

Note:

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The legally binding versions are found in the University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

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Complete version as of 1 October 2021
Curriculum for the
Master's Programme in Catholic Religious Education
at the Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Allocation

The Master's Programme in Catholic Religious Education is allocated to the group of theological study programmes.

§ 2 Qualification profile

- (1) The Master's Programme in Catholic Religious Education offers an advanced theological and religious training with special focus on religious education and adult education, counselling and pastoral care. The study programme is marked by a theological and multi-perspective understanding of education and didactics and promotes the graduates' communicative, interdisciplinary and inter-religious competences. The general principles of educational science, subject-didactics and the pedagogical studies in connection with the school practice, complement the subject-scientific education.
- (2) In particular, the graduate acquires the following qualifications
 - They are able to perceive and independently deal with theological problems and issues of religious education.
 - They have the ability to discourse on socially relevant questions of religion and worldview, taking into account diversity and gender aspects. They are able to represent well-founded points of view in the sectors of school, education and pastoral care.
 - They are able to design and manage interreligious education and dialogue processes in a pluralism-sensitive manner.
 - They are able to relate the essences of different statements of faith to one another
 - They can assess the ecclesiastical and social reality from the point of view of the Christian faith, taking into account the knowledge of relevant individual sciences.
 - They are able to use the relevant sources and literature independently for their professional tasks.
 - They are able to integrate their philosophical-theological knowledge into their own personality.
- (3) The Master's Programme in Catholic Religious Education prepares students for professions in educational institutions, in church and social institutions, but also in the public, which require full academic and theological training with a focus on (religious) educational or pastoral competence.

§ 3 Scope and duration

The Master Programme Catholic Religious Education covers to 120 ECTS-Credits, which equals a duration of four semesters.

§ 4 Admission

- (1) Admission to the Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education requires the completion of a subject-specific Bachelor's Programme or a subject-specific Bachelor's Programme at a University of Applied Sciences or another comparable study programme at an approved post-secondary educational institution home or abroad. In the event that equivalence has been established in principle but with certain qualifications missing for full equivalence, supplemental examinations may be required by the rectorate. These examinations must be passed during the master's programme. The rectorate decides which examinations are a prerequisite for passing the exams specified by the curriculum of the master's programme.
- (2) In any case, the Bachelor's Programme in Catholic Religious Education passed at the University of Innsbruck is a relevant study programme in terms of par. 1.

§ 5 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course

- (1) Types of courses without continuous performance assessment:
Lectures (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
 1. Lectures with integrated practical parts (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course.
 2. Seminars (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 20
 3. Practical courses (UE) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks within an area. Maximum number of participants: 25
 4. Practical training courses (PR) provide practical experience with concrete scientific tasks, complementing occupational and academic training. Maximum number of participants: 14

§ 6 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

In courses with a limited number of participants, course places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If the criterium in no. 1 does not suffice, first, students for whom this course is part of a compulsory module are to be given priority, and second, students for whom this course is part of an elective module.
3. If the criteria in no. 1 and 2 do not suffice, the available places are drawn by random.

§ 7 Compulsory modules

(1) The following compulsory modules amounting to 87.5 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Anthropology and Ethics	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Philosophical Anthropology Discussion of the question “What makes us humans?” based on traditional ideas as well as contemporary philosophical-anthropological theories.	2	3
b.	VO Applied Ethics Concepts of applied ethics; dealing with questions such as issues of bioethics, political ethics or animals ethics	1	2
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students have expertise in philosophical anthropology; They can apply past and present ethical forms of reasoning independently and innovatively to specific fields.			
Prerequisites: none			

2.	Compulsory Module: Bible Theology and Biblical Exegesis	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Theology of the Old Testament Presentation of overarching theological topics with a view to the context of the entire Old Testament	2	2.5
b.	VO Theology of the New Testament Presentation of overarching theological topics with a view to the context of the entire New Testament	2	2.5
c.	VU Biblical Exegesis of Key Texts Exemplary exegetical interpretation of central texts of the Old and New Testaments with a significant history of impact, for example with regard to images of God, images of man and gender identities	1	2.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: The students can independently develop theological focal points beyond biblical book boundaries; They can draw conclusions for church action and proclamation from exegetical findings on key biblical texts.			
Prerequisites: none			

3.	Compulsory Module: Patrology and Church History.	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Patrology: Central Debates Reconstruction of decisive theological debates in ancient Christianity, historical classification of the most important protagonists and their discussion networks, study of the significance of these debates for the history of theology and dogma	2	3
b.	VO Special Topics in Church History Advanced study of the knowledge of the history of the Church on the basis of thematically focused longitudinal sections through the history of Christianity or on the basis of exemplary advanced study of particularly significant time segments or event complexes	1	2
	Total	3	5
	Learning Outcomes: The students know about decisive theological moments of the formative phase of Christianity as well as about other key events and phenomena in church history and can make new research findings usable for the present.		
	Prerequisites: none		

4.	Compulsory Module: Liturgical Science and Homiletics	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Liturgical Science: Baptism and the Eucharist Analysis of the constitutive Christian rituals of baptism and the Eucharist from a theological perspective, taking into account the most important statements from the history of theology and teaching as well as ecumenical issues	2	3.5
b.	UE Homiletics Theologically reflected practice in the sermon as an exemplary speech act of pastoral care: scriptural speech about God in biographical-contextual creativity	2	4
	Total	4	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: The students have expertise in the history, practice and theological interpretation of central liturgical practices. They can develop and deliver a liturgical sermon independently and methodically innovative.		
	Prerequisites: none		

5.	Compulsory Module: Dogmatic Theology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Special Topics in Dogmatic Theology Advanced study of selected topics from the entire field of dogmatic theology	2	2.5
b.	VU Individual Questions in Dogmatic Theology Selected special questions relating to current research in dogmatic theology	1	2.5
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to apply their expertise in the field of dogmatic theology independently to exemplary questions and to develop positions on a high theoretical level.			
Prerequisites: none			

6.	Compulsory Module: Christian Ethics and Ecumenical Theology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Peace, Justice and the Preservation of Creation Aspects of Christian global responsibility in central areas of social life with special consideration of sustainability and gender equality	2	3.5
b.	VU Applied Moral Theology Holistic theology of human life, applied to situations of endangerment of one's dignity: ethical challenges at the beginning and the end of life, in suffering and illness	1	2
c.	VU Ecumenical Dialogue Today Overview of the state of ecumenical dialogue based on documents of growing agreement between Christian denominations	1	2
	Total	4	7.5
Learning Outcomes: The students can innovatively apply the standards of Christian action to specific problems and challenges of the present and independently develop proposed solutions in the service of sustainability, gender equality and the unity of the churches.			
Prerequisites: none			

7.	Compulsory Module: Fundamental Theology and Religions of the World	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Fundamental Theology and Theology of Religions Development of a reasoning and experience-based justification of Christian faith with an emphasis on the dialogue with other religions with special consideration of educational contexts	2	3
b.	VO Religions of the World Scientific introduction to selected religious traditions or ideological orientation systems from past and present as well as their relationship to Western thinking, especially to questions of gender equality	1	2
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students have expertise in central topics of fundamental theology and the theology of religions. They can include points of contact and differences to other religious traditions, particularly with a view to interreligious dialogue.			
Prerequisites: none			

8.	Compulsory Module: Interreligious Religious Education	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Interreligious Research-Based Religious Education Philosophical and methodological fundamentals for the conceptualisation of interreligious education in the context of school and non-school education; dealing with current research results on interreligious discourses; concepts of interreligious education concepts;	2	2
b.	SE Interreligious Research-Based Religious Education Discussion of religious-pedagogical and didactical questions from the perspective of different religions; plurality and differences in consideration of inclusive approaches; critical perspectives of common concepts of interreligious professionalisation and competence;	2	3
	Total	4	5
Learning Outcomes: The students can innovatively conceptualise teaching and learning processes in interreligious school and non-school education on the basis of current models of interreligious education, guided by research.			
Prerequisites: none			

9.	Compulsory Module: Subject-Didactics Secondary Level I and Non-School Education	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Subject-Didactics Secondary Level I Framework conditions for religious education in lower secondary level (age range 10–14) with a focus on middle school; relevant curricula and religion books; competence-oriented lesson planning and performance assessment as well as gender-specific aspects	2	3
b.	PR Practical Training Secondary Level I Theory and research-based observation of religious education; planning, implementation and didactic reflection of teaching units in lower secondary level	2	3
c.	VU Non-School Education Concepts and didactics of extracurricular education; special consideration of adult education and community catechetical contexts considering the changing age-specific needs; challenges of religious plurality; criteria for educational action and their implementation in practice	2	4
	Total	6	10
Learning Outcomes: The students know the general conditions of religious education in lower secondary level; They can plan, manage and evaluate it in a competence-oriented manner and critically assess and innovatively develop the religious pedagogical and didactic quality of school and non-school educational processes.			
Prerequisites: none			

10.	Compulsory Module: Subject-Didactics Secondary Level II and Interreligious Religious Education	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Subject-Didactics Secondary Level II Framework conditions for religious education in upper secondary level (age range 14–19); relevant curricula and religion books; competence-oriented lesson planning and performance assessment; special questions of school pastoral care in secondary schools as well as gender-specific aspects	2	3
b.	PR Practical Training Secondary Level II Theory and research-based observation of religious education; planning, implementation and didactic reflection of teaching units in secondary level II classes	2	3.5
c.	SE Interreligious Cooperative Religious Didactics Fundamentals and criteria for religious didactic activity; working on theological topics from an interreligious perspective and in interreligious cooperation	2	3.5
	Total	6	10
Learning Outcomes: The students know the general conditions of religious instruction in upper secondary level; They can plan, manage and evaluate it in a competence-oriented manner, conceptualise subject areas from an interreligious perspective and develop them innovatively.			
Prerequisites: none			

11.	Compulsory Module: Advanced Religious Didactics and Pastoral Theology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Advanced Religious Didactics Synoptical analysis of religious didactic and subject didactic concepts with their background theories; exemplary examination of individual approaches in the context of theory and practice, in particular gender-specific approaches	2	3
b.	VU Profession-Specific Competence Development and Crisis Management Reflection of one's own religious educational and didactic competence development, advanced study of (religious-) educational issues against the background of practical experiences in education contexts	2	3
c.	VO Places of Pastoral Care Theology of the places of church practice (e.g. parish, youth work, city pastoral, clinical pastoral care, social pastoral care) in the social spaces of a contextually networked overall pastoral care: empirical approaches, critical perspectives and practical options	1	1.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: The students can theoretically analyse religious and didactic concepts and implement them innovatively. They can reflect their own competence development and the diversity of pastoral places independently and creatively in a theological way.			
Prerequisites: none			

12.	Compulsory Module: Exemplary Advanced Study	h	ECTS-Credits
	One of the following courses is to be selected: SE Philosophie: Advanced Exemplary Study (2 hrs.; 5 ECTS-Credits) Research-oriented study of a complex of topics from the field of philosophy SE Biblical Studies and Historical Theology: Advanced Exemplary Study (2 hrs.; 5 ECTS-Credits) Research-oriented study of a complex of topics from the field of biblical studies and history theology SE Systematic Theology: Advanced Exemplary Study (2 hrs.; 5 ECTS-Credits) Research-oriented study of a complex of topics from the field of systematic theology SE Practical Theology: Exemplary Advanced Study (2 hrs., 5 ECTS-Credits) Research-oriented study of a complex of topics from the field of practical theology		5
	Total		5
Learning Outcomes: The students can work on current research questions from philosophy and theology independently and jointly in an innovative way and derive conclusions for the further development of research.			

	Prerequisites: none
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13.	Compulsory Module: Preparation of the Master's Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	Preparation of the Master's Thesis Agreement on the topic, scope and form of the Master's Thesis on the basis of a brief description of the content (synopsis) as well as agreement on the work processes and the course of study; planning a corresponding time frame for the implementation of the Master's Thesis		5
	Total		5
	Learning Outcomes: The students are able to write a short description of the content (synopsis) of the planned Master's Thesis and to outline the schedule.		
	Prerequisites: none		

14.	Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defense	h	ECTS-Credits
	Master's Thesis Defense		2.5
	Total		2.5
	Learning Outcomes: The students are able to present the Master's Thesis and defend it in a discussion.		
	Prerequisites: positive evaluation of compulsory modules 1 to 13, the Interdisciplinary Skills acc. to par. 2 and the Master's Thesis		

(2) Interdisciplinary Skills

According to §54 par. 1 Universities Act, courses amounting to altogether 10 ECTS-Credits are to be passed from the master's and diploma programmes offered at the University of Innsbruck. The respective registration prerequisites are to be met.

§ 8 Master's Thesis

- (1) The Master's Thesis is a scientific piece of work that proves the ability to work on a scientific topic independently and in a justifiable way in terms of content and methodology.
- (2) The topic of the Master's Thesis must be topically related to one of the compulsory modules 1 to 12 of the master's programme.
- (3) The Master's Thesis covers a workload of 22.5 ECTS-Credits. To enable the students to complete the work on the topic of the Master's Thesis within six months acc. to §81 par .2 Universities Act, the scientific paper must be preceded in any case by the "Preparation of the Master's Thesis" module covering 5 ECTS-Credits.
- (4) The completed Master's Thesis must be submitted in electronic form and in the written form specified by the Director of Studies.

§ 9 Examination regulations

- (1) Compulsory modules 1 to 12 are completed by the positive evaluation of the individual courses in the form of course examinations.
- (2) For course examinations for lectures, the course instructor has to specify and announce the examination method (written and/or oral) before the start of the lecture.
- (3) The evaluation criteria for courses with continuous performance assessment are to be specified and announced by the course instructor before the start of the course.
- (4) The evaluation of the Interdisciplinary Skills acc. to §7 par. 2 is based on the regulations of the curricula they are taken from.

- (5) The performance of the compulsory module “Preparation of the Master’s Thesis” is evaluated by the supervisor based on the synopsis. Positive evaluation reads “participated with success”, negative evaluation reads “participated without success”.
- (6) The final Master’s Thesis Defense lasts 30 minutes per candidate and is an individual exam. The examination method is oral.

§ 10 Academic degree

Graduates of the Master’s Programme in Catholic Religious Education are awarded the academic degree “Master of Arts”, abbreviated “MA”.

§ 11 Coming into force

This curriculum comes into force as of 1 October 2021.

§ 12 Transitional regulations

- (1) This curriculum applies to all students commencing the Master’s Programme in Catholic Religious Education from the winter semester 2021/22 onwards.
- (2) Regular degree students who have started the Master’s Programme in Catholic Religious Education based on the curriculum of 2009, published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 13 February 2009, Issue 23, No. 129, last changes published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28 June 2019, Issue 67, No. 598, before 1 October 2021, are entitled to finish this study programme within six semesters from this point in time.
- (3) If the Master’s Programme in Catholic Religious Education based on the curriculum of 2009 is not finished in time, the students will be subjected to the curriculum for the Master’s Programme in Catholic Religious Education 2021, University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 23 June 2021, Issue 80, No. 880 (curriculum 2021). In addition, the students can change to the curriculum of 2021 on voluntary basis.
- (4) The recognition of examination acc. to §78 par. 1 Universities Act 2002 is regulated in the appendix of this curriculum.

For the curriculum committee:
ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. Winfried Löffler

For the senate:
Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Walter Obwexer

Appendix: Recognition regulations acc. to §78 par. 1 Universities Act 2002

The successfully passed examinations within the scope of the Master's Programme in Catholic Religious Education (curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 13 February 2009, Issue 23, No. 129 in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28 June 2019, Issue 67, No. 598) listed below are recognised for the Master's Programme in Catholic Religious Education at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Innsbruck (curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 23 June 2021, Issue 80, No. 880) as follows:

	Modules (parts) of the Curriculum 2009	h	ECTS-Credits	Modules (parts) of the Curriculum 2021	h	ECTS-Credits
CM 1.	Compulsory Module: Ethics and Social Ethics					
CM 1a.	VU Applied Ethics	2	3.5	CM 1b. VO Applied Ethics	1	2
CM 1b.	VO Special Issues of Christian Social Ethics	2	4	CM 6a. VU Peace, Justice and the Preservation of Creation	2	3.5
CM 2.	Compulsory Module: Exegesis Old Testament					
CM 2a.	VO Exegesis Old Testament	2	3.5	CM 2a. VO Theology of the Old Testament	2	2.5
CM 2b.	SE Exegetical Seminar Old Testament	2	4	CM 2c. VU Biblical Exegesis of Key Texts	1	2.5
				and Course of Interdisciplinary Skills acc. to §7 par. 2	--	2.5
CM 3.	Compulsory Module: Exegesis New Testament					
CM 3a.	VO Exegesis New Testament	2	3.5	CM 2b. VO Theology of the New Testament	2	2.5
CM 3b.	SE Exegetical Seminar New Testament	2	4	CM 12: SE Biblical Studies and Historical Theology: Advanced Exemplary Study	2	5
CM 4.	Compulsory Module: Systematic Theology					
CM 4a.	VO Ecumenical Theology: Ecumenical Dialogue Today	1	2.5	CM 6c. VU Ecumenical Dialogue Today	1	2
CM 4b.	VO Dogmatic Theology III: The Faith of the Church with Regard to the Drama of the World	2	4	CM 3b. VO Special Topics in Church History	1	2
				and CM 7b. VO Religions of the World	1	2
CM 4c.	SE Moral Theology: Gender Ethics	2	3	CM 6b. VU Applied Moral Theology	1	2
CM 4d.	VO Fundamental Theology IV: Reflection of Fundamental Theology	1	3	CM 7a. VO Fundamental Theology and Theology of Religions	2	3
CM 5.	Compulsory Module: Life and Teachings of the Church					

CM 5a.	SE Dogmatic Theology: Thematic focus on the Basis of Pertinent Academic Literature	2	4	CM 5a. VO Special Topics in Dogmatic Theology and CM 11c. VO Places of Pastoral Care	2 1	2.5 1.5
CM 5b.	VO Overarching Topics in Dogmatic Theology	2	2.5	CM 5b. VU Individual Questions in Dogmatic Theology	1	2.5
CM 5c.	VO Liturgics and Theology of the Sacraments II: Celebrations according to the Rhythm of Time	2	3	CM 4a. VO Liturgical Sciences: Baptism and the Eucharist	2	3.5
CM 5d.	VO Patrology: Christology and Trinity	2	3	CM 3a. VO Patrology: Central Debates	2	3
CM 6.	Compulsory Module: Ministry of the Word and Pastoral Care					
CM 6a.	SE Homiletics	2	3	CM 4b. UE Homiletics	2	4
CM 6b.	SE Canon Law: Ministry of the World and Pastoral Care	1	2	Course of Interdisciplinary Skills acc. to §7 par. 2	--	2
CM 7.	Compulsory Module: Canon Law and School Education					
CM 7a.	VO Canon Law: The People of God	2	2.5	CM 1a. VO Philosophical Anthropology	2	3
CM 7b.	VO Canon Law: Marriage Law	2	3	Course of Interdisciplinary Skills acc. to §7 par. 2	--	3.5
CM 7c.	VO Canonical Fundamentals of Education, Counselling and Pastoral Care	1	2	Course of Interdisciplinary Skills acc. to §7 par. 2	--	2
CM 8.	Compulsory Module: Interreligious Research-Oriented Religious Pedagogy					
CM 8a.	VO Interreligious Research-Oriented Religious Pedagogy	2	2	CM 8a. VO Interreligious Research-Based Religious Education	2	2
CM 8b.	SE Interreligious Research-Oriented Religious Pedagogy	2	3	CM 8b. SE Interreligious Research-Based Religious Education	2	3
CM 9.	Compulsory Module: Subject Didactics and Pedagogical Practical Studies I					
CM 9a.	SE Subject Didactic I	2	2	CM 9a. SE Subject-Didactics Secondary Level I	2	3
CM 9b.	PR Practical Training I	2	3	CM 9b. PR Practical Training Secondary Level I	2	3

CM 10.	Compulsory Module: Subject Didactics and Pedagogical Practical Studies II					
CM 10a.	SE Subject Didactics for Secondary Schools	2	3	CM 10a. SE Subject-Didactics Secondary Level II	2	3
CM 10b.	Practical Training II	2	4.5	CM 10b. PR Subject-Didactics Secondary Level II	2	3.5
CM 11.	Compulsory Module: Theology and Subject-Specific Education					
CM 11a.	SE Didactics of Non-School Education	2	4	CM 9c. VU Non-School Education	2	4
CM 11b.	SE Cooperative Religious Didactics II	2	3.5	CM 10c. SE Interreligious Cooperative Religious Didactics	2	3.5
CM 11c.	VU Didactics of Religion – Advanced Level	2	3	CM 11a. VU Advanced Religious Didactics	2	3
CM 11d.	SE Concluding Seminar	2	2	CM 11b. VU Profession-Specific Competence Development and Crisis Management	2	3
CM 12.	Compulsory Module: Preparation of the Master’s Thesis	--	7.5	CM 13. Preparation of the Master’s Thesis	--	5
CM 13.	Compulsory Module: Master’s Thesis Defense	--	2.5	CM 14. Master’s Thesis Defense	--	2.5