How to match students and programs?

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0) Outline

• Short presentation of The Master’s Degree Program in Health Economics, Policy, and Management
• Assessment criteria
• Other measure to tackle differences in skills and knowledge
1) The Master’s Degree Program in Health Economics, Policy, and Management

- 2 years program (Master of philosophy)
  - 120 ECTS
  - Thesis consists of 30 ECTS (1/2 year)
  - Taught in English

- Aims
  - Providing both a broad and relevant academic foundation within its core subject areas
    - Economics
    - Management and organization
    - Basic Medicine
  - Practical skills for a future career in management in various parts of the health sector
    - Internship in hospitals, governmental bodies, incl. the MoH
• The program started in 2005
  – Up to 30 students are admitted each year (fall)
  – Number of applicants 2011:
    • 169 from the local application system (Norway/EES/EU)
    • 59 applicants from the international application system
  – This year app 20-24 will hand in their master thesis

• Other programs at the department
  – BA in Health Management and Economics (Norwegian)
    • Started in 2002
  – Executive program in Health Administration
    • 25 years anniversary this year
Applicants from all over the world induce challenges related to
- Assessment and definition of admission criteria
- Leveling differences in prior knowledge and skills
1) Admission criteria

• General Admission to master’s degree studies requires:
  – a completed bachelor’s degree comparable to a Norwegian bachelor’s degree
  – a specialization defined by the program
  – a grade point average (GPA) of C or better from the BA
• In addition applicants to master programs offered in English must fulfill the language requirements by one of the following test/exams:
  – Passed examination in English foundation course (140 hours/5 periods per week) in Norwegian upper secondary school with a minimum grade of 4 (or an equivalent grade from a Nordic upper secondary school) or alternatively passed examination in English from second and/or third school year.
  – TOEFL test with a minimum score of 550 on Paper-based test, or 213 on Computer-based test or 80 on Internet-based test
  – IELTS (academic) test with a minimum score of 6.0
  – Other documentation based on individual assessment.
Specialization requirements defined by the program

• A Bachelor’s Degree in either
  – Health Management and Health Economics,
  – Social Sciences,
  – Economics,
  – Public Administration, or
  – Health Sciences.

• Applicants without a degree in Social Sciences or Economics must have at least 60 ECTS within Social Sciences or Economic.
Additionally – some informal mechanisms

• Description of the grading system in most of the world

• A conversion table that covers some “problematic” countries
Unfortunately – careful assessment is not enough ...
The “two-topped” grade curve
2) Tackling differences in prior knowledge and skills

- Following the assessment process, there were still challenges related to differences in prior knowledge and skills
- Others measures to increase the quality of masters students are implemented from 2011-2012
Raising the bar

• Admission process of 2011
  – Admitted more students from the local application system, fewer from the international application system
  – International application system
    • 8 out of 59 applicants were admitted (7 responded positively)
“Pre”- courses - introductory courses

• From 2012 we will offer introductory courses in some of the core disciplines and subjects
  – Economics
  – Statistics
  – The Norwegian health care system
”Elevator” courses

• Those who feel their prior knowledge is weaker than desired will be offered an alternative route to the MA-degree based on “elevator” courses

• “Elevator” courses
  – Offered both at BA- and MA-level, but with slightly different curriculum
  – Voluntary for MA-student but a good idea if basic knowledge is lacking

• Steep learning curve the first semester
Summary

• Assessment is still challenging
• The assessment process can not solve the problems related to differences in prior knowledge alone
  – “Pre”-courses
  – “Elevator” courses
More information on this master’s program:

http://www.uio.no/english/studies/programmes/healthecon-master/