

**Note:**

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## **Curriculum of the Secondary School Teacher Accreditation Programme for the subject of Catholic Religious Education at the University of Innsbruck**

On the basis of the most recent version of the University Act, BGB1 No. 48/1997 the study committee of the Secondary School Teacher Accreditation Programme for Catholic Religious Education at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Innsbruck decrees the following curriculum for the Secondary School Teacher Accreditation Programme for Catholic Religious Education:

### **A Qualification profile**

The Secondary School Teacher Accreditation Programme for the subject of Catholic Religious Education enables graduates to deal with faith and religion in the public of church and society, in a competent and academically acceptable manner. At the same time it promotes interdisciplinary competence that integrates the Question of Truth into the respective academic area.

Graduates demonstrate their academic qualifications by:

- perceiving and assessing relevant questions and problems in an attentive and appropriate way;

- the ability to perceive different statements of faith in their entity and to relate this view of belief to the practice in church and society to conduct the hermeneutics of reality in a theological way;
- integrating theological expert knowledge into the personality, which includes the readiness and ability to regularly undertake further studies;
- demonstrating independent handling of teaching contents and a high level of creativity in relating and adjusting scientific results to their audience and the situation;
- using sources and literature in an appropriate way.

In accordance with the present situation, the University of Innsbruck predominantly educates students that aim for priestly and other pastoral offices, in church or in other educational institutions. The competences acquired by the studies are demonstrated e.g. by:

- theoretical competence that includes a basic knowledge of the Christian tradition as well as the methodological ability to independently broaden and deepen this knowledge;
- the increased sensitivity for the variety of ecclesial services and offices. The studies provide for the scientific education needed for pastoral services, either in the shape of the priesthood for all believers or ordained priesthood;
- the awareness of the intercultural unfolding of belief. A faculty of a strong international character is precisely the place, where authentic catholic unity can be experienced, reflected and pursued;
- the spiritual attitude rooted in the biblical tradition to live as a Catholic Christian in a responsible way and to unfold the communicative competence required for ecclesial offices.

In the face of increasing globalisation and the plurality of religious and quasi-religious phenomena that come with it, the “anything goes”-mentality and fundamental tendencies, scientific qualification in dealing with the phenomenon of religion is especially demonstrated by:

- the ability to critically reflect on old and new religious phenomena;
- the competence to develop criteria to differentiate between destructive and constructive spirituality and the readiness to critically question the point of view that is used to discuss these criteria;
- in the deliberate linking of our theology to the ecclesiastical community and a clear commitment to the Catholic identity that also includes the qualities of religious freedom, ecumenism and the dialogue of the religions.

Besides the basic competence in handling theological knowledge, the Secondary School Teacher Accreditation Programme for the subject of Catholic Religious Education provides its graduates with interdisciplinary, theological, religious-didactical and pedagogical competences needed for teaching at school.

# **B Curriculum**

## **Preamble**

The theological Diploma Studies of “Catholic Theology” and “Catholic Religious Education”, the Bachelor Programme of “Catholic Religious Education” and the Master Programme that is based thereupon, as well as the “Secondary School Teacher Accreditation Programme for Catholic Religious Education” at the Catholic Religious Faculty of the University of Innsbruck are devised on a common base of studies (B) for all three specialised fields of studies. The basic studies offer a compact introduction to all theological disciplines, show the necessary relations between the single disciplines and guarantee that all students acquire sufficient basic competence. For the Secondary School Teacher Accreditation Programme of the subject Catholic Religious Education it is the basis for a theological, religious-didactical specialisation.

## **§1 Duration and parts of the study programme**

- (1) The Secondary Teacher Accreditation Programme for the subject of Catholic Religious Education at the Faculty of Catholic Theology is divided into two parts of four and five semesters respectively.
- (2) The programme consists of a total of 100 semester hours / i.e. 135 ECTS credits that are allocated in the following way:
  - a) first part of studies 35 semester hours / 40 ECTS credits
  - b) second part of studies 35 semester hours / 35 ECTS credits
  - c) pedagogical, religious-didactical training and school teaching practice  
20 + (8) semester hours / 35 ECTS credits
  - d) elective courses 10 semester hours / 10 ECTS credits
  - e) diploma thesis (cf. §12 Para 4) 15 ECTS credits
- (3) Each part is successfully completed with the positive evaluation of all sections of a diploma examination.

## **§2 Compulsory and elective courses**

- (1) Compulsory courses are: courses of the orientation period, History of Philosophy, Philosophical Ethics, Philosophical Anthropology, Metaphysics, Philosophical Theology, Introduction to and Basic Exegesis of the Old Testament, Introduction and Basic Exegesis of the New Testament, Biblical Theology Old Testament, Biblical Theology New Testament, Religious Studies and Theology of the Religions, Historic Theology, Church History, Ecumenical Theology, Liturgical Studies, Sacramental Theology, Dogmatic Theology, Moral Theology, Christian Social Studies, Pastoral Theology, Canon Law, Catechetic and Religious Pedagogy, Pedagogy and Religion Didactics.

Subject examinations (FP) must be passed for the basic studies courses (B). For all other courses – with the exception of the second part of the second diploma examination – usually course examinations (LV) must be passed.

- (2) Elective courses are not allocated to study parts. They can be chosen from all courses offered by acknowledged Austrian and non-Austrian universities (§7 Para 6 University Act (UniStG)). On registration for the last part of the second diploma examination the completion of these courses must be proved by course examination certificates.
- (3) Pedagogical and religion-didactical education as well as school teaching practice take place in both parts of the studies. Proof of successful completion must only be given in connection with the second diploma certificate.

### §3 First part of studies

- (1) The first part of the studies covers 35 semester hours (SSt) of compulsory courses.
- (2) The following compulsory courses must be passed in the first part:

Subjects and courses of the first part of studies	SSt	ECTS	Type of Course	Type of Examination
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#### a) Faculty

<i>Orientation Period</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	VO/KS/ SK/PS	
Philosophical Propaedeutics (B)	2			<b>FP</b>
Credo: Introduction to the Faith of the Church (B)	2			<b>FP</b>
Church Service: Summit and Source of Christian Life and Theology (B)	2			<b>FP</b>
The Holy Scripture as a Basic Document of Christian Theology (B)	2			<b>FP</b>
Introduction to the Theological Disciplines in their Interrelations (B)	1			LV
Introduction to Academic Procedure (B)	1			LV

#### b) Department of Biblical Studies and Historical Theology

<b><i>Introduction and Basic Exegesis of the Old Testament (B)</i></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>FP</b>
Introduction	1	1	VO/KS	
Basic Exegesis OT I	2	2	VO/KS	
Basic Exegesis OT II	2	2	VO/KS	
<b><i>Introduction and Basic Exegesis of the New Testament (B)</i></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>FP</b>
Introduction	1	1	VO/KS	
Basic Exegesis NT I	2	2	VO/KS	
Basic Exegesis NT II	2	2	VO/KS	
<b><i>Religious Studies and Theology of the Religions (B)</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>FP</b>
Religious Studies and Theology of the Religions: Basic Course	2	2	VO/KS	

c) Department of Christian Philosophy

<b><i>Philosophical Ethics (B)</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		
Philosophical Ethics: Basic Course	2	2	VO/KS	<b>FP</b>
<b><i>History of Philosophy (B)</i></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		
History of Philosophy: Basic Course	3	3	VO/KS	<b>FP</b>
<b><i>Metaphysics (B)</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		
Metaphysics: Basic Course	2	2	VO/KS	<b>FP</b>

d) Department of Historical Theology

<b><i>Church History (B)</i></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>		
Church History: Basic Course I	2	2	VO/KS	
Church History: Basic Course II	2	2	VO/KS	

e) Department for Systematic Theology

<b><i>Christian Social Science (B)</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		
Christian Social Science: Basic Course	2	2	VO/KS	<b>FP</b>

f) Pedagogical, religious-didactical education and school teaching practice (§4 Para 2 (f))

<b><i>Pedagogy</i></b>				
<b><i>Religious Didactics</i></b>				
<b><i>School Teaching Practice</i></b>				

g.) Within the scope of the orientation phase the following course examinations that may be repeated twice, have to be passed:

Introduction to the Theological Disciplines in their Interrelation (B), VO1, 1 ECTS-AP

### §4 Second part of studies

- (1) The second part of studies covers 35 semester hours of compulsory courses.
- (2) During the second part the following compulsory courses have to be passed:

Subjects and courses of the second part of studies	SSt	ECTS	Type of Course	Type of Examination
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a) Department for Biblical Sciences and Historical Theology

<b><i>Biblical Theology Old Testament (B)</i></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		
Biblical Theology Old Testament	3	3	VO/KS	<b>FP</b>

<b><i>Biblical Theology New Testament (B)</i></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b><i>FP</i></b>
Biblical Theology New Testament	3	3	VO/KS	
<b><i>Historical Theology (B)</i></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b><i>FP</i></b>
Historical Theology: Basic Course I	1	1	VO/KS	
Historical Theology: Basic Course II	2	2	VO/KS	

b) Department of Christian Philosophy

<b><i>Philosophical Anthropology (B)</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b><i>FP</i></b>
Philosophical Anthropology: Basic Course	2	2	VO/KS	
<b><i>Philosophical Theology (B)</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b><i>FP</i></b>
Philosophical Theology: Basic Course	2	2	VO/KS	

c) Department for Biblical Sciences and Historical Theology

<b><i>Liturgical Studies (B)</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		
Liturgical Studies: Basic Course	2	2	VO/KS	<b><i>FP</i></b>
<b><i>Sacramental Theology (B)</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		
Sacramental Theology: Basic Course	2	2	VO/KS	<b><i>FP</i></b>
<b><i>Ecumenical Theology (B)</i></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		
Ecumenical Theology: Basic Course	1	1	VO/KS	<b><i>FP</i></b>

d) Department for Practical Theology

<b><i>Canon Law (B)</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b><i>FP</i></b>
Canon Law: Basic Course	2	2	VO/KS	
<b><i>Pastoral Theology (B)</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b><i>FP</i></b>
Pastoral Theology: Basic Course	2	2	VO/KS	
<b><i>Catechetical and Religious Pedagogy (B)</i></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>		<b><i>FP</i></b>
Catechetical and Religious Pedagogy: Basic Course I	2	2	VO/KS	
Catechetical and Religious Pedagogy: Basic Course II	2	2	VO/KS	

e) Department of Systematic Theology

<b><i>Dogmatic Theology (B)</i></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>		<b><i>FP</i></b>
Dogmatic Theology: Basic Course I	2	2	VO/KS	
Dogmatic Theology: Basic Course II	2	2	VO/KS	
Dogmatic Theology: Basic Course III	2	2	VO/KS	
<b><i>Moral Theology (B)</i></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b><i>FP</i></b>
Moral Theology: Basic Course I	2	2	VO/KS	
Moral Theology: Basic Course II	1	1	VO/KS	

f) Pedagogical, Religious-Didactical Education and School Teaching Practice

<b><i>Pedagogy</i></b>	<b>8+(8)</b>	<b>8</b>		
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Courses as offered: Pedagogy	8	8	VO/KS/ SE/SK	LV/IM
<b>Religious Didactics</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>FP</b>
Courses as offered: Religious Didactics	12	22	VO/KS/ SE/SK	
<b>School Teaching Practice</b>	(16)	5	PK	IM

## **§5 Recommendations and requirements for registration of courses**

- (1) Since a theological education requires an academic approach towards the written and traditional sources which is also of major importance for all subjects, it is strongly recommended to all students, including those who are not required by the regulations of the UBVO, to acquire appropriate knowledge of Latin, Greek and Hebrew within the scope of the elective courses. For participation in some courses of the subjects of Biblical, Historical and Systematic Theology an appropriate knowledge of these languages is a precondition. This is the case especially for the following courses:
- Bible Hebrew, Greek and Biblical Introductory Seminar are required for the participation in exegetical OT seminars and for a diploma thesis in the area OT;
  - Bible Hebrew is required for the participation in OT Reading;
  - Greek and the Biblical Introductory Seminar are required for the participation in exegetical NT seminars and for a diploma thesis in the area NT;
  - Greek is required for participation in NT Reading.
- (2) The study committee explicitly refers to the modules for elective courses offered by the faculty. A well-directed selection ensures additional competences that can also be entered in the diploma certificate.

## **§6 Types of courses**

- (1) Lectures (VO) provide an introduction to the methods, doctrines and the subject matter.
- (2) Course units with continuing performance assessment are:
- a. Proseminars (PS) are introductory seminars. Basic knowledge is imparted and students are encouraged to discuss the matters and to make written reports.
  - b. Seminars (SE) help to commonly acquire expertise in a thematically delineated subject matter and to introduce students to academic standards, communication and co-operation. To acquire a positive grade a seminar paper has to be submitted. The maximum number of participants is 16.
  - c. Cooperative Seminars (SK) are based on a newly developed innovative concept for universities. Co-operative Seminars are interdisciplinary seminars that are conducted by a minimum of two teachers from different disciplines that are related according to the curriculum. The maximum number of participants is 8 students per instructor. For a Cooperative Seminar to take place a minimum number of 9 students for two instructors, 17 students for three instructors etc...are required.
  - d. Tutorials (UE) aim at repeating and furthering academic questions.

- e. Practical Courses (PK) complement the academic education by especially preparing for professional tasks.
- f. Courses (KS) require students to prepare the subject matter largely on their own to promote a deeper understanding of the matter by increasing the focus on the academic theme and the increased involvement of the students. It is possible to combine contact hours with virtual parts. The maximum number of participants for courses is 18.
- g. Research Seminars (FO) focus on the joint elaboration of an academic topic, on academic discussion and cooperation in the group. The maximum number of participants for Research Seminars is 10.
- h. Excursions (EX) are used to illustrate and consolidate the subject in situ.

### **§7 Admission procedures for the admission to courses with a limited number of participants**

- (1) The number of participants is limited for Seminars, Cooperative Seminars, Courses and Research Seminars for didactical and organisational reasons. (§6 Para 2 (b, c, f, g)).
- (2) If the maximum number of participants is exceeded, students are admitted to the courses considering the following criteria:
  - a) Necessity of participation for fulfilling the curriculum;
  - b) Date sequence of the already passed examinations in the corresponding examination subject;
  - c) Sequence of the registration date for the respective course.

## **C Examination regulations**

### **Types of examinations**

#### **§8 Diploma examinations**

- (1) A diploma examination must be passed in every part of the study programme.
- (2) If all parts of a diploma examination are graded positively, the respective part of the study programme is completed.

#### **§9 Subject examinations**

Subject examinations (FP) demonstrate the knowledge and skills in a specific subject (§4 (27) University Act (UniStG)). For contents and scope of the examination, the number of hours allocated to the subject by the curriculum has to be considered.



## **§10 Course examinations**

- (1) Course examination (LV) demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired in a single course (§4 (26) University Act (UniStG)).
- (2) Students are assessed for their performance in courses in compliance with the curriculum
  1. with single examinations at the end of the course (final course examination) or
  2. based on regular written or oral contributions of the participants (courses with continuous performance assessment).
- (3) Proseminars, Seminars, Cooperative Seminars, Tutorials, Practical Courses, Research Seminars and Excursions are courses with a continuous performance assessment (IM).

## **First diploma examination**

### **§11 Type and method**

- (1) The first diploma examination is passed with the course examinations (LV) and subject examinations (FP) of all compulsory courses listed in the curriculum.
- (2) The students can determine the sequence of the individual examinations on their own.
- (3) The subjects of the basic study programme (B) are passed with a subject examination. They are:

Subjects of the introductory study and orientation phase

Introduction and Basic Exegesis Old Testament

Introduction and Basic Exegesis New Testament

Religious Studies and Theology of the Religions

Philosophical Ethics

History of Philosophy

Metaphysics

Church History

Christian Social Science

- (4) All examinations must be graded positively for passing the first diploma examination.

## **Second diploma examination**

### **§12 Diploma thesis**

- (1) The students have to write a diploma thesis related to one of the two teaching subjects.
- (2) The diploma thesis is a scientific piece of work related to a theme of one of the subjects listed in §2 Para 1 (with the exception of the orientation phase).  
It is to document the student's ability to independently work on a theological topic in a methodologically and thematically responsible way.

- (3) Students can suggest the topic for their diploma thesis or choose from a number of suggestions made by the available supervisors.
- (4) The diploma thesis amounts to 30 ECTS credits that are distributed on the two teaching subjects in equal shares and have to be deducted from the total ECTS credits of the respective teaching subject.

### **§13 Type and method**

- (1) The second diploma examination is passed with the course examinations and subject examinations of all compulsory courses listed in the curriculum.
- (2) Religious Didactics and the subjects of the basic study programme (B) are passed with subject examinations. They are:
  - Subjects of the orientation phase
  - Bible Theology Old Testament
  - Bible Theology New Testament
  - Historic Theology
  - Philosophical Anthropology
  - Philosophical Theology
  - Liturgical Studies
  - Sacramental Theology
  - Ecumenical Theology
  - Canon Law
  - Pastoral Theology
  - Religious Didactics
  - Catechetical and Religious Pedagogy
  - Dogmatic Theology
  - Moral Theology
- (3) Students who have written a diploma thesis in theology pass their second diploma exam with an examination in front of the examination board at the Faculty of Theology.
- (4) Disregarding the regulations for completing the Secondary School Teacher Accreditation Programme on other faculties, the following requirements have to be met for admission to the second diploma examination at the Faculty of Theology:
  - a) successful completion of the first diploma examination;
  - b) successful passing of all subjects examinations listed in §4 Para 2 (a)-(e) with the exception of the subjects that are chosen for the second diploma examination in front of the examination board;
  - c) successful passing of all examinations of the free elective courses;
  - d) successful completion of the pedagogical education and the school teaching practice;
  - e) positive evaluation of the diploma thesis.
- (5) Subjects of the second diploma examination in front of the examination board at the Faculty of Theology – disregarding the regulations of the Secondary Teacher Accreditation Programme at other faculties – are:
  - a) Religious Didactics;
  - b) Subject of the diploma thesis;

- c) The presentation of the diploma thesis is part of the subject examination in the subject of the diploma thesis and must be considered for the assessment. If the student and the Dean of Studies agree, the presentation can take place in a reasonable period after the examination in front of the examination board;
  - d) Another subject listed in §4 Para 2 (a-e).
- (6) All examinations must be graded positively for passing the second diploma examination.

### **§14 Examinations in the elective courses**

Students are obliged to make examinations in the required elective courses. On request, these examinations can be entered in the diploma certificate.

### **§15 Academic degree**

Graduates of the Secondary Teacher Accreditation Programme of the Subject of Catholic Religious Education, who have written a diploma thesis in Theology, are awarded with the academic degree of “Magister/Magistra of Theology”, Latin “Magistra theologiae” or “Magister theologiae” resp., abbreviated in both cases as “Mag. theol.”.

### **§16 Coming into force/going out of force and transitory regulations**

- (1) This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2004 and is in effect from the winter semester of 2004/2005 onwards.
- (2) Positively graded parts of a part of the study programme which has not yet been completed according to the regulations of the old curriculum are – if they correspond to the required performance of the new curriculum – to be approved for a continuation of the studies according to the regulations of this curriculum on request of the student.
- (3) Students have the right to voluntarily change to the new curriculum any time.
- (4) For the remainder the regulations of §80 of the University Act apply.
- (5) §3 Para 2 (g) published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin on 8 June 2011, Issue 26, No. 468, comes into force on 1 October 2011 and applies to students starting their studies from winter semester 2011/2012 onwards.
- (6) §3 Para 2 (g) published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin on 8 June 2011, Issue 26, No. 468 goes out of force at the end of 30 September 2014.