methods of preventive medicine and public health.

Knows the strategies which exist in health and environment, food safety and occupational health care

Proper organisation and planning of the workload and timing in professional activities.

Recognise health determinants in population, such as genetic ones, dependent on sex, lifestyle, demographic, environmental, social, economic, psychological and cultural.

Recognises, diagnoses and guides the management of physical and mental damage.

Recognise the essential elements of the medical profession, including ethical principles, legal responsibilities and the professional practise focused on the patient.

Recognise the role to play in multi-professional teams, assuming leadership when appropriate, both for the provision of health care and the interventions for medical promotion.

Team-working skills and engaging with other people in the same line of work or different.

Understands the course of action in prevention and protection against diseases, injuries and accidents.

Understand the importance of such principles for the best interests of the patient, society and the profession, with special attention to professional privacy.

Working capacity to function in an international context.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Theory

PUBLIC HEALTH MODULE
1. Concepts and strategies in Public Health.
2. Profiles and determinants of health in the population. Global burden of disease.
3. Health promotion. Actions for health. Social prescription.
4. Public Health Services. Public Health from the assistance consultation.
5. National Health System. National and international public health organizations. Planning and evaluation of health programs. Health economics.

FORENSIC MEDICINE MODULE
1.Legal and forensic medicine. Concept and contents.
2. Forensic medicine in the professional practice.
3. Forensic Thanatology
4. Forensic Pathology.
5. Forensic Psychiatry.

6. Forensic Sexology.
7.Professional Responsibility in the Clinical and Research Practice.
8.Medical-legal documents: Medical Certificate of Death, Injury Report, Expert Reports, etc.
9. Legal Medicine of labor activity.
10. Simulation of illness.

2. Practical training

PUBLIC HEALTH MODULE
1. Global Health: Basic concepts. Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change. Internal contamination. Antimicrobial resistance (1h).
2. Seminar on Occupational Health and Global Health: Occupational Health: Working conditions, employment, and health. Organization of occupational health protection in Spain. Occupational diseases (1h).
3. Seminar on Vaccines (I): Basic concepts. Vaccination schedules in Spain. Conflicts and challenges (1h).
4. Seminar on Vaccines (I): Basic concepts. Vaccination schedules in Spain. Conflicts and challenges (1h).
5. Seminar on Population Screening Programs. Early cancer diagnosis (1h).
6. Seminar on Community Health Programs (1h).
7. Computer Practice (2 hours). Research study on lifestyle and clinical aspects through the analysis of population data (I).
8. Computer Practice (2 hours). Research study on lifestyle and clinical aspects through the analysis of population data (II).
9. Laboratory Practice (2 hours). Correctly choosing and applying the appropriate disinfectant. Evaluate sterilization controls and methods.

LEGAL MEDICINE MODULE

INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC AND LEGAL MEDICINE
Legal Autopsy.
Rol of the Forensic Doctor in Court Trials.
Forensic Medical Clinic.
Taking of samples in crimes of sexual assault.
Actions in the forensic field in sudden deaths.
Medico-legal certificates- Medical Certificate of Death.
Alcoholemia: Sampling, determination and quantification. Legal implications.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	19,00
Seminar	11,00
Legal medicine practices	20,00
Laboratory	2,00
Computer classroom practice	4,00

Total hours	**56,00**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	5,00
Independent study and work	28,50
Preparation of lessons	10,00
Preparation for assessment activities	8,00
Resolution of case studies	5,00
Total hours	**56,50**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Module Public Health

The **theoretical contents** will be taught in the teaching classroom through lectures in which attempts will be made to encourage the active participation of students, in total 5 theoretical sessions. The **practical contents** are taught as **Seminars** (six sessions of 1h), **Computer Practical Sessions** (two sessions of 2h) and **Laboratory Practical Sessions** (one session of 2h), a total of 9 practical sessions. **ALL PRACTICAL SESSIONS ARE MANDATORY ATTENDANCE**. In the practical sessions, participatory methodologies will be used, including problem analysis and solving, group work and presentation and joint discussion of the exercises.

Legal Medicine Module

The theoretical contents are taught as a regulated relational and participative master class (15 sessions). The theoretical contents include 5 sessions where topics related to professional responsibility (in clinical and research practice), medico-legal documents and assistance in sexual assault crimes will be discussed and presented.The practical contents are developed at the Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences of Valencia, in four main areas: forensic toxicology laboratories, general and psychiatric clinical forensic medicine, assistance to expert evidence in court and forensic medical autopsy. **ALL PRACTICAL SESSIONS ARE COMPULSORY.**

The gender perspective, respect for diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be incorporated into teaching, whenever possible and in both modules

EVALUATION

In the final score, theory and practice will have an equivalent weight of 50% respectively (50% evaluation of the theoretical contents and 50% evaluation of the practical contents). In the evaluation of the whole subject, 67% will correspond to the results obtained in the evaluation of Module Legal Medicine and 33% to those corresponding to Module Public Health, in both cases evaluating theoretical and practical contents by 50%.

In order to pass the course, a score equal to or greater than five in each of both modules must be obtained.

In no case will the score obtained in any of the exercises corresponding to the subject will be saved for courses other than the current one, although it will be is saved in the two calls of the current academic year.

All the exams will be carried out within the periods established in the academic calendar, except for exceptions expressly authorized officially by the Dean. All the practical sessions will take place on the dates officially scheduled by the Dean.

Attendance to practical sessions is mandatory. Attendance at practical activities (seminars, laboratory and computer work), in all two modules of the course, is compulsory. It is considered that the student complies with this requirement if he/she has attended at least 80% of these activities and has adequately justified the impossibility of attending the remaining sessions.

It is a requirement for advanced examination of this subject that the student has completed all practical sessions.

In order to pass the topic, it is compulsory to have met the previously described requirements regarding practical sessions attendance.

Students are reminded of the importance of carrying out the teachers evaluation surveys for all the degree subjects.

Some considerations about the test corresponding to the Forensic Medicine Module

The exam corresponding to the Legal Medicine Module of the subject of Legal Medicine and Public Health will be 10 questions that will encompass theoretical and practical concepts of the subject and that have been treated in any of the sessions developed in the Faculty of Medicine and/or in the Institute of Legal Medicine. Each correct question will be evaluated with a grade of up to 1 point.

The exam will be passed with a score that must be higher than 5. Scoring zero in four of the questions means the failure in the exam.

Some considerations about Module Public Health examination

The exam corresponding to the Public Health Module of the Legal Medicine and Public Health subject will be through closed multiple choice questions (test type), including 50 questions with 5 answers each and a single valid answer in each case.

Qualification criteria: 0.2 points per correct question; 0.05 points will be subtracted for each question wrongly answered. Blank answers do not subtract.

25 questions will correspond to the theory topics and 25 questions to the practices, and will be assessed

together to pass the subject.

REFERENCES

BASIC
-Manual de medicina legal y forense para estudiantes de Medicina (1ª edición) Editado por José Antonio Menéndez de Lucas, Manuel Ruiz Cervigón, Luis Segura Abad y Maite Elegido Fluiters. Barcelona, Elsevier-Masson, 2014.
- Sierra López A, Saénz González MC, Fernández-Créhuet Navajas et al. (dirs.). Piedrola Gil. Medicina Preventiva y Salud pública. 12ª ed Barcelona: Elsevier-Masson, 2016.
- Hernández-Aguado I, Lumbreras Lacarra B, eds. Manual de Epidemiología y Salud Pública para Grados en Ciencias de la Salud. Madrid: Editorial Médica Panamericana; 2018.
-Martínez González MA. Conceptos de salud pública y estrategias preventivas. 3ª ed. Barcelona: Elsevier. 2023.

RECURSOS e-Salut
- ClinicalKey Student Medicina, Odontologia y Enfermería
[https://uv-es.libguides.com/RecursosSalut]
- Acces Medicina [https://uv-es.libguides.com/Access_Medicina]
- Médica Panamericana [https://uv-es.libguides.com/Medica_Panamericana]

COMPLEMENTARY
- Verdú Pascual, F. ¿Qué dice el forense? 3ª edición. Granada, Comares. 2014.Revistas de medicina legal y forense (disponible en http://www.uv.es/fevepa/revi.html, acceso el 22.06.25).
- PubMed médico forense (disponible en http://www.uv.es/fevepa/medlihtml, acceso el 22.06.25)
- Sitio web de la Sociedad Española de Salud Pública y Administración Sanitaria (SESPAS). Disponible en: https://sespas.es/