

## **Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Protestant Theology**

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Disclaimer: **This translation** of the “Promotionsordnung der Evangelisch-Theologischen Fakultät der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn vom 17. Mai 2011” published in “Amtliche Bekanntmachungen 41. Jahrgang, Nr. 11” including the modifications from the “Ordnung zur Änderung der Promotionsordnung der Evangelisch-Theologischen der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn vom 5. Dezember 2016” published in “Amtliche Bekanntmachungen 46. Jahrgang, Nr. 72” and “Zweite Ordnung zur Änderung der Promotionsordnung der Evangelisch-Theologischen Fakultät der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn vom 13. Oktober 2017” published in “Amtliche Bekanntmachungen 47. Jahrgang, Nr. 43” **is not legally binding.**

### **Revised Version of the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn of May 17, 2011 and Modifications of December 6, 2016 and October 13, 2017**

Due to sections 2 para. 4 and 67 of the Higher Education Act in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz - HG) in the version of the NRW Higher Education Autonomy Act (Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz - HFG) of October 31, 2006 (GV. NRW. clause 474), last amended by article 2 of the Health University of Applied Science Law (Gesundheitsfachhochschulgesetz) of October 8, 2009 (GV. NRW. clause 516), the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn has approved the following doctoral degree regulations:

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## **Part I: General Information and Admission Requirements**

### **Section 1**

#### **Doctorate**

(1) The Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn awards the academic degree of Doctor of Theology (Dr. theol.) on the basis of doctoral achievements.

(2) The Faculty can award an honorary Doctor of Theology (Dr. theol. h.c.).

(3) On an individual basis the Faculty can grant its approval for a doctoral examination procedure to be undertaken jointly with a foreign institution of higher education. Section 20 governs this in more detail.

### **Section 2**

#### **Doctoral Achievements**

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(1) The doctoral achievements consist of an academic paper (doctoral thesis) and an oral examination in individual subjects (doctoral viva (Rigorousum)). The doctoral defense of theses (Disputation) can occur in place of the doctoral viva (Rigorousum).

(2) The following Latin honors are granted as assessments of the doctoral achievements: 'summa cum laude' (with distinction), 'magna cum laude' (very good), 'cum laude' (good), 'rite' (pass).

(3) All candidates may undertake structured doctoral studies to prepare for their doctorate; participation is mandatory where the candidates do not fulfill the requirements stated in section 11 paragraph 1 letters a) to d). In the case of candidates to whom section 4 paragraph 3 applies, a preceding eligibility program is also a prerequisite for admission. Sections 4 to 10 govern this in more detail.

### **Section 3 Doctorate Board and Examination Boards**

(1) To conduct the doctorate procedures, the Faculty council forms a doctoral board. As the body that manages the procedure, the doctoral board is responsible for the formal implementation of the doctorate. It opens the procedure and appoints, at the proposal of the Dean, the first and second examiner and the members of the specific examination board. The members of the doctoral board are: the Dean, the Vice Dean, two professors, two members of academic staff, one enrolled doctoral student.

(2) The examination board decides on content-related matters, above all with regard to the recognition and assessment of performance, the conducting of the doctorate, and the revocation of the doctorate and title in accordance with section 23. The examination board includes the Dean as chairperson and the professors of the Faculty. Habilitated members of the faculty as well as habilitated members of the Institute of Protestant Theology at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Cologne can be involved in the conducting of the doctorate examination upon the decision of the doctoral board. The first examiner of the doctoral thesis becomes a member of the examination board for the ongoing procedure.

(3) To conduct the oral examination, the Dean forms the specific examination board from the members of the examination board. It is comprised of at least one representative of each of the disciplines Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Systematic Theology, and Practical Theology. The first examiner of the doctoral thesis is always a member of the specific examination board. In the event of a three-subject doctoral viva (Rigorousum) in accordance with section 15 paragraph 3, it is possible to dispense with representatives of the disciplines that are not involved. If the Dean does not belong to the specific examination board, he/she determines the chairperson.

### **Part II: Structured Doctoral Studies Section 4 Admission to Structured Doctoral Studies**

(1) Access is granted to the structured doctoral studies to those who

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a) Can demonstrate that they hold a degree following a university program in Protestant Theology at a state or state-recognized institution of higher education in the German-speaking world with a standard period of study of at least eight semesters, for which a degree other than 'Bachelor' is awarded, or

b) Can demonstrate that they hold a degree following a higher education program in Protestant Theology at a state or state-recognized institution of higher education in the German-speaking world with a standard period of study of at least six semesters and, following on from this, suitable predoctoral studies in the respective disciplines, or

c) Can demonstrate that they hold a degree from a master's program at a state or state-recognized institution of higher education as defined by section 61 para. 2 clause 2 HG, whereby Protestant Theology and/or a comparable subject was studied as a compulsory or elective subject with a proportion of at least 40 per cent, or

d) Can demonstrate that they have passed an academic final examination equivalent to the aforementioned degrees at a university or institution of higher education recognized as equivalent outside of the territory of the EU, for which the overall grade is at least "satisfactory" (3.5 or better), and

e) Submits the declaration from a member of the Faculty who is entitled to supervise doctorates that he/she will assume the supervision of the doctorate and the structured doctoral studies.

f) The demonstrated degree should imply suitability for a successful doctorate in the selected theological discipline.

(2) If sufficient evidence of a qualified introduction to scientific methods in all theological disciplines and of a basic knowledge of the respective discipline as defined by section 11 para. 2 c) is not provided, the examination board can impose requirements on the discipline and nature of the courses to be attended in the structured doctoral studies and stipulate up to two examination components in the form of term papers, the passing of which is then an additional prerequisite for the completion of the structured doctoral studies required for admission to the doctorate in accordance with section 11 para. 1 e).

(3) If, in the case of para. 1 b) sufficient evidence of appropriate predoctoral studies is not provided or, in the event of para. 1 c), the proportion of Protestant Theology and/or a comparable subject accounts for less than 40 percent of the study and examination components completed, it is possible to enroll for a two-to-four-semester predoctorate qualifying program. Section 8 governs this in more detail.

(4) Candidates whose native language is not German must demonstrate knowledge of the German language that corresponds to the conditions of enrollment for degree programs in Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn.

(5) In cases of doubt, the examination board decides by simple majority.

**Section 5**  
**Application for Admission to the Structured Doctoral Studies**

(1) The application for admission to the structured doctoral studies is to be addressed in writing to the Dean of the Faculty. The following are to be enclosed with the application (as certified copies):

a) A higher education entrance qualification certificate (Hochschulreife) or a certificate recognized as equivalent by the Minister of Education in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia;

b) Certificate(s) of previously completed theological examinations and evidence of qualifications in accordance with section 4 para. 1 and, if applicable, certificates of further degrees/completed examinations and academic achievements;

c) Certificates of previously completed language examinations (Latinum, Graecum, Hebraicum) – language examinations can be attained up to the time of registration for the doctorate;

d) Confirmation by an anticipated supervisor of the doctorate in accordance with section 4 para. 1 e).

(2) After inspecting the submitted documents, the doctoral board approves enrollment for the structured doctoral studies.

**Section 6**  
**Structure of the Structured Doctoral Studies**

(1) The structured doctoral studies at the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn ensure suitable preparation for the doctorate by combining individual support by a member of the Faculty entitled to supervise doctorates and the attendance of courses within the Faculty of Protestant Theology.

(2) The structured doctoral studies consist of a three-semester orientation phase covering several theological disciplines and a three-semester specialization phase relating to the discipline of the doctorate. Sections 9 and 10 of these regulations govern this in more detail.

(3) The structured doctoral studies usually comprise 6 semesters with a total of 24 course units per week to be completed; if section 4 para. 2 is applied, then the total number of semesters and the number of course units per week increase due to the preceding eligibility program in accordance with section 8 of these regulations.

**Section 7**  
**Supervision**

The supervisor of the doctorate is responsible for the specialist supervision of the student during the preparatory qualifying program and during the structured doctoral studies. The doctoral board can be called upon to provide advice at the request of the supervisor or the student.

## **Section 8**

### **Preparatory Qualifying Program**

(1) Applicants who cannot provide evidence of suitable predoctoral studies, but who have conducted their studies so far in a way that a successful completion of a doctorate seems possible, can conduct a two-to-four-semester preparatory qualifying program before the final decision regarding their admission to the structured doctoral studies program is made.

(2) The preparatory qualifying program is completed under the auspices of the supervisor of the prospective doctorate. The candidate is to report to the supervisor at regular intervals concerning his/her theological studies. The supervisor compiles a study and assessment plan, taking into account the existing knowledge and skills of the candidate, which determines the duration of the eligibility program and the nature and scope of the study and examination components to be completed. The study and examination plan is approved by the doctoral board and represents the binding foundation for the preparatory qualifying program. The minimum requirement is the attendance of courses from at least three different theological subjects, of which one subject must be exegetical; as part of this, at least two seminars or advanced seminars must be attended and completed with one term paper each, and lectures totaling at least 8 course units per week must be attended. The study program for the master's program Protestant Theology forms the upper limit with regard to scope and requirements. Study and examination achievements are assessed according to the requirements of the examination regulations for the master's program in Protestant Theology.

(3) The preparatory qualifying program is completed with a paper (approx. 60,000 characters), which already suggests the topic of a possible doctoral thesis, and a final discussion with the supervisor. The topic of the paper is set by the supervisor at the beginning of the last semester of the preparatory qualifying program. The paper is to be completed within a period of seven weeks. The start and submission dates of the work are to be documented by the supervisor. The requirements for the master's thesis in the master's program Protestant Theology apply to preparation and assessment. The preparatory qualifying program is successfully completed once all agreed examination components including the paper have been assessed as at least sufficient and the arithmetic average of the grades for all examination components including the paper is at least "satisfactory" (3.5 or better). The supervisor reports to the doctoral board regarding the candidate's progress following the assessment of the paper.

(4) In the event of the successful completion of the preparatory qualifying program and a positive prognosis by the supervisor with regard to the anticipated success of the doctoral dissertation project, the doctoral board grants admission to the structured doctoral studies.

(5) The predoctorate qualifying program cannot be repeated. The possibility of a subsequent admission to the structured doctoral studies/to the doctorate based on other criteria of these regulations remains unaffected by this.

(6) The candidate is issued with a certificate ("Certificate in Protestant Theology") upon completion of the preparatory qualifying program. The completed study and examination components are certified in a supplement on request.

**Section 9  
Orientation Phase**

- (1) The orientation phase of the structured doctoral studies comprises three semesters.
- (2) In the orientation phase, it is mandatory to attend courses offered by the Faculty of Protestant Theology (usually seminars, where applicable also introductory courses (Proseminare) or advanced seminars) in theological disciplines other than that in which the topic of the doctoral thesis is to be written totaling at least 12 course units per week.
- (3) The selection of the courses occurs in each case in good time before the start of term in consultation with the supervisor of the doctoral thesis. The doctoral board decides in cases of conflict.

**Section 10  
Specialization Phase**

- (1) The specialization phase comprises three semesters.
- (2) In the specialization phase, it is mandatory to attend courses offered by the Faculty of Protestant Theology (usually seminars, where applicable also also introductory courses (Proseminare) or advanced seminars) in the theological discipline in which the topic of the doctoral thesis is to be written totaling at least 12 course units per week.
- (3) The selection of the courses occurs in each case in good time before the start of term in consultation with the supervisor of the doctoral thesis. The doctoral board decides in cases of conflict.

**Part III: The Doctoral Examination Procedure**

**Section 11  
Admission to the Doctorate**

- (1) The admission to the doctorate requires:
  - a) Evidence of a 'Magister' degree or a master's degree in Protestant Theology that follows a theological bachelor degree program and is awarded by a state or state-recognized institution of higher education in the German-speaking world with a standard period of study totaling at least 10 semesters, or
  - b) Evidence of the passed exam (Theologische Aufnahmeprüfung) of a (German) Protestant National Church (Landeskirche) or the Diploma or Magister Theologiae degree in Protestant Theology from a state or state-recognized institution of higher education in the German-speaking world, or
  - c) Evidence of the first state examination (Erstes Staatsexamen) or an equivalent master's degree from a university in the German-speaking world for qualification and authorization to teach at Gymnasium high schools (secondary level II) with Protestant Theology as one of the two main subjects, or
  - d) Evidence of an academic degree in Protestant Theology equivalent to the aforementioned

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examinations at a university or institution of higher education recognized as equivalent outside of the territory of the German-speaking world,

for which the overall grade is at least “satisfactory” (3.5 or better), or

e) Structured doctoral studies in Protestant Theology comprising at least six semesters at the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn.

(2) The admission to the doctorate also requires:

a) Evidence of the language qualifications Hebraicum, Latinum and Graecum (exceptions are possible in particularly justified cases on request), and

b) The declaration from a member or associate of the Faculty who is entitled to supervise doctorates that he/she has assumed the supervision of the doctorate and

c) Evidence of a qualified introduction to the scientific methods and basic knowledge of the disciplines Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Systematic Theology and Practical Theology. An introduction is to be considered qualified if it at least imparts the content and methods that are usually imparted at Faculties or Departments of Protestant Theology at state universities under the German Constitution (Grundgesetz) in introductory courses (Proseminare) in the respective discipline, and if in at least two of the three disciplines Old Testament, New Testament and Church History these methods were imparted by studying central sources in the original languages Hebrew/Greek/Latin and required the corresponding language skills (Hebraicum, Graecum, Latinum).

(3) Upon admission to the doctorate, the candidate should have studied at the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn for at least two semesters; exceptions are possible if the doctoral thesis was supervised by a member of the Faculty.

(4) With regard to applications for exceptions and in cases of doubt, the examination board decides with a simple majority.

(5) A prerequisite for admission is membership of a Protestant church. As an exception, candidates who belong to another church or denomination in the field of the World Council of Churches can also be admitted. Such and further exceptions require the consent of the faculty council with a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

## **Section 12**

### **Application for Admission to the Doctorate**

(1) The application for admission to the doctorate is to be addressed in writing to the Dean of the Faculty as the chairperson of the doctoral board. The following documents are to be enclosed with the application:

a) A signed curriculum vitae with passport photo;

b) A higher education entrance qualification certificate (Hochschulreife) or a certificate recognized as equivalent by the Minister of Education in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia;

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- i) Certificates of language qualifications: Hebraicum, Graecum and Latinum. If these language qualifications were required by the regulations of the Association of Faculties of Protestant Theology (Evangelisch-Theologischer Fakultätentag) for a degree in accordance with section 11 para. 1 a)-c), the certificate of the respective degree provides sufficient evidence.
  - ii) Course records or other evidence of academic progress;
  - iii) Evidence of the qualifications in accordance with section 11 para. 1 and 2 b) of these regulations;
- c) Eight copies of a printed and professionally bound academic paper (doctoral thesis). A brief curriculum vitae is to be enclosed with each copy;
- d) The statement of whether the doctoral thesis has previously been published in whole or in part or is currently being published;
- e) A personally signed declaration under oath, stating that
- i) The submitted work – apart from expressly indicated resources – was produced personally, independently and without using resources other than those stated,
  - ii) The data and concepts taken directly or indirectly from other sources are indicated, stating the source,
  - iii) The submitted work or similar work has not already otherwise been submitted as a doctoral thesis, along with a declaration of previous doctoral attempts and their results,
  - iv) No third-party assistance, particularly no paid assistance from an agency or consulting service (doctoral advisor and agent or other person), was used to create the submitted work and/or the opportunity to undertake the doctorate,
- f) A German police clearance certificate.
- (2) The application for admission to the doctorate can be withdrawn on the part of the candidate as long as no review of the doctoral thesis have been submitted.

### **Section 13 Doctoral Thesis**

- (1) The doctoral thesis must demonstrate the ability of the candidate to undertake independent academic work and, in its results, show progress in academic knowledge.
- (2) The doctoral thesis must be an independent academic work from the field of theology. It must be suitable for publication. In exceptional cases, the examination board decides on the acceptance of a previously published work. A published work can only be submitted if no more than two years have passed since its publication. It cannot be referred to as a dissertation (Inauguraldissertation).
- (3) The doctoral thesis is to be submitted in German. At the request of the candidate it can be agreed by the doctoral board in consultation with the representative of the discipline in question that a paper

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written in English is submitted as doctoral thesis.

(4) For the assessment of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral board appoints two examiners from the group of members or associates of the Faculty or from the group of habilitated members or associates of the Institute of Protestant Theology at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Cologne. The first examiner is determined in consultation with the candidate; this should generally be the member or associate of the Faculty who supervised the candidate as a doctoral student. At least one examiner must be a full-time professor.

(5) In the event of interdisciplinary doctoral theses, the second examiner may be a member of a different faculty at the University of Bonn. If the Faculty has approved a doctoral examination procedure in cooperation with another German institution of higher education or a foreign institution of higher education, the Dean appoints an additional examiner from the respective faculty at this institution of higher education.

(6) The examiners usually provide a substantiated review of the doctoral thesis in writing within 12 weeks. They recommend the acceptance or rejection of the doctoral thesis. In the event of acceptance, the examiners propose an assessment in accordance with section 2 para. 2. If an examiner requests that the doctoral thesis be revised and resubmitted, the Dean can return the doctoral thesis to the candidate for revision based on a majority decision by the examination board. The period for revision is at least three but at most twelve months. After the deadline the doctoral thesis cannot be accepted. In justified exceptional cases, the deadline can be extended by the Dean in agreement with the examiners.

(7) The members of the examination board obtain the doctoral thesis with the review of the doctoral thesis and documents for their written statement. Each member of the examination board is entitled to raise an objection to the assessment. The circulation period is 10 weeks.

(8) The examination board decides on the acceptance and grading of the doctoral thesis; in the event of a tied vote, the Dean has the deciding vote. In justified exceptional cases further reports can be requested, including from other members of the University or from members of external faculties.

(9) If the doctoral thesis is not accepted, the examination is considered a “no pass”. The rejected doctoral thesis remains in the Faculty’s files with all the reports. A new doctoral thesis may not be submitted for one year. A reapplication is only permitted once.

(10) The review of the doctoral thesis are to be made accessible to the author at his/her request if the doctoral thesis has been rejected.

#### **Section 14 Oral Examination**

(1) If the doctoral thesis is accepted, the Dean sets the date for the oral examination. These generally take place in the form of a doctoral viva (Rigorosum); under the conditions stated in section 16 para. 1, candidates can upon request take the oral examination in the form of a doctoral defense.

(2) A member of the specific examination board is appointed to take the minutes.

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(3) The Dean invites the candidate to the examination; the candidate is to confirm the receipt of the examination invitation in writing. If the candidate does not attend without sufficient grounds, the examination is considered a “no pass”.

## **Section 15 Doctoral Viva (Rigorosum)**

(1) The oral examination in the form of a doctoral viva (Rigorosum) is comprised of an academic colloquium in fields related to the subject of the doctoral thesis.

(2) The doctoral viva (Rigorosum) is generally conducted in German. The doctoral board decides on exceptions upon request.

(3) If the candidate holds a degree in accordance with section 11 para. 1a) (Magister or Master from a faculty of Protestant Theology) or 1b) (examination; Examen, or Diploma from a German faculty of Protestant Theology or a German National Church; Landeskirche) graded at least “good” (2.49), the doctoral viva (Rigorosum) can be limited to the major discipline and two of the minor disciplines stated in para. 4 upon application to the doctoral board. The candidate can submit suggestions with regard to the disciplines to be excluded. At least one exegetical discipline must be among the remaining examination subjects. These suggestions are not binding.

(4) The doctoral viva (Rigorosum) covers the following disciplines:

Old Testament,  
New Testament,  
Church and Dogma History,  
Systematic Theology,  
Practical Theology.

(5) The doctoral viva (Rigorosum) lasts one hour in the discipline in which the doctoral thesis was written (major discipline) and half an hour in each of the other disciplines (minor disciplines). Information from the candidate regarding his/her major fields of study can be taken into account in the examination.

(6) In the event of a doctoral examination procedure conducted jointly with a foreign institution of higher education, the oral examination may include an extra element. The duration and form of this element depend on the corresponding regulations at this foreign institution of higher education.

(7) The first examiner conducts the examination in the major discipline.

(8) The candidate can suggest the examiners for the minor disciplines. These proposals are not binding. Each member of the specific examination board also has the right to ask the candidate questions in every examination.

(9) The doctoral viva (Rigorosum) is considered passed if at least the grade “rite” is achieved in each discipline. The examination board grades the overall performance in the oral examination with one of the Latin honors stated in section 2 para. 2.

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(10) If the candidate does not pass the examination in the major discipline, the entire doctoral viva (Rigorousum) is not passed. If the oral examination is not passed in a minor discipline, the examination in this discipline may be repeated once.

(11) After an initial waiting period of six months, the candidate may, on request, repeat the doctoral viva (Rigorousum) within a period of six months. It is not possible to repeat the doctoral viva (Rigorousum) twice.

(12) Students who have themselves requested admission to the doctorate at the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn may be admitted to the doctoral viva (Rigorousum) as observers. Participation does not extend to the deliberation and announcement of the examination results. Observers are to be excluded for justified reasons or at the request of the candidate.

## **Section 16 Doctoral Defense**

(1) Candidates who have already completed a theological degree in accordance with section 11 para. 1a) (Master or Magister at a faculty of Protestant Theology), section 11 para. 1b) (examination; Examen, or Diploma qualification at a German faculty of Protestant Theology or a German National Church; Landeskirche) or section 11 para. 1c) (qualification and authorization to teach at Gymnasium high schools [secondary school level II] with theology as a main subject) can take the oral examination as a doctoral defense upon request to the doctoral board. In the event of candidates whose admission to the doctorate is granted on the basis of section 11 para. 1d) or e), the examination board decides on an individual basis whether the oral examination may be taken as a doctoral defense on request.

(2) The doctoral defense takes the form of the discussion of a series of theses that is open to the faculty. In the first section the candidate formulates theses that summarize the results of the doctoral thesis and in the second section should link fields from the theological disciplines named in section 15 para. 4 to the topic of the doctoral thesis. The theses must be submitted to the specific examination board at least six weeks before the date of the doctoral defense.

(3) The candidate has up to 20 minutes to explain and justify the theses. The time for the entire doctoral defense is at least 90 minutes and should not exceed two hours. The chairperson of the specific examination board decides on the duration.

(4) All habilitated members and associates of the Faculty may take part in the doctoral defense. Only the members of the specific examination board are allowed to ask the candidate questions. The assessment is undertaken by the specific examination board. The deliberation and the announcement of the assessment are not public.

(5) If the candidate fails the doctoral defense, the oral examination can be repeated once as a doctoral viva (Rigorousum) in accordance with section 14.

(6) The doctoral defense is open to the Faculty. The Faculty may be excluded for justified reasons. The specific examination board retains decision-making rights regarding exclusions.

## **Section 17 Assessment**

- (1) The Latin honors stated in section 2 para. 2 are awarded for the individual doctoral achievements and for the overall doctorate.
- (2) Once the oral examination is complete, the specific examination board decides whether the candidate has passed the oral examination. If so, they grade the overall oral performance with one of the Latin honors stated in section 2 para. 2.
- (3) The specific examination board awards the overall grade of the doctorate based on the Latin honors of the doctoral thesis and of the oral examination by majority rule. The Latin honors for the doctoral thesis and doctoral viva (Rigorosum) or doctoral defense are set out individually on the doctoral certificate in addition to the overall grade.
- (4) The examination results are to be immediately reported to the candidate in writing with instructions on his/her right to appeal.
- (5) The candidate is granted access to their doctoral file once the overall examination is completed.

## **Section 18 Publication of the Doctoral Thesis**

- (1) The doctorate is conferred after the candidate has provided evidence of the publication of the accepted doctoral thesis within one year of passing the examinations and has submitted to the Dean 87 obligatory copies, or after the candidate has presented a publication contract in which an edition of at least 150 copies is agreed. In the case of the presentation of the publication contract or an electronic publication by the university library, 7 obligatory copies are to be submitted within one year of the issuance of the certificate.
- (2) If, after the successful completion of the examinations, the examination board has suggested the doctoral thesis be revised before publication, the version of the doctoral thesis intended for printing is to be submitted to the Dean and the first examiner in order to receive the imprimatur.
- (3) In the event that an already published work is accepted as a doctoral thesis, the doctorate is not conferred until the necessary number of obligatory copies has been submitted in accordance with para. 1 clause 2.
- (4) Both the form in which the obligatory copies are to be submitted to the Dean and the details of electronic publication are governed by the implementation rules of the respective Faculty regulations (in the then current version).
- (5) The deadline for the submission of the obligatory printed copies of the doctoral thesis can, upon justified request, be extended for one year by the Dean in consultation with the main examiner; a further extension is possible on request. If the candidate misses the deadline, he/she loses the rights acquired as a result of the examination; a doctoral certificate that has already been issued will be revoked.

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## **Section 19 Doctorate Ceremony**

(1) If the candidate has fulfilled the obligations in accordance with section 18 para. 1, the Dean formally performs the doctoral graduation.

(2) The candidate is issued with the doctoral diploma bearing the Faculty seal by the Dean of the Faculty. The doctoral diploma states the title of the doctoral thesis and its assessment, the assessment of the doctoral viva (Rigorosum)/doctoral defense and the subsequent overall grade. In the event of a doctoral examination procedure undertaken jointly with a foreign institution of higher education, it is indicated on the doctoral diploma that the doctoral achievements were determined jointly. In this case, the doctoral diploma bears the signature of the Deans of both faculties involved.

(3) At his/her own request, the candidate utters the following statement of commitment:

*“Promitto ac spondeo me doctrinam evangelicam constanter professurum/professuram atque vitam theologo/theologae christiano/christianae dignam acturum/acturam.”*

(4) The date of the graduation ceremony is used as the day of the doctorate. Once the diploma is issued, the Dean enters the awarding of the doctorate into the doctorate album of the Faculty.

(5) The right to use the title of Doctor is conferred upon receipt of the doctoral diploma.

## **Section 20 Joint Doctorate with a Foreign Institution of Higher Education**

(1) The Faculty of Protestant Theology can also award the degree of Doctor of Theology together with a foreign institution of higher education in a jointly conducted doctoral examination procedure.

(2) This procedure requires joint supervision by one supervisor from each institution of higher education and doctoral studies of at least one semester at each institution. The respective admission requirements to the doctorate must be fulfilled at both institutions of higher education.

(3) For the purposes of a joint procedure, an agreement is to be made between the University of Bonn, the Faculty of Protestant Theology, the foreign institution of higher education and, if necessary, the appropriate body within that institution, and this agreement must be approved by the doctoral board.

(4) The agreement governs a doctoral examination procedure led jointly by the appropriate bodies at the foreign institution of higher education and the doctoral board. In particular, it allows for a joint examination, assessment and grading procedure in accordance with sections 13 to 17 and, if applicable, section 8 by a jointly formed examination board.

(5) The agreement can allow for exceptions to the following regulations:

- Composition of the specific examination board in accordance with section 3 para. 2 and 3;
- Doctoral studies and eligibility studies in accordance with sections 6 to 8;

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- Evidence of German language skills in accordance with section 4 para. 3;
- Publication regulations in accordance with section 18 para. 1.

(6) The issuance of the certificate can be transferred to the joint examination board. The diploma awards a single doctoral degree, which is represented both in the form issued by the foreign institution of higher education and in the form issued by the Faculty of Protestant Theology. The diploma may be issued as a joint Latin diploma or as two diplomas, each in the respective national language. It is signed by the appropriate representative of the foreign institution of higher education and by the Dean of the Faculty of Protestant Theology and bears both seals.

## **Section 21**

### **Golden Anniversary of the Conferral of a Doctorate**

The doctoral diploma can be renewed on the 50th anniversary of the day on which the doctorate was conferred.

## **Section 22**

### **A Doctorate as an Honorary Doctor of Theology**

(1) At its own discretion, the Faculty of Protestant Theology may award an honorary Doctor of Theology in recognition of outstanding academic merits in the field of theology.

(2) The honorary doctorate results from a free decision by the examination board in accordance with section 3 para. 2 of the Faculty regulations. A majority of at least 4/5 of the members of this examination board is required for such a decision. Abstention is not permitted.

(3) An honorary doctorate of theology is awarded by the faculty council and conferred in a formal ceremony by the Dean.

(4) By the handing over of a diploma in Latin signed by the Dean and bearing the seal of the Faculty the honorary Doctor of Theology is conferred.

## **Section 23**

### **Revocation of the Doctoral Degree and Doctorate**

(1) If it is discovered during the doctoral examination procedure that the candidate is guilty of fraud, the assessment of the doctoral achievements in question can be amended accordingly, or parts of the doctoral procedure or the entire doctoral procedure declared invalid or not passed.

(2) If the candidate has committed fraud in one of the doctoral achievements and this is not identified until after the doctoral diploma has been issued, the assessment of the corresponding doctoral achievements can subsequently be amended or the doctoral degree revoked.

(3) If the candidate has obtained admission to the doctorate through fraud, threats or bribery, the

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doctoral degree can similarly be revoked when this becomes known. If the admission requirements to the doctorate were not fulfilled without intentional deception, and if this discrepancy is not identified until after the doctoral diploma has been issued, this discrepancy will be remedied by the passing of the doctoral examination procedure.

(4) If the doctoral degree is revoked in accordance with para. 2 or para. 3 or the assessment of the doctoral achievements in accordance with para. 1 or para. 2 has been amended, the documents mentioned in section 17 para. 4 and the doctoral diploma are to be revoked and, if necessary, a new certificate in accordance with section 17 and a new doctoral diploma issued.

(5) The doctorate can be revoked if the candidate is legally sentenced to imprisonment for at least one year due to an intentional criminal offence or if he/she is legally convicted of an intentional crime, during the preparation or committing of which the doctorate was used.

(6) The person concerned is permitted to make a statement before a decision is made.

(7) The decision is to be justified in writing and delivered to the person concerned with instructions on his/her right to appeal.

(8) All German faculties of Protestant Theology are confidentially notified of the legally binding revocation of the doctorate.

#### **Section 24 Transitional Provisions**

For candidates whose application for admission to the doctorate has already been received at the time that these regulations come into force, the previous doctoral degree regulations remain valid until the completion of the procedure if the candidates do not request in writing that the present new version be applied. This request cannot be revoked.

#### **Section 25 Final Provisions**

These doctoral degree regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Notices. At the same time, the doctoral degree regulations of May 17, 1985, last amended by the Amendment to Doctoral Regulations of January 20, 2005, cease to be in force.

G.Röhser  
The Dean  
of the Faculty of Protestant Theology  
Universitätsprofessor Dr. Günter Röhser

Issued based on the rulings of the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn on January

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20, 2010, and November 24, 2010, and the resolution of the rectorate on May 3, 2011

Bonn, May 17, 2011

J. Fohrmann  
The Rector  
of the University of Bonn  
Universitätsprofessor Dr. Jürgen Fohrmann

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