

Faculty of Medicine in Rijeka

**Curriculum
2025/2026**

For course

Physical Activity and Healthy Ageing

Study program: **Medical Studies in English (R)** (elective)
University integrated undergraduate and graduate study
Department: **Department of Social Medicine and Epidemiology**
Course coordinator: **izv. prof. dr. sc. Bilajac Lovorka, dipl. sanit. ing.**

Year of study: **1**
ECTS: **1.5**
Incentive ECTS: **0 (0.00%)**
Foreign language: **No**

Course information:

The goal of the subject *Physical activity and healthy aging* is to encourage students to think about the importance of practicing physical activity as part of health promotion in the elderly. Aging is a normal physiological process of any living organism, and physical activity has a positive effect on disease prevention, health maintenance, and higher quality of life. According to research and demographic data, aging of the population is present in all developed countries, which consequently leads to an increase in the health needs of the population. Furthermore, the objective of the course is to uphold the theoretical and practical application of knowledge and research methods as well as measuring the effectiveness of physical activity focused on healthy aging.

Course content :

The course will present the physical activity as an important factor of healthy ageing. Course content includes physical activity as one of the segments of health promotion, especially in the elderly, the specific needs of an aging population, a personalized approach and classification of measuring the effectiveness of physical activity on quality of life of elderly people. During the course, students will critically evaluate the results obtained and link them with the way of life.

Expected learning outcomes:

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Describe the specific needs of elderly
- Explain the importance of disease prevention and health promotion in the elderly
- Distinguish the type of physical activity for each age
- Propose measures for checking and monitoring the effectiveness of exercise
- Prepare exercises suited to the age and the individual person (personalized approach) and devise a way of monitoring the impact
- Connect the impact of physical activity with emotional progress (recognize the social component of the exercise group)

List of assigned reading:

1. World Health Organization, World report on ageing and health. WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Date: mISBN 978 92 4 156504 2, Geneva 2015.
2. Communication from the European Commission - The demographic future of Europe - from challenge to opportunity. COM(2006) 571 final. Brussels: European Commission; 2006.

List of optional reading:

1. The Swedish National Institute of Public Health Healthy Ageing- A Challenge for Europe R 2006:29 ISSN: 1651-8624
2. Urban Health Centres Europe- UHCE, dostupno na <https://www.age-platform.eu/project/urban-health-centres-europe-uhce>

Curriculum:

Lectures list (with titles and explanation):

Aging of the population and challenges for the health system and society

List and summarize the basic characteristics of the aging population and describe the impact on the health system

Benefits of physical activity

Describe benefits of physical activity

Current research

Describe the importance of research and intervention in the society

Specific needs of the elderly; Health promotion and disease prevention in the elderly

Explain the importance of disease prevention and health promotion in the elderly and describe the specific needs of elderly

A personalized approach and classification of measuring the effectiveness of physical activity on the quality of life of the elderly

Propose measures for checking and monitoring the effectiveness of exercise

Practicals list (with titles and explanation):

Methods of research and measurement of the effectiveness of physical activity of elderly people

Implement and design ways to evaluate the effectiveness of physical activity on health (field work) through measurements and synthesize the results

How to motivate people to participate in a physically active life- exercise

Prepare exercises suited to the age and the individual person (personalized approach) and devise a way of monitoring the impact

Seminars list (with titles and explanation):

scientific article- evidence-based on the impact of physical activity on physical ability

Differentiate the type of physical activity for each age and impact on physical function

scientific article- evidence-based on the impact of physical activity on cardiovascular risks

Connect the impact of physical activity with cardiovascular health

scientific article- evidence-based on the impact of physical activity on quality of life

Connect the impact of physical activity with emotional progress (recognize the social component of the exercise group)

Student obligations:

Students are required to attend classes and participate in all planned activities

Exam (exam taking, description of the written/oral/practical part of the exam, point distribution, grading criteria):

Student activity will be monitored during the course (in tutorials and seminars), continuous progress will be made, and for the final exam the students will prepare the essay on the given topic

Other notes (related to the course) important for students:

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COURSE HOURS 2025/2026

Physical Activity and Healthy Ageing

Lectures (Place and time or group)	Practicals (Place and time or group)	Seminars (Place and time or group)
26.05.2026		
Aging of the population and challenges for the health system and society: • P15 - TOWN HALL (16:00 - 19:30) ^[335] ◦ PAaHA Benefits of physical activity: • P15 - TOWN HALL (16:00 - 19:30) ^[335] ◦ PAaHA Current research: • P15 - TOWN HALL (16:00 - 19:30) ^[335] ◦ PAaHA Specific needs of the elderly; Health promotion and disease prevention in the elderly: • P15 - TOWN HALL (16:00 - 19:30) ^[335] ◦ PAaHA A personalized approach and classification of measuring the effectiveness of physical activity on the quality of life of the elderly: • P15 - TOWN HALL (16:00 - 19:30) ^[335] ◦ PAaHA		
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03.06.2026		
		scientific article- evidence-based on the impact of physical activity on cardiovascular risks: • ONLINE (16:00 - 20:00) ^[335] ◦ PAaHA
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05.06.2026		
		scientific article- evidence-based on the impact of physical activity on physical ability: • ONLINE (15:00 - 19:00) ^[335] ◦ PAaHA
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08.06.2026		

	Methods of research and measurement of the effectiveness of physical activity of elderly people: • Department of Social Medicine and Epidemiology - Library (14:00 - 18:30) [335] ◦ PAaHA How to motivate people to participate in a physically active life- exercise: • Department of Social Medicine and Epidemiology - Library (14:00 - 18:30) [335] ◦ PAaHA	
izv. prof. dr. sc. Bilajac Lovorka, dipl. sanit. ing. [335]		
23.06.2026		
		scientific article- evidence-based on the impact of physical activity on quality of life: • P15 - TOWN HALL (09:00 - 13:00) [335] ◦ PAaHA
izv. prof. dr. sc. Bilajac Lovorka, dipl. sanit. ing. [335]		

List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

LECTURES (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
Aging of the population and challenges for the health system and society	1	P15 - TOWN HALL
Benefits of physical activity	1	P15 - TOWN HALL
Current research	1	P15 - TOWN HALL
Specific needs of the elderly; Health promotion and disease prevention in the elderly	1	P15 - TOWN HALL
A personalized approach and classification of measuring the effectiveness of physical activity on the quality of life of the elderly	1	P15 - TOWN HALL

PRACTICALS (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
Methods of research and measurement of the effectiveness of physical activity of elderly people	3	Department of Social Medicine and Epidemiology - Library
How to motivate people to participate in a physically active life- exercise	2	Department of Social Medicine and Epidemiology - Library

SEMINARS (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
scientific article- evidence-based on the impact of physical activity on physical ability	5	ONLINE
scientific article- evidence-based on the impact of physical activity on cardiovascular risks	5	ONLINE
scientific article- evidence-based on the impact of physical activity on quality of life	5	P15 - TOWN HALL

EXAM DATES (final exam):
