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# Catholic Theology (since 2019)

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- Doctoral study programme Catholic Theology
- The study programme was opened at the Catholic theological Faculty in the academic year 2020/2021.
- Studies that started earlier continue according to previous accreditation [previous accreditation \(in the Czech language only\)](#) .
- Standard study time: **4 years**
- The study programme is implemented in full-time and combined form.
- [Study plan \(in the Czech language only\)](#)
- Setting up an Individual Curriculum (Individual Study Plan) of a doctoral study programme (ISP [Dean's Provison no. 4/2023](#))

## Basic characteristics

- The doctoral program in theology, majoring in Catholic Theology (the standard period of study is four years), prepares students for independent scientific research and independent creative activity in the field of theology.
- Topics of study are the sources and the rational reflection of faith in God and in Jesus Christ; the related concepts of man, society, and the world; the moral aspects of human action; the self-understanding of the Catholic Church and the issues involved in its practice; the relationships between Christian communities; the relationships between Christianity and other religions; the history of Catholic theology, the history of dogma; the philosophical assumptions and implications of theology.
- The study programme of Catholic Theology is further divided according to its more detailed focus into disciplinary specialisations in which the faculty implements the doctoral programme. The student chooses one of them. The field specialization areas are announced by the dean after discussion in the field council. An open field of specialization is a field of specialization for which there is a supervisor among the faculty staff, who is usually a habilitated staff member in employment with the faculty.

### The following areas of specialisation are envisaged:

- a. **Biblical Sciences**
  - b. **Fundamental and Dogmatic Theology**
  - c. **Theological Ethics and Spiritual Theology**
  - d. **Liturgy, Catechetics and Pastoral Theology**
  - e. **Canon and Confessional Law**
  - f. **Patristics and the History of Dogma**
- Through the field of study, the Catholic Church exercises the right to teach and educate its clergy and laity (Section 6(3)(a) of Act No.3/2002 Coll., on Freedom of Religion and the Status of Churches and Religious Societies).

## Applying the acquired education

- The graduate acquires extensive, world-comparable knowledge of the field of Catholic theology or its sub-discipline. The student is familiar with current trends in research. He/she is able to acquire new knowledge, skills and competencies through his/her own creative activity, to place them in an interdisciplinary context and to evaluate the social implications of their use. He/she can solve ethical problems in creative activity or in the use of its results. Can communicate own findings to members of the international scientific community and the general public. He/she has acquired a good active knowledge of a world language and, according to the needs of his/her sub-discipline, a higher knowledge of classical languages.
- The graduate is able to critically use his/her theoretical knowledge and contextually apply it. They are able to design and use research procedures in a way that enables them to acquire new knowledge. They can communicate their findings to members of the international scientific community and the general public. Is able to plan creative activities and acquire the resources to carry them out.
- The graduate is prepared to work as an academic and scientific worker in universities, scientific institutes and higher vocational schools; to work as a teacher of religion and as an educator in schools and educational institutions and in social service institutions (Sections 14 and 16 of Act No.563/2004 Coll, on teaching staff); to engage in professional and managerial work in religious institutions as well as in educational, health, social and humanitarian institutions and organisations; to work in that public administration and public institutions, publishing and editorial houses, companies and firms whose activities require highly professional religious and general humanitarian knowledge and approaches.

## Study obligations

- The study takes place in accordance with an individual curriculum (individual study plan) under the guidance of a supervisor, or, depending on the circumstances, with the participation of a consultant.

### 1. Doctoral dissertation

- Studying in a doctoral study programme enables a doctoral student to acquire the skills and experience necessary for independent professional activity through the preparation of a dissertation. Assistance and supervision are provided within the framework of the study obligation 'dissertation preparation' and the study subject 'doctoral seminar'. The dissertation must contain original and published results or results accepted for publication. The expected length of the dissertation is approximately 200, but no more than 350 standard pages of text, excluding appendices.
  - a. **Dissertation preparation**

The study obligation "dissertation preparation" provides a space for cooperation between the supervisor and the doctoral student in the preparation of the dissertation and allows for the control of the doctoral student's performance. In the individual study plan, this obligation is imposed on full-time and combined students for each year of study; it is always completed with credit. However, the doctoral student is obliged to submit a thesis to the supervisor for approval during the second, but no later than the third year of study, for the thesis to be defended in the comprehensive examination.

    - The thesis of approximately 50 standard pages usually contains the following: characterization of the topic, the motivation for its choice; the current state of the problem addressed in the light of a thorough bibliographic search; a statement of the objectives and a definition of the expected contribution of the dissertation in relation to the topic under study; a description of the methodology used; an annotated outline of the dissertation with an indication of the expected scope of the chapters; a list of sources and literature used; a schedule of further progress.
  - b. The course of study "Doctoral Seminar" provides a space for doctoral students to present and discuss dissertation topics, sources, methodology, outline and progress of their work. It introduces students to issues of scholarship and teaching in the field of theology. Allows doctoral students to share experiences of study trips, internships and conferences, discussion of new literature or other academic events, etc. It ensures regular contact between students and faculty and encourages them to work effectively on their dissertations. It is held at least once a semester. In the individual study plan, full-time and combined students are obliged to do this for each year of study ( except for the period of the foreign internship); it is always completed with a credit, the presentation is evaluated, the ability to argue, its soundness.

### 2. Study obligations

- Studying in the doctoral program enables the doctoral student to supplement and deepen his/her knowledge in the field of Catholic theology in general and in the chosen specialization in particular. This is done within the framework of the study subjects "theological seminary", "theological specialization" and "foreign language". In the individual study plan, the doctoral student may also be required to complete other study requirements to supplement and expand his/her knowledge in the field of Catholic theology.
  - a. **Theological Seminar**

The course of study "Theological Seminar" provides doctoral students with a space for a deepening study of Catholic theology, especially through reading texts by the great authors of the Christian tradition and the ensuing discussion. It allows one to go beyond the limits of one's own specialization and to reflect on the central themes of the Christian faith. It is usually held once a year in the form of a retreat of several days. In the individual study plan, full-time and combined students are obliged to do this for each year of study (except for the period of the foreign internship); it is always completed with credit, and the ability to argue and its soundness are assessed.
  - b. **Theological Specialization**

The course of study "Theological Specialization" provides a space for in-depth study of key issues in the chosen sub-disciplinary specialization, especially through the reading of specialized literature and subsequent colloquia with a supervisor or consultant. In the individual study plan, this obligation may be imposed on full-time and combined students, even repeatedly; it is always completed by credit, and the ability to argue and its soundness is assessed. The obligation can be included in the student's individual study plan as part of the annual update, thereby responding to the actual current course of study.
  - c. **Foreign language**

The study subject "Foreign Language" tests the PhD student's active knowledge of one world language at least at C1 level - the ability to present the results of his/her work in one of the world languages, both in writing and orally. The student can prove the required knowledge with a recognised certificate. As a standard, students can choose between English, German, Italian and French. In the **Individual Curriculum (Individual Study Plan)**, full-time and combined students are usually required to do this for the fourth year of their studies; it is always completed with credit.

### 3. Professional activities

- Studying in a doctoral programme enables a doctoral student to acquire the skills necessary to engage in scientific activities through other professional activities. This is done within the framework of study obligations, 'foreign practice', 'scientific practice', 'academic practice'.
  - a. **Foreign professional internship**  
The study abroad internship requirement provides an opportunity for the doctoral student to gain experience with the contemporary state of the field of Catholic theology abroad. A foreign internship of a minimum of one month is a regular course requirement. In justified cases, the Doctoral Board may, at the doctoral student's request, divide the internship into several shorter research stays (e.g. in libraries, etc.). In the individual study plan, this obligation is imposed on full-time and combined students, as a rule, for the fourth year of study; it is completed with a credit. (For students of the combined form of study, in justified cases, the departmental board may, on the basis of the doctoral student's application, determine individual obligations by which the internship may be replaced by other activities related to the internationalisation of scientific activity (e.g. professional translation, participation in an international conference, publications abroad, etc.).
  - b. **Scientific Practice (Complementary Scientific Activities)**  
The study obligation "scientific practice" provides the doctoral student with the opportunity to gain experience in various forms of scientific activity and to demonstrate the ability to actively engage in it. In the individual study plan, this obligation is normally imposed on full-time and combined students for the fourth year of study; it is completed by credit. In doing so, the doctoral student is obliged to fulfil at least once each of the following obligations: publication of a review in a peer-reviewed journal; publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal or a chapter in a peer-reviewed monograph or a paper in a peer-reviewed journal; submission of a grant project; active participation in a conference with international participation.
  - c. **Academic practice**  
The study obligation 'academic practice' provides an opportunity for the doctoral student to gain experience of different forms of academic activity in a broader sense and to demonstrate the ability to engage actively in it. In the individual study plan, this obligation may be imposed on full-time students, even repeatedly; it is always completed with credit on a pass-fail basis. The obligation can be included in the student's individual study plan as part of the annual update, thereby responding to the actual current course of study. The term "academic practice" refers, for example, to participation in the teaching of a course of study of an accredited study programme or a CŽV/U3V course; participation in the organisation of teaching and scientific work and foreign cooperation; participation in the implementation of the third role of the faculty. All of these activities are carried out with the guarantee and supervision of a faculty member and are not in the nature of simple auxiliary work.  
Studijní plán ke stažení výše na příslušném odkaze

#### 4. Comprehensive Examination

*Students are reminded of the principle of the canonical-legal basis for the Faculty's activities (Article 1, paragraph 5 of the Statute of the Faculty of Theology of Charles University), according to which it is necessary to attain the academic degree of "Licentiate of Theology" before obtaining the academic degree of "Doctor of Theology". The latter is the law No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education, obtained by passing the rigorous examination.*

The comprehensive examination is identical in content and scope to the state rigorosum examination in the field of study corresponding to the Master's degree programme in Catholic Theology that the Faculty offers: if a candidate who is also enrolled in the doctoral programme in Catholic theology has passed the oral part of the State rigorosum examination, this shall be recognised as the oral part of the comprehensive examination of his/her doctoral studies; if a candidate who is also enrolled in the doctoral programme in Catholic theology has defended a rigorosum thesis in the form of a thesis approved by the supervisor, this shall be recognised as the defence of the written thesis submitted as part of the comprehensive examination of his/her doctoral studies.

- During the second, but no later than the third year of study, the doctoral student takes a comprehensive examination, which has two parts: an oral examination and a defence of the submitted written thesis.
- The oral examination consists of two sub-disciplinary specialisations chosen by the student. One of them is chosen to correspond directly to the sub-disciplinary specialization of his/her doctoral studies and at the same time to the title and basic outline of the written thesis.
- The thematic areas for the oral examination are approved by the disciplinary council and are identical to the thematic areas for the rigorous examination in Catholic Theology.
- The written thesis is approximately 50 standard pages in length; the student submits a thesis for defence.
- The application to Comprehensive examination
- The choice of specialization
- Other compulsory attachments to the application form:
  - Brief curriculum vitae accompanied by a list of publications and other scientific activities
  - A written thesis in three hard copies, at least one of which is bound in hardcover, and no more than two of which are ring-bound,

- Declaration of readiness for the Comprehensive Examination

## Subjects and topics for the comprehensive examination

- Opatření děkana č. 5/2019 Souborná zkouška v doktorském studijním programu katolická teologie
- The comprehensive examination is identical in content and scope to the state rigorosum examination

## Assessment of study performance

- It is conducted in accordance with the valid Individual Curriculum (Individual Study Plan).
- A student may take an examination in a registered course a maximum of two times, i.e. he/she is entitled to one make-up examination. The results of the examination are classified as "pass" - "fail".
- The fulfilment of the individual study plan is subject to evaluation, which, together with a justification, is submitted by the supervisor and subsequently discussed and approved by the departmental board.
- Details are regulated by the Study and Examination Regulations of Charles University.

## Regular completion of study

The study is duly completed by the state doctoral examination and the defence of the dissertation.

- For the state doctoral examination, the doctoral student prepares, in agreement with the supervisor, two 20-minute lectures on different topics of his/her sub-disciplinary specialization, different from the topic of the dissertation. The lectures must be devoted to specific, concrete problems. The lecturer must characterise the current state of their solution and his/her own position, supported by arguments. The State Doctoral Examination Committee selects one of the prepared topics on the spot. The lectures must be devoted to specific concrete problems.
- The dissertation defence consists of the doctoral student's presentation of the dissertation, his/her response to the written opinions of the supervisor and two opponents, and a subsequent discussion.

## Subject-area board

<b>Chairperson, guarantor:</b>	prof. PhLic. Vojtěch Novotný, Th.D.	Catholic Theological Faculty Charles University (CTF CU)
<b>Members:</b>	doc. Jaroslav Brož, Th.D., S.S.L.	CTF CU
	doc. PhDr. Josef Bartoň, Th.D.	CTF CU
	doc. Mgr. David Bouma, Ph.D.	CTF CU
	doc. ThLic. Mgr. Denisa Červenková, Th.D.	CTF CU
	doc. Dr. Ludvík Dřímál, Th.D.	Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology Palacky University Olomouc
	doc. Jiří Kašný, Th.D.	Anglo-American University
	prof. Dr. Ing. Tomáš Machula, Ph.D., Th.D.	Theological Faculty University of South Bohemia / CTF CU
	doc. Dr.theol. Michal Opatrný	Theological Faculty University of South Bohemia
	prof. ThDr. Martin Prudký, Th.D.	Protestant Theological Faculty Charles University
	doc. Mgr. Jindřich Šrajer, Dr. theol.	Theological Faculty University of South Bohemia
	doc. David Vopřada, Dr.	CTF CU

- The Subject-area board monitors and evaluates doctoral studies, coordinates the planning of the content of studies and evaluates the implementation of the doctoral programme.
  - Approves the student's individual study plan, dissertation topics and proposes to the Dean the appointment or removal of a supervisor.
  - Evaluates the learning of individual students, particularly through the approval of student evaluations and changes to the student's individual study plan.