

Faculty doctoral regulations for the School of Theology at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) - FPromO Theol - dated June 27, 2024

Based on Section 9 in conjunction with Section 96 (3)(1) and Section 97 (1)(6) **Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act** dated August 5, 2022 (**BayHIG**), FAU enacts the following faculty doctoral regulations:

Contents

I. General Provisions.....	2
Section 1 Scope	2
Section 2 Doctoral Degrees.....	2
Section 3 Doctoral Titles.....	2
Section 4 Bodies Responsible and Procedural Regulations	2
Section 5 Supervisors and Reviewers	3
Section 6 Compensation for Disadvantages	3
II. Admission to a Doctoral Degree	3
Section 7 Requirements for Admission, Provisional Admission	3
Section 8 Qualifying Examination	4
Section 9 Admission to a Doctoral Degree, Fixed Term Admission	4
III. The Doctoral Procedure.....	4
Section 10 Initiation of the Doctoral Procedure.....	4
Section 11 Requirements for the Thesis.....	4
Section 12 Evaluation, Acceptance and Rejection of the Thesis.....	5
Section 13 Oral Examination	5
Section 14 Use of Audiovisual Telecommunication Technology; Remote Examinations.	7
Section 15 Resitting the Oral Examination	7
Section 16 Results of the Doctoral Procedure, Notification.....	7
Section 17 Publication of the Thesis and Submission of Mandatory Copies	7
Section 18 Fraud/Plagiarism	7
Section 19 Completion of the Doctoral Degree.....	7
IV. Honorary Degrees	7
Section 20 Honorary Doctoral Degrees	7
V. Collaborations with Universities of Applied Sciences and Art Schools.....	8
Section 21 Cooperative Doctoral Degrees/Joint Doctoral Degrees.....	8
VI. Doctoral Degrees in Cooperation with Foreign Universities.....	8
Section 22 General.....	8
Section 23 Examinations Procedure at FAU.....	8
Section 24 Examinations Procedure at the Partner Institution	8
Section 25 Joint Doctoral Degree Certificate	8
VII. Invalidity and Revocation of Doctoral Degrees.....	8
Section 26 Invalidity of Doctoral Degrees	8
Section 27 Revocation of Doctoral Degrees	8
VIII. Final Provisions.....	8
Section 28 Legal Validity, Transitory Provisions	8
Appendix:.....	9

I. General Provisions

Section 1 Scope

¹These faculty doctoral regulations supplement the General Doctoral Regulations of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg for the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology in the currently valid version (**RPromO**) and are therefore structured in the same way. ²Regulations pursuant to these faculty doctoral regulations are stipulated in the relevant sections; in all other instances, the provisions stipulated in the **RPromO** shall apply.

Section 2 Doctoral Degrees

A doctoral degree demonstrates the ability to produce an independent piece of academic work in the subject of Protestant Theology.

Section 3 Doctoral Titles

¹The name of the doctoral title awarded by the School of Theology is Doktorin or Doktor der Theologie (Dr. theol.). ²For honorary doctoral degrees, the name of the title is Doktorin or Doktor der Theologie ehrenhalber (Dr. theol. h.c.).

Section 4 Bodies Responsible and Procedural Regulations

(1) The bodies responsible are the Doctoral Affairs Committee and the Examining Committee.

(2) The Doctoral Affairs Committee comprises the following members:

1. The professors of the School of Theology including secondary members pursuant to Section 37 (3) of **BayHIG** and
2. The other full-time university lecturers pursuant to Section 53 (4) **BayHIG** who work at FAU full-time or part-time (pursuant to Section 19 (1) **BayHIG**) at the department of Protestant Theology.

²The full-time professors pursuant to Section 53(4) BayHIG from the Universities of Bamberg and Würzburg as well as those named in Section 3 (1) and 4 (1) of the Contract between the State of Bavaria and the Protestant Lutheran Church in Bavaria for Protestant theology, Protestant religious education and teaching methodology of Protestant religious education from the Universities of Bamberg and Würzburg are entitled to participate in the meetings of the Doctoral Affairs Committee and to cast votes and they must be invited to these meetings. ³The reviewers may give advice during the consultations pursuant to Section 12 (4-6) **RPromO** (consultation for accepting or rejecting the doctoral thesis).

(3) The speaker of the School of Theology shall be appointed as chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee; they shall be represented by the deputy speaker.

(4) ¹The Doctoral Affairs Committee is responsible for administering the doctoral procedure. ²It can transfer responsibility for certain tasks to the chairperson as well as revoke these.

(5) ¹The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall appoint an examining committee that sets the oral examination for each doctoral procedure. ²This examining committee com-

prises the chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee as the chairperson of the examining committee or a deputy appointed by them and the examiners of the oral examination pursuant to Section 6. ³The deputy can also be an examiner of the oral examination. ⁴The chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall notify the doctoral candidate of the composition of the examining committee in writing.

(6) ¹For the oral examination, three examiners shall be appointed as members of the examining committee by the Doctoral Affairs Committee. ²The three examiners must be full-time or part-time university lecturers pursuant to Section 19 (1) **BayHIG** who are employed at FAU as their main occupation pursuant to Section 54 (3) **BayHIG**.

Section 5 Supervisors and Reviewers

¹The supervisor of a doctoral procedure is generally also a reviewer. ²Pursuant to Section 19 (1) **BayHIG**, other part-time or full-time university lecturers who are not employed at FAU as their main occupation can be appointed as supervisors pursuant to Section 53 (4) **BayHIG**. ³In individual cases, heads of junior research groups can be authorized by the Doctoral Affairs Committee on application to supervise doctoral research pursuant to Section 5 (2)(3) **RPromO** as part of the junior research group.

Section 6 Compensation for Disadvantages (see **RPromO**)

II. Admission to a Doctoral Degree

Section 7 Requirements for Admission, Provisional Admission

(1) In order to be admitted to a doctoral degree, the applicant must fulfill the following requirements and provide proof of:

1. A successfully completed degree in Protestant Theology, pursuant to Section 2;
2. Sufficient proficiency in Latin, Greek and Hebrew, pursuant to Section 3;
3. Membership of a Protestant church; in justified exceptional cases, the Doctoral Affairs Committee can admit members of other Christian churches, particularly those that have no equivalent educational institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany.
4. A supervision agreement between the supervisor and the doctoral candidate in accordance with the template in the **Appendix**.

2. Proof of a successfully completed degree in Protestant Theology, pursuant to Section 1 (1) includes:

1. The theological entrance examination of the Protestant Lutheran Church in Bavaria, the final examination in Theology and the Master's examination for the Magister or Master's degree from the School of Theology or a comparable examination;
2. The first State Examination for teaching degrees at Gymnasium schools for Protestant religious studies pursuant to the Examination Regulations for Teaching Degree Programs I (LPO I) or an equivalent examination;

²The Doctoral Affairs Committee decides on the recognition of the equivalence of an examination as well as any alternative conditions to be met if applicable.

(3) ¹Proof of sufficient language proficiency within the meaning of Section 1 (2) can be demonstrated by passing the language examination in Latin, Greek and Hebrew pursuant to the valid versions of the Degree Program and Examination Regulations for Proof of Proficiency in Latin at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) – **StPOLatein** – dated March 3, 2017, Degree Program and Examination Regulations for Proof of Proficiency in Greek for Students of Theology at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) – **POGriechisch** – dated March 13, 2020 and the Degree Program and Examination Regulations for Proof of Proficiency in Hebrew (Hebraicum) of the School of Theology at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) – **POHebräisch** – dated March 13, 2020, or equivalent examinations. ²In justified cases and in those approved by the supervisor of the doctoral thesis, the Doctoral Affairs Committee can reduce the language requirements to one language. ³At the supervisor's request, the Doctoral Affairs Committee can approve the replacement of Latin with a source language relevant to the doctoral research project. ⁴If proof of sufficient language proficiency cannot be supplied, it must be submitted during the course of the doctoral phase. ⁵Proof of language proficiency must be supplied at the latest by the initiation of the doctoral procedure.

Section 8 Qualifying Examination

Qualifying examinations do not take place at the School of Theology.

Section 9 Admission to a Doctoral Degree, Fixed Term Admission

(1) ¹The doctoral research project is presented to the Doctoral Affairs Committee by the supervisor. ²The Doctoral Affairs Committee is responsible for deciding on admission to the doctoral degree and any conditions pursuant to Section 7 (2) and (3).

(2) ¹Doctoral candidates are admitted to doctoral degrees for a fixed term only. ²The fixed term shall be six years. ³Furthermore, the General Doctoral Regulations (**RPromo**) shall apply accordingly.

III.The Doctoral Procedure

Section 10 Initiation of the Doctoral Procedure

The following must be submitted with the application for initiation of the doctoral procedure:

1. Information as to whether the doctoral candidate will choose “Rigorosum” or “Disputation” for the oral examination;
2. If applicable, a suggestion from the doctoral candidate for a reviewer with relevant subject knowledge;
as well as the following in the case of “Rigorosum”:
3. The subjects in which the doctoral candidate would like to be examined on during the oral examination pursuant to Section 13 Section 3; if a subject from outside the Faculty is chosen as a minor subject, an application pursuant to Section 13 Section 3 sentence 5 must also be included;
4. A declaration as to whether listeners are to be excluded from the “Rigorosum”.

Section 11 Requirements for the Thesis

(1) The doctoral thesis may not exceed 300 pages (A4 size) in length.

(2) ¹In exceptional cases, several individual pieces of work may be submitted as a cumulative doctoral thesis if they are closely related in terms of the time they were written and the subject matter and meet the requirements of a doctoral thesis. ²In this case, a framework text of at least 45,000 characters (excluding spaces) must also be submitted, illustrating the contextual links between the various papers and demonstrating that their contents are indicative of a broader knowledge of the subject. ³At least two articles must already have been published or accepted for publication in renowned scientific journals (peer review procedure, preferably at an international level).

Section 12 Evaluation, Acceptance and Rejection of the Thesis

(1) ¹The evaluations must include a grade. ²The following grades shall apply:

summa cum laude	= ausgezeichnet (1)	= an outstanding achievement
magna cum laude	= sehr gut (2)	= an excellent achievement
cum laude	= gut (3)	= an above-average achievement
rite	= befriedigend (4)	= an achievement that fulfills average requirements
insufficienter	= unzulänglich (5)	= an unsatisfactory achievement with significant omissions.

³The grades may be reduced or increased by increments of 0.3 to differentiate achievements in the doctoral thesis; grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 are not permitted.

(2) The display period according to Section 12 (4)(3) **RPromO** is two weeks.

(3) ¹The Doctoral Affairs Committee determines the grade pursuant to (1) once all the required reviews have been received. ²Section 4 (2)(3) shall apply accordingly.

Section 13 Oral Examination

(1) The oral examination can be conducted

- a) as a “Rigorosum” (Section 2–7) or
- b) as a “Disputation” (Section 8–12).

(2) ¹The “Rigorosum” is an oral examination in three subjects (one main subject and two minor subjects) and takes place as an examination with a panel of examiners in the presence of the examining committee and all its members. ²In the main subject, the examination lasts around 45 minutes and around 30 minutes each for the minor subjects. ³The time and location of the “Rigorosum” is determined by the chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee and sent to the doctoral candidate in writing at the latest two weeks before the examination date.

(3) ¹Potential examination subjects include the Old Testament, New Testament, Systematic Theology, Historic Theology, Practical Theology and Religious Studies/Intercultural Theology. ²The main subject is the subject from which the doctoral thesis was chosen. ³If the topic of the doctoral thesis was taken from a teaching subject, the corresponding subject must be selected as a minor subject. ⁴One of the subjects for the “Rigorosum” must be the New Testament or Systematic Theology. ⁵With the approval of the Doctoral Affairs Committee, one of the minor subjects can be taken from another faculty if it presents a meaningful connection with the remaining examination subjects and is represented by at least one professor at the relevant faculty, who shall be appointed as a member of the Doctoral Affairs Committee pursuant to Section 4 (5).

(4) ¹For the “Rigorousum”, agreements can be made between the doctoral candidate and the examiners on two or more larger, defined subject areas from the respective examination subjects before the examination. ²In this case, the subject areas will be named before the examination begins in the presence of the doctoral candidate and noted on the record. ³The examination comprises these areas, but can also include related areas.

(5) The “Rigorousum” shall be documented by the examining committee.

(6) ¹In accordance with Section 13 (2)(2) **RPromO**, the “Rigorousum” is open for eligible parties. ²Doctoral candidates from the School of Theology who have been admitted to a doctoral procedure can be admitted by the Chairperson of the examining committee as listeners to the “Rigorousum” if no applications pursuant to Section 10 [Section 10](#) (4) have been submitted. ³The reviewers can be admitted as listeners to the “Rigorousum” by the Chairperson of the examining committee.

(7) ¹The examination achievement of the “Rigorousum” is assessed by the examining committee in each subject with a jointly defined grade pursuant to Section 12 Section 1 (2) and (3); the overall grade of the oral examination is calculated using the arithmetic mean of the individual grades and the main subject is double weighted. ²The public shall be excluded from the deliberation process and the announcement of the examination result.

(8) ¹If the oral examination is taken as a “Disputation”, it shall take place as an examination with a panel of examiners in the presence of the examining committee and all its members. ²The “Disputation” is open to members of the University. ³It shall have a minimum duration of 90 and a maximum duration of 120 minutes.

(9) ¹The time and location of the “Disputation” is determined by the chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee and sent to the doctoral candidate in writing at the latest two weeks before the examination date. ²At the same time, the chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee requests the doctoral candidate to submit the arguments that shall be the subject of the “Disputation” within one week.

(10) ¹The subject of the “Disputation” are at least three arguments, which the doctoral candidate must submit in advance in writing (with short written explanations if necessary). ²The arguments must refer to the subject of the doctoral degree and also include interdisciplinary aspects. ³One of the arguments must refer to the doctoral thesis; the contents of the arguments must clearly be different. ⁴The “disputation” comprises an academic discussion starting from the doctoral candidates’ arguments that includes interdisciplinary aspects.

(11) The “Disputation” shall be documented by the examining committee.

(12) ¹The examination achievement of the “Disputation” is assessed by the examining committee with a jointly defined grade pursuant to Section 12 Section 1 (2) and (3). ²The public shall be excluded from the deliberation process and the announcement of the examination result.

Section 14 Use of Audiovisual Telecommunication Technology; Remote Examinations
(see RPromO)

Section 15 Resitting the Oral Examination
(see RPromO)

Section 16 Results of the Doctoral Procedure, Notification

¹If the oral examination is passed, the examining committee determines the overall grade of the doctoral procedure. ²This is calculated from the average grade of the doctoral thesis and the grade of the oral examination. ³The grade of the dissertation is weighted twice and the grade of the oral examination is weighted once. ⁴The overall grade is as follows for the averages

up to 1.50 summa cum laude	= ausgezeichnet (excellent)	= an outstanding achievement
between 1.50 and 2.50 'magna cum laude'	= sehr gut (very good)	= an excellent achievement
between 2.50 and 3.50 'cum laude'	= gut (good)	= an above-average achievement
between 3.50 and 4.00 'rite'	= befriedigend	= an achievement that fulfills average requirements

Section 17 Publication of the Thesis and Submission of Mandatory Copies

The deadline of one year pursuant to Section 17 (5)(2) RPromO for submitting the mandatory copies can be extended once by a period of two years.

Section 18 Fraud/Plagiarism
(see RPromO)

Section 19 Completion of the Doctoral Degree

¹The doctoral degree certificate shall be issued in German. ²Pursuant to Section 19 (2)(2) RPromO, the speaker of the School of Theology signs the doctoral degree certificate on behalf of the School of Theology.

IV. Honorary Degrees

Section 20 Honorary Doctoral Degrees

(1) The honorary academic title pursuant to Section 3 (2) is awarded in recognition of extraordinary academic achievements or those that directly serve the field of theology.

(2) The honorary doctoral degree for theology is awarded on the basis of a decision taken by the Doctoral Affairs Committee.

(3) ¹The deliberation process for the nomination is carried out in at least two sessions of the Doctoral Affairs Committee. ²An application stating the reasons for the nomination is required from at least two thirds of the members of the Doctoral Affairs Committee.

(4) The honorary title of Doctor of Theology cannot be awarded to persons who have already received an honorary doctorate from another faculty of Protestant Theology from a German-speaking university.

V.Collaborations with Universities of Applied Sciences and Art Schools

Section 21 Cooperative Doctoral Degrees/Joint Doctoral Degrees (see RPromO)

VI.Doctoral Degrees in Cooperation with Foreign Universities

Section 22 General (see RPromO)

Section 23 Examinations Procedure at FAU (see RPromO)

Section 24 Examinations Procedure at the Partner Institution (see RPromO)

Section 25 Joint Doctoral Degree Certificate (see RPromO)

VII.Invalidity and Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

Section 26 Invalidity of Doctoral Degrees (see RPromO)

Section 27 Revocation of Doctoral Degrees (see RPromO)

VIII.Final Provisions

Section 28 Legal Validity, Transitory Provisions

(1) ¹These doctoral regulations shall come into effect on July 1, 2024. ²They shall apply to all doctoral proposals for which an application for admission is submitted pursuant to Section 9 after these regulations come into effect.

(2) ¹At the same time, the Faculty Doctoral Regulations for the School of Theology (FPromO Theol) at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) dated January 21, 2013 shall become invalid. ²Doctoral candidates whose doctoral procedures have already been admitted but have not yet been initiated by the date these regulations come into effect may complete the doctoral procedure according to the previously valid version of the FPromo Theol from January 21, 2013 if they inform the respective Office of Doctoral Affairs in writing by September 30, 2024 at the latest.

Appendix:

Supervision Agreement

The following persons agree on a supervisory relationship for the completion of a doctoral degree (Dr. theol.) at the at the School of Theology at the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg:

Doctoral candidate:	
Supervisor:	
Subject of doctoral degree:	
Type of doctoral thesis	<input type="checkbox"/> Monograph <input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative thesis
Working title of the thesis:	
A workspace will be provided for completion of the thesis:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
The doctoral degree is incorporated in the following structured doctoral degree program:	

A structured time and work schedule drawn up by both parties, which is regularly checked and updated as necessary forms the basis for this supervisory relationship.

This time and work schedule also contains the frequency at which the doctoral candidate reports about the progress of their project and presents their ongoing work.

The supervisor agrees to provide continuous subject-related advice and the frequency of meetings shall be defined in the time and work schedule.

The supervisor agrees to support the doctoral candidate's academic independence. The supervisor provides advice about career guidance/mentoring and ensures quality assurance (regular progress reports etc.).

The validity of the supervision agreement does not depend on the financing of the doctoral degree.

Both parties agree to uphold the guidelines on safeguarding good scientific practice of the DFG and to observe the FAU regulations for safeguarding good scientific practice and dealing with scientific misconduct (**GSP regulations**) as well as the Guidelines on preventing and dealing with cases of discrimination, harassment and sexual harassment at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU).

Doctoral candidate	
Date	Signature
Supervisor	
Date	Signature