

Strategy Plan

Institute of Health and Society 2012-2020

Profile

The Institute of Health and Society is one of three institutes at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Oslo. The institute covers various disciplines and consists of six departments: General Practice, Health Sciences, Health Management and Health Economics, Medical Ethics, Community Medicine, and Nursing Science. The academic activities at the institute are primarily anchored in the departments, each led by a department head. The Institute of Health and Society's work is based on a complex understanding of disease, health, and healthcare systems. Culture, environment, economy, society, and biology all have direct and indirect influences. This complexity is reflected in the research, teaching, and dissemination at the institute.

Main ambition (vision):

The Institute of Health and Society aims to be a visible and pioneering academic community conducting research and education at a high international level, having an impact on health and society, locally and globally.

Mission:

Through research, teaching, and dissemination, the Institute of Health and Society aims to promote:

- Development of knowledge, competence, and quality in health sciences, community medicine, general practice, primary healthcare, specialized healthcare, and health administration, locally and globally.
- Knowledge about health conditions, health perceptions, and practices among patients and population groups, locally and globally.
- Understanding of factors that promote good health, and raising awareness of the connections between societal factors and health, locally and globally.
- Knowledge of historical, cultural, normative, and social aspects of health and disease.
- Theory, method, and practice development that contribute to safe and compassionate healthcare for patients and their families.
- Knowledge of the necessity of access to equitable and coordinated high-quality health services based on the needs of patients and users.
- Knowledge to ensure that healthcare resources are utilized effectively and distributed in a way that ensures equal access to services.
- Awareness of ethical issues in healthcare and research, and handling ethical challenges in a good manner.
- Conceptual understanding, analytical skills, and the ability for professional and ethical reflection among healthcare personnel and researchers.
- An educational environment that is formative and engaging for all students, nationally and globally.

Academic Premises:

- Good health and access to healthcare are fundamental human rights.
- Health and disease are influenced by biological, social, cultural, and political factors.
- Poverty and social inequalities influence health and healthcare systems, locally and globally.
- Certain groups are particularly vulnerable and should receive special attention in research, teaching, and dissemination.
- Prevention, treatment, and care involve processes of moral and ethical significance.
- Research, teaching, and dissemination must be of high quality.

Values:

The activities at the Institute of Health and Society shall be characterized by:

- **Social responsibility:** We will focus on important health challenges.
- **Diversity:** We will show respect, tolerance, and openness to professional, human, and cultural differences, and seek to address questions from different perspectives.
- **Quality:** We will work to ensure that all aspects of our work meet high standards.
- **Creativity:** We will ensure academic freedom and create a workshop for new ideas, characterized by curiosity, openness, honesty, and innovative working methods.
- **Enthusiasm:** We will create enthusiasm through positive engagement and by showing interest in each other.
- **Collaboration:** We will improve each other through interdisciplinary cooperation, where we strengthen each other's strong points and provide constructive criticism.
- **Critical attitude:** We will challenge prevailing perceptions and contribute to critical reflection and self-development.

Goals:

Institute of Health and Society bases its work on the overarching goals outline by the overall goals set by the University of Oslo's "Strategy 2020" which also creates the foundation of the strategy of the Faculty of Medicine:

1. The University of Oslo shall promote ground-breaking research, education, and dissemination and be a sought-after international collaborator.
2. The University of Oslo shall offer research-based education on par with the leading international institutions.
3. The University of Oslo shall, through active dialogue and cooperation, contribute to the application of research-based knowledge to meet the major societal challenges of the 21st century.
4. The University of Oslo shall proactively manage its resources to support its core activities.
5. The University of Oslo shall provide a conducive environment for students and staff to realize their potential through a good working and learning environment.

Strategies

The Institute of Health and Society aims to promote the University of Oslo as

A ground-breaking university by:

1. Strengthening research and education on health, disease, healthcare, and society, locally and globally.
2. Fostering interdisciplinary research and education within the institute, as well as towards the faculty and the university.
3. Promoting international collaboration and partnerships in research and education.
4. Enhancing the international profile of research and education at the institute.

A learning institution by:

5. Sustaining and strengthening the doctoral education at the institute.
6. Sustaining and strengthening education on primary healthcare and general medicine in undergraduate, postgraduate, and continuing education.
7. Maintaining and enhancing teaching on ethics and social medicine in professional studies.
8. Maintaining and strengthening quality research-oriented master's programs.
9. Strengthening quality bachelor's and experience-based master's programs, including considering the need for new programs.
10. Promoting safe and enriching learning environments that stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration, critical reflection, independence, and personal growth.
11. Actively working on pedagogical development, including integrating future-oriented teaching and learning methods in education.

A socially engaged university by:

12. Working towards the application of research-based knowledge by healthcare services and administration.
13. Encouraging research, education, and development work related to healthcare reforms.
14. Encouraging active dissemination of the institute's research.
15. Stimulating critical and independent perspectives within the institute's various fields.
16. Recognizing participation in relevant boards, councils, and committees.

A proactive university by:

17. Working towards co-location of the institute.
18. Advocating for good infrastructure for research, education, dissemination, and innovation.
19. Ensuring the quality of our work through continuous evaluations and follow-up.
20. Implementing targeted recruitment for vacant academic positions.
21. Utilizing the institute's collective expertise to strengthen research communities and individual researchers.
22. Identifying and enhancing priority areas for research.
23. Strengthening and further developing departments to fulfil the institute's mission.
24. Reinforcing and developing an efficient and professional administration.

A good university by:

25. Ensuring effective leadership through a deliberate focus on leadership and competence development at all levels.

26. Working towards a good working and studying environment rooted in mutual respect, cultural diversity, and participation.