

**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 from 18 December 2013**

#### Curriculum for the **Master of Catholic Religious Education** at the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Innsbruck

#### **§ 1 Qualification profile and programme objectives**

- (1) The Master Programme Catholic Religious Education offers an extensive education in theology and the pedagogy of religion with special emphasis on religious education of adolescents or adults, counselling and pastoral care. It espouses a theological and multi-perspective view of education and pastoral care, didactics, and guidance and it enhances the communicative and interdisciplinary competencies of its graduates. Thus it prepares for professions within the church, but also in society at large, that demand a complete theological academic training in connection with an education in the pedagogy of religion or in pastoral care. If the required modules of subject didactics in secondary schools and of teaching practice are fulfilled, it also provides the qualifications for the Teacher Training Programme for Catholic Religion without a second subject for all types of schools.
- (2) The graduates in particular will have gained the following qualifications:
  - They will be able to perceive and independently attend to questions of theology with respect to religious education.
  - They will be able to explain questions of religion and systems of religious ideas that are relevant for society in the venues of secondary adolescent and of adult education.
  - They will be able to relate different religious doctrines to the centre of faith and to see their inner coherence; thus they will be able to assess church and society from the perspective of the Christian faith.
  - They will be able to independently utilize the appropriate sources and literature for their professional tasks.
  - They will be able to integrate their theological knowledge into their own personality.
- (3) The Master Programme of Catholic Religious Education can be completed with two alternate specialisations:
  - with a specialisation on secondary education by choosing the module “Secondary Schools”;
  - with a specialisation on adult education by choosing the module “Communicative Education, Counselling and Pastoral Care”.

- (4) The Master Programme of Catholic Religious Education prepares in particular for the following professions:
- teaching religion in all schools types within the European Union and in comparable systems of education world-wide, if the module “Secondary Schools” is completed;
  - executive positions in adult education, counselling and pastoral care, in the venue of psychological-social services and similar professions, if the module “Communicative Education, Counselling and Pastoral Care – Special Issues” is completed;
  - academic careers.
- (5) By completing both the modules “Secondary Schools” and “Communicative Education, Counselling and Pastoral Care – Special Issues” (which exceeds the maximum ECTS-Credits of the Master Programme), students can acquire qualifications for both religious education at secondary schools and for adult education, counselling, and ministry.

## § 2 Classification

The Master Programme of Catholic Religious Education is assigned to the group of theological study programmes.

## § 3 Duration of the programme

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

## § 4 Access requirements

- (1) Access requirements to the Master Programme Catholic Religious Education are a bachelor degree in an appropriate subject or an equivalent course of studies in an accepted institution of postsecondary education in Austria or abroad.
- (2) The bachelor degree of Catholic Religious Education at the University of Innsbruck is definitely a degree, as stated in paragraph 1.

## § 5 Types of courses and number of participants

- (1) **Lectures** (VO) teach by teacher presentation. The maximum number of participants is 126.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
  1. **Lectures with exercises** (VU) are lectures which enhance active student participation. The maximum number of participants is 126.
  2. **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 20.
  3. **Co-operative Seminars** (SK) are interdisciplinary seminars that are conducted by a minimum of two teachers from different disciplines. The maximum number of participants is 20.
  4. **Practicums** (PR) complement the academic education by especially preparing for one's professional tasks. The maximum number of participants is 20.
  5. **Courses** (KU) require students to prepare the subject matter largely on their own. However,

some presence requirements or participation in online-elements are possible. The maximum number of participants is 25.

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

Students for whom a waiting period would amount to additional semesters of study time are granted priority in the admission process. § 7 **Mandatory and Elective Modules**

### (1) Mandatory Modules

The following eleven mandatory modules amounting to 85 ECTS-Credits have to be fulfilled:

<b>1.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Philosophy and Religious Studies</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Psychological Anthropology</b> Inner and outer influences on human experience and behaviour: the anthropology of the main currents of contemporary psychology	2	2
<b>b.</b>	<b>VO Advanced Ethics</b> Analysis and philosophical assessment of classical and contemporary texts about ethical problems: Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Kant, Smith, Schopenhauer, Moore, Ross, Hare etc.	2	4
<b>c.</b>	<b>VU Applied Ethics</b> The Concept of an Applied Ethics; discussion of problems from bio-ethics, political and animal ethics; discussions and exercises about these texts	2	3.5
<b>d.</b>	<b>VO World Religions I: Islam</b> History and current developments (esp. in Europe) with special regard to the person of the Prophet, the claims of the Koran, ethical, social, legal, and political questions, and the relationship to Judaism and Christianity	1	1.5
<b>e.</b>	<b>VO World Religions II</b> Alternating introduction to the history and current situation of diverse religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Taoism, etc.) or other systems of ideas and beliefs with special regard to their relationship to Christianity and Western thinking	1	1.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Ability to advanced ethical reflection and consideration of the anthropology of contemporary psychology; competency to independently and critically analyse the historical and current outlook, way of life, and truth claims of selected religions from the perspective of religious studies		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>2.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Exegesis of the Old Testament</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Exegesis Old Testament</b> Detailed exegesis of selected passages from the Old Testament, applying the appropriate exegetical methods	2	3.5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Exegetical Seminar Old Testament</b> Selected passages about a common theme or from the same author are exegetically analysed and discussed by the participants	2	4
	<b>Total</b>		

	<p><b>Objective:</b> Consolidation and extension of the basic knowledge of Old Testament Exegesis, which was gained in the Introduction to and Fundamental Exegesis of the Old Testament, as well as in the biblical and historical preparatory seminars; ability to independently work on texts from the Old Testament by applying the appropriate methods and using proper commentaries and secondary literature</p>
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>

3.	Compulsory Module: Exegesis of the New Testament	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p><b>VO Exegesis New Testament</b> Translation of selected passages of the New Testament from the original Greek and interpretation according to established methodical procedures</p>	2	3.5
b.	<p><b>SE Exegetical Seminar New Testament</b> Selected passages or motifs from single books, groups of books or theological themes of the New Testament</p>	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<p><b>Objective:</b> Consolidation and extension of the basic knowledge of New Testament Exegesis, which was gained in the Introduction to and Fundamental Exegesis of the New Testament, as well as in the biblical and historical preparatory seminars; ability to independently work on texts from the New Testament by applying the appropriate methods and using proper commentaries and secondary literature</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>		

4.	Compulsory Module: Judaism	h	ECTS-Credits
	<p><b>VO Introduction to the Nature, Development, and Theology of Judaism</b> Elaboration on development of Jewish culture (as a people and a religion) from antiquity through the middle ages into the 21st century through alternated selected topics</p>	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	<p><b>Objective:</b> Sensitivity for Jewish thinking, theology and self-assessment</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>		

5.	Compulsory Module: Systematic Theology – Special Issues I	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p><b>VO Overarching Themes in Dogmatic Theology</b> Alternating elaboration on central themes that reach across the dogmatic tractates: The human person in the polarity of sin and grace; divine and human freedom; the Trinity as basic model of a Christian view on reality; substitution and judgement; “sacrifice” as a basic theological category; “person” as a basic theological category</p>	2	2.5
b.	<p><b>VO Fundamental Theology IV: Reflexion on Fundamental Theology</b></p>	1	2

	Selected questions and their relevance for current challenges to the Christian faith from the themes: analysis of faith and plausibility; history of forms of theological argumentations; Christianity and culture; theological hermeneutics (esp. of feminist theology); Christianity's contributions to a more humane world; theodicee; current questions of apologetics		
<b>c.</b>	<b>SE Moral Theology: Gender-Ethics</b> The ethical relevance of the of the structural category "sex/gender" in social, theological, and ecclesial contexts will be explored in alternating thematic emphases: gender-specific experience and construction of value and sin; conduct of life; work processes; family life; generations; violence	2	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Special Issues of basic knowledge in the context of questions taken from different disciplines or from current events		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>6.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Systematic Theology – Special Issues II</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Dogmatic Theology: Main Topics of Dogmatic Theology</b> Alternating, extensive treatment of selected central topics from within the dogmatic tractates	1	2
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Dogmatic Theology: Thematic Foci on the Basis of Pertinent Academic Literature</b> Selected topics from the whole range of Dogmatic Theology	2	4
<b>c.</b>	<b>VO Special Issues of Christian Social Ethics</b> Alternating treatment of topics from the fields of political ethics, ethics of peace, ethics of the economy and social anthropology	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Special Issues of the knowledge of dogmatic and social doctrines of the church by treating selected problems		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>7.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Historical Theology – Special Issues</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Church History: History of the Papacy</b> Overview over the genesis and historical development of the papacy as an important historical force in the Western church and Western society	2	2
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Patrology/Church History: Orthodoxy and Heresy</b> Common treatment of the problem of true or erroneous faith from thematic fields or selected sources	2	4
<b>c.</b>	<b>SE Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology: Exemplary Study of Sources</b> Common analysis of important historical source texts on liturgy, ranging from antiquity up to the present	2	4
<b>d.</b>	<b>VO Ecumenical Theology: Ecumenical Dialogue Today</b>	1	2.5

	Overview over documents of a growing agreement (bi- and multilateral)		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Exemplary work with historical sources from church and liturgy; insight into the problems of the papacy (historical development and ecumenical problematic); enhanced insights into discussions about true or erroneous faith and into current chances of an ecumenical agreement in matters of faith		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>8.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Practical Theology – Special Issues I</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Pastoral Theology: Theology of the Congregation</b> Fundamental dimensions of the Christian congregation in the perspective of an ecclesiology based on the New Testament; analysis of the development of congregations in the German-speaking countries and the global church	1	2
<b>b.</b>	<b>VO Canon Law: The People of God</b> Legal structure of the church as <i>communio</i> ; the responsibilities of all Christian believers, the pope, the bishops, priests, deacons, and the synodal and conciliar bodies on the different levels of the church	2	2,5
<b>c.</b>	<b>SE The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Salvation</b> Clarification of the concepts: conscience, sin, forgiveness, guilt, remorse, penance and salvation; practical introduction to confessional and pastoral communication;	2	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Knowledge of canonical, pastoral and moral theological approaches, norms and values of a participatory communion-theology in the wake of the second Vatican Council; of the foundations of a theology of the congregation and of the legal structure of the church as the people of God; pastoral competency in the service of the sacrament of reconciliation		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>9.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Ministry of the Word – Catechesis – Pastoral Care</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>SE Catechetics: Catechesis of the Congregation</b> Development of the catechesis and the pedagogy of the congregation in distinction from and connection with religious school education; diverging concepts of congregational catechesis and their practical implementations	2	2.5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Canon Law: Ministry of the Word and Pastoral Care</b> Canonical norms of different forms of the ministry of the word and the magisterium of the church	1	2
<b>c.</b>	<b>SK Homiletics</b> Preconditions of preaching today; introduction to different kinds of sermons; practical introduction to biblical preaching	2	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b>		

	Acquisition of competencies in the fields of congregational catechesis, homiletics, and canonical norms of the ministry of the word and pastoral care
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none

10.	Compulsory Module: Didactics and Pedagogy of Religion	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>SK Cooperative Didactics of Religion</b> Thematic foundations and criteria for acting in a didactically responsible way in theological contexts, conducted in cooperation with a teacher from a second theological or philosophical discipline (the combination must be different from the one chosen in the bachelor programme)	2	3.5
b.	<b>VO Social Psychology of Adolescence</b> Overview over the most important forms of expressions of adolescent culture; adolescents as intended addressees and as dialogue partners in inter- generational interaction; the significance of expressions of adolescent culture for the formation of individual and group identity during adolescence; current trends	2	2
c.	<b>SE Concluding Seminar</b> Reflexion of the students' own theological, didactical and personal biography (in as far as relevant for their studies) with regard to their later professional praxis; development of one's own pedagogical resp. pastoral theological perspectives	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Special Issues of the pedagogical competency (in religion) with regard to the later professional praxis; practicing interdisciplinary cooperation in educational and pastoral processes		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

11.	Compulsory Module: Defense of the Master Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>Defense of the Master Thesis</b>		2.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Ability to present one's own master thesis, to defend its results and to respond to questions arising in discussion		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> Positive grading of the Mandatory Modules 1-10, of the Elective Modules, and the Master Thesis		

(2) Elective Modules

One of the Elective Modules 1 and 2 amounting to 10 ECTS-Credits has to be completed:

1.	Elective Module: Secondary Schools	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>KU Didactics of Religion – Special Issues</b> Differentiated examination of general and specialised concepts of the	2	3

	didactics of religion with their respective background theories; exemplary exploration of single approaches of the connection between theory and praxis		
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Subject Didactics for Secondary Schools</b> Social and ecclesial context of religious education at the school types AHS and BMHS; relevant curricula; preparatory planning over the period of a year and of concrete lessons; diverse ways of learning and teaching; evaluation and grading in religious education; project teaching	2	3
<b>c.</b>	<b>PR Special Practical Training and Student Teaching Supervision: Secondary Schools</b> Sitting in on lessons; practical exercises; if possible participation in projects, teacher conferences and other school events; observation of lessons and reflection of one's own praxis	4	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Introduction to the structural conditions in secondary schools and acquisition of basic competency for teaching at AHS und BMHS schools		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>2.</b>	<b>Elective Module: Communicative Education, Counselling and Pastoral Care– Special Issues</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>KU Didactics of Religion – Special Issues</b> Differentiated examination of general and specialised concepts of the didactics of religion with their respective background theories; exemplary exploration of particular approaches of the connection between theory and praxis	2	3
<b>b.</b>	<b>KU Project Development: Communicative Education, Counselling and Pastoral Care</b> Planning and managing projects from a theological perspective; planning, implementing and evaluating projects in the realms of the pedagogy of religion and pastoral care	2	5
<b>c.</b>	<b>SE Canonical Norms for Education, Counselling and Pastoral Care</b> Introduction to the canonical framework of ecclesial pedagogical and pastoral care	1	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Independent planning, implementation and reflection of processes of education, counselling, and pastoral care from a theological perspective; differentiated analysis of concepts of the didactics of religion and canonical and legal structures; multi-perspective preparation of themes		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		



## **§ 8 Master Thesis**

- (1) The Master Thesis is to document the ability to independently work on a theological topic in a methodologically and thematically responsible way.
- (2) The topic of the Master Thesis has to be thematically connected to one of the modules of the master programme.
- (3) The Master Thesis amounts to a workload of 25 ECTS-Credits.
- (4) The Master Thesis has to be submitted in written form and in an electronic form to be determined by the Dean of Studies.

## **§ 9 Examination regulations**

- (1) Each module is completed by the positive grading of each of the courses within the module.
- (2) In the case of exams of lectures, the teacher has to determine and announce the method of the examination (oral or written) before the start of the lecture series.
- (3) In courses with continuous performance assessment, the criteria of examination, which have to include a written paper, have to be determined and announced by the teacher before the start of the course.
- (4) The final Defense of the Master Thesis takes 30 minutes per student. It is an oral examination to be graded by the reviewer(s) of the Master Thesis.

## **§ 10 Academic Degree**

The graduates of the Master Programme Catholic Religious Education receive the degree „Master of Arts“, abbreviated „MA“.

## **§ 11 Coming into force**

This curriculum comes into force on October 1, 2009.

## **§ 12 Transition Regulations**

- (1) Ordinary students who began the Master Programme Catholic Religious Education prior to October 1, 2009, are entitled to complete that programme within a maximum period of five semesters.
- (2) If the Master Programme Catholic Religious Education is not completed within that period, the students are subject to this new curriculum of the Master Programme Catholic Religious Education.
- (3) Students are entitled to voluntarily transfer to the new Master Programme Catholic Religious Education at any time.
- (4) The rules for the recognition of examination results is laid out in the appendix to this curriculum, according to § 78 Abs. 1 UG 2002

**Appendix: general rules for the recognition of examinations according to § 78 (1) UG 2002**

Examinations taken in accordance with the curriculum for the Master Programme Catholic Religious Education (re- published in the University Bulletin of Feb. 18, 2005, No. 92) will be recognised according to § 78 Abs. 1 University Organisation Act 2002 as equal to examinations taken in accordance with the new curriculum for Master Programme Catholic Religious Education, as stated below:

<b>Completed examinations</b>	h	ECTS- Credits	<b>Recognised as:</b>	h	ECTS- Credits
Module Biblical Studies and Fundamen- tal Theology	6	12	VO Exegesis Old Testament	2	3.5
			and VO Exegesis New Testament	2	3.5
			and SE Exegetical Seminar Old Tes- tament	2	4
			or SE Exegetical Seminar New Tes- tament	2	4
Module Christian Philosophy	6	12	VO Psychological Anthropology and VO Advanced Ethics	2	2
			and VU Applied Ethics	2	4
				2	3.5
Module Historical Theology	6	12	VO Church History: History of the Papacy and VO Ecumenical Theology: Ecu- menical Dialogue Today	2	2
			and SE Liturgical Studies and Sacra- mental Theology: Exemplary Study of Sources	1	2.5
				2	4
Module Practical Theology	6	12	SE Catechetics: Catechesis of the Congregation	2	2.5
			and VO Canon Law: The People of God	2	2.5
			and VO Pastoral Theology: Theology of the Congregation	1	2

Module Systematic Theology	6	12	VO Overarching Themes in Dogmatic Theology	2	2.5
			and SE Moral Theology: Gender-Ethics	2	3
			and VO Special Issues of Christian Social Ethics	2	4
			or SE Dogmatic Theology: Thematic Foci on the Basis of Pertinent	2	4
			Academic Literature		
LV Education	4	4	VO Social Psychology of Adolescence and SE Concluding Seminar	2 2	2 2
FP Religious Education	12	24	KU Didactics of Religion – Special Issues and SE Subject Didactics for Secondary Schools and SK Cooperative Didactics of Religion	2 2 2	3 2 3.5
Teaching Practice	(6)	6	PR Special Practical Training: Secondary Schools and PR Supervision of the Teaching Practice in Secondary Schools	4 1	4 1