



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013

## VHL 3556 Retail II: Store Management, Expansion Strategies and Retail Chain Management

### Programme

Bachelor in Retail Management (2. year)

### Responsible for the course

Jan Ivar Fredriksen

### Department

Department of Marketing

### Term

According to study plan

### ECTS Credits

7,5

### Language of instruction

Norwegian

### Introduction

Factors such as the store, customers, employees, goods and technological facilities are crucial for success. Single stores with success are the basic platform for growth and expansion. This course will actualize store and retail chain management with a focus on success in employee and leadership relations.

Retail 2 is the second of two courses in retailing. The focus is on **store management, expansion strategies and retail chain management**. Retail 1 considers competitive advantages, the experience of location and merchandise assortments.

### Learning outcome

#### Acquired knowledge

The student will acquire knowledge and obtain adequate insight concerning the following:

- Relations between tasks and empowerment, acquired competence and challenges in work environment concerning the retailer's organization structure and human resource management
- Analyses and processes concerning recruiting, hiring, compensation and reward of store employees
- Controlling costs and shrinkage, including relevant tools
- General approaches to service as a concept and service delivery processes with a focus on the customer's sale and service experience
- Relevant approaches to gap analysis within customer service and service quality
- The roles of the leaders and employees concerning the service climate and the service delivery, including the employee's role, empowerment and competence
- The dynamics of alternative service delivery, when technology replace human beings including self service systems and interactive technology
- Store layout, design and visual merchandising including category and space management
- Applying digital signage within sale, service delivery and visual merchandising
- Types of organizations and ownership in retail chains
- Important forces concerning a retailer's expansion
- Important preparations and analysis in selection of organization and ownership structures when a retailer expands
- How a franchise concept, package and agreement are developed and designed

#### Acquired skills

On completion of the course the students will be able to:

- Make plans and efforts for recruiting employees in a retail company
- Make plans for and be able to manage systems including rewarding and career development in a retail company
- Apply analysis and efforts within cost and shrinkage controls
- Based on the retailers intended service level, develop and apply programmes for increasing customer and employee satisfaction, including training of employees
- Contribute to store design, category management, visual merchandising and store atmosphere
- Contribute to solutions based on combinations of multichannel retailing and traditional store designs
- Consider selection of organization structure and ownership within a retail chain
- Develop and apply a franchise concept, package and agreement

### **Reflection**

The acquired reflections are identical for both retail 1 and retail 2 and include:

- The candidate will during and after the course realise the importance of multidisciplinary knowledge and skills for practicing retailing
- The students will be encouraged to reflect on the importance of analysis before and after implementations of the retailer's strategies and concepts of management
- The students will increase their focus on the importance of the relationships and interactions between human beings, merchandise and technology within the store, and furthermore, the development of harmony, mental balance and financial security for managers employees and the retailer's customers.

### **Prerequisites**

VHL 3552 Retail I: Competitive Advantages, the Experience of Location and Merchandise Assortments

### **Compulsory reading**

#### **Books:**

Fredriksen, Jan Ivar. 2010. Varehandelsledelse. Fagbokforlaget. Kapittel 7 - 10 og 12

Levy, Michael, Barton A. Weitz. 2012. Retailing management. 8th ed. McGraw-Hill/Irwin.

Kapittel 16 - 18

Nilssen, Børge. 2009. Franchise : verdikjende samarbeid mellom selvstendige parter. 2. utg.

Fagbokforlaget

### **Recommended reading**

#### **Journals:**

Bransjetidsskrifter. Kjedemagasinet, Dagligvarehandelen, Tekstilforum m.v.

### **Course outline**

#### **Managing store employees**

Organizing functions and positions

Roles of leaders and employees

Job analysis and descriptions, recruiting and selection, rewarding and compensating

#### **Controlling costs and shrinkage**

Employees and resource allocation

Reducing maintenance and energy costs

Reducing inventory losses

#### **Service Management and Service Marketing**

The customer's experience of sale and service

Service delivery processes

Service quality and gaps analysis

Skills, motivation, empowerment and service climate

Personal service and self service technology

Service deliveries within and outside the store

#### **Store layout, design and visual merchandising**

Store layout and design

Visual merchandising

Space Management and communication

Category Management and communication

Store atmospherics

Website design and store design

#### **The Retail chain, the way from local success to international brand**

Expansion through establishing a corporate and/or franchise based retail chain

Conditions, analysis and preparations concerning the retailer's expansion

The retail concept and the retail chain package

Selecting type of ownership

The franchise concept

The franchise package

The franchise agreement

### **Computer-based tools**

None required.

### **Learning process and workload**

The teaching of the course is process-based partly with classroom teaching, individual and group training and individual and group supervision.

The course is both practical and theoretical, which means that most of the theoretical issues and tasks are discussed in a practical context. The discussions and training tasks are based on the students own

selected companies from the retail industry.

**Coursework requirements:**

During the course, the students will accomplish 2 training tasks with exact deadlines. It is recommended to work in groups of 2-4 students. Evaluation will be given to each group. The students will use the electronic tool "It's learning" for sending in their papers.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Use of hours</b>
Participation in lectures	36
Preparation before lectures	33
Training tasks and work in groups	65
Colloquium and student-based guidance	26
Self study/reading literature/preparing for the exam	40
<b>Total recommended workload</b>	<b>200</b>

**Use of hours**

**Coursework requirements**

Completion of 1 out of 2 papers regarding the training tasks.

The coursework requirements must be approved for the student to be allowed to sit for the exam in the course.

**Examination**

An individual 5-hour written exam completes the course.

**Examination code(s)**

VHL 35561 – Written exam, accounts 100 % of the grade in VHL 3556, 7,5 ECTS.

**Examination support materials**

No support materials are permitted

**Re-sit examination**

A re-sit examination is offered every term.

Students that have not passed the course requirements must re-take the papers during the next scheduled course and must pass two of three papers.

Students that have not passed the written examination or who wish to improve their grade must re-take the examination in connection with the next scheduled examination.

**Additional information**