Curriculum at Aalto

Developing a competency-based curriculum

Leikola

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Content

Curriculum design:

- **Programme development**

- **Course development**

Tools & process

Basics

- **Aalto operates in a 2-year curriculum cycle**
  - first cycle Aug 1, 2018 - Jul 31, 2020
  - Preparation for Aug 1, 2020 - Jul 31, 2022 ongoing
- **No changes to degree requirements during the period**
- **Possibility to add free elective courses**
- **Possibility to develop existing courses**
- **Curricula made programme-wise**

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Aalto level guidance

- **Joint process for the curriculum planning**
  - Field and programme specific twists
- **Keys**
  - Development based on evidence and feedback
  - Strategic planning
  - Pedagogical support for the work
- **Actors**
  - Vice president and vice deans for learning and education
  - Heads of programmes/majors

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Curriculum design - programmes

Joint planning

Key teachers & head of programme through workshops, discussions etc:

- **Learning outcomes for programme**
  - Knowledge, skills, attitudes etc. the graduates should have -> more abstract, rarely measurable
- **Content of the programme**
  - Knowledge & skills growth
- **Schedule**
  - Periods, prerequisites

Output: Learning outcomes & degree structure

- **Learning outcomes of the degree**

- **List of study modules / degree wholes & responsible persons**
  - Majors
  - Other modules (e.g. basic studies)

- **Learning outcomes of the study module/degree whole**

- **Content of the study module / degree whole**

Curriculum design - courses

Joint planning

Teachers of the same major/programme and/or same period & head of major/other degree whole

- **Learning outcomes for courses**
  - Aligned with the degree level ones -> more specific & measurable
  - To what level in each learning outcome, skill, knowhow or competence is my course supposed to bring the students?
- **Details of the courses**
  - Content, materials, methods, assessment
- **Schedule**
  - Weekly structures and dead lines with courses in same period

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Output: Course descriptions & schedules

- **Course description for each course**

- **Schedules & lecture hall booking**

Process

Summer-autumn 2019

- **Aalto & School level guidelines and instructions**

Autumn 2019-winter 2020

- **Joint planning in the programmes**
- **Joint planning of the courses**

Spring 2020

- **Decision making & publishing**

Tools

Aalto.fi

https://www.aalto.fi/en/services/curriculum-design-at-aalto-university-strategy-and-policies

Curriculum planner

- **A service to gather course level data of teaching**
    - Course descriptions
    - Schedules
    - Sustainable development goals

LES & head of the programme

- **Programme coordinator / planning officer helps and supports your work**

- **Head of programme guides and leads the work**