

Please note that this translation is for information only.
The most current German version of the document is legally binding.

Faculty Doctoral Regulations for the School of Theology (FPromO Theol) of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)

Dated 21 January 2013

Table of Contents

I.	General Conditions	2
§ 1	Scope	2
§ 2	Doctoral Degrees	2
§ 3	Doctoral Titles	2
§ 4	Bodies Responsible and Procedural Regulations	2
§ 5	Reviewers and Supervisors	3
II.	Admission to a Doctorate	3
§ 6	Admission Requirements	3
§ 7	Doctoral Qualification Examination	4
§ 8	Admission to a Doctorate	4
III.	The Doctorate Procedure	4
§ 9	Initiation of the Doctorate Procedure	5
§ 10	Thesis Requirements	5
§ 11	Evaluation, Acceptance and Refusal of the Thesis	5
§ 12	Oral Examination	5
§ 13	Resitting the Oral Examination	7
§ 14	Results of the Doctorate Procedure, Notification	7
§ 15	Publication of the Thesis and Submission of the Mandatory Copies of the Thesis	7
§ 16	Completion of the Doctoral Degree	7
IV.	Honorary Doctoral Degrees	7
§ 17	Honorary Doctoral Degrees	7
V.	Interuniversity Co-operation	8
§ 18	Interuniversity Co-operation	8
VI.	Doctoral Degrees in Co-operation with Foreign Universities	8
§ 19	General information	8
§ 20	Examinations Procedure at FAU	8
§ 21	Examinations Procedure at the Partner Institution	8
§ 22	Joint Doctoral Degree Certificate	8
VII.	Invalidity and Revocation of Doctoral Degrees	8
§ 23	Invalidity of Doctoral Examinations	8
§ 24	Revocation of Doctoral Degrees	8

VIII. Concluding Provisions	8
§ 25 Legal Validity and Transitory Provisions	8

I. General Conditions

§ 1 Scope

¹These doctoral regulations (FPromO Theol) supplement the General Doctoral Regulations of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (RPromO) for the School of Theology of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology and are thus structured in a similar manner. ²Provisions affected by the Faculty Doctoral Regulations are included in the relevant sections.

§ 2 Doctoral Degrees

A doctoral degree in theology provides evidence of independent academic research in the subject of protestant theology.

§ 3 Doctoral Titles

The title of the honorary doctoral degree awarded by the School of Theology is Doktor der Theologie or Doktorin der Theologie ehrenhalber (Dr. theol.).

§ 4 Bodies Responsible and Procedural Regulations

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

(2) ¹Members of the Doctoral Affairs Committee are:

1. Professors of the School of Theology including secondary members according to Section 27 (3) BayHSchG
2. Other full-time university lecturers of protestant theology at FAU

²Full-time university lecturers of the universities of Bamberg and Würzburg and professors specified in Section 3 (1) and Section 4 (1) of the contract between the Free State of Bavaria and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bavaria, in protestant theology, protestant religious education, and teaching protestant religion at the universities of Bamberg and Würzburg, are eligible to vote on the Doctoral Affairs Committee and shall be invited to its meetings.

³The reviewers are eligible to vote in consultations according to Section 11 (4) to (6) of the RPromO (consultation on the thesis).

(3) The chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee is the speaker of the School of Theology; he or she is represented by the deputy speaker.

(4) ¹The Doctoral Affairs Committee is responsible for conducting the doctorate procedure insofar as the speaker of the School of Theology or the Examining Committee are not responsible. ²Her or his duties include ensuring that the provisions of the Examination Regulations are observed.

(5) ¹The speaker of the School of Theology appoints an Examining Committee for every doctorate procedure as soon as the thesis has been accepted and evaluated. ²The chairperson of the Examining Committee is the speaker of the School of Theology or a deputy appointed by the speaker, the supervisor, the reviewers of the thesis and the examiners of the oral examination. ³The speaker of the School of Theology shall inform the candidate of the appointment of the Examining Committee in writing.

§ 5 Reviewers and Supervisors

¹The supervisor of a doctoral proposal is usually also a reviewer. ²Other lecturers who are not full-time employees of the University may be appointed as supervisors.

II. Admission to a Doctorate

§ 6 Admission Requirements

(1) To be admitted to a doctorate, the candidate must fulfil the following requirements:

1. A completed degree in protestant theology according to (2).
2. Sufficient knowledge of the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages according to (3).
3. Membership in a protestant (evangelisch) church. In exceptional cases, the Doctoral Affairs Committee can accept candidates from other Christian churches, especially those who do not have equivalent educational institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany.

(2) The following shall be accepted as proof of a completed degree in protestant theology according to (1)(1):

1. The theological admissions examination of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, the theological final examination of the School of Theology, the Magister examination for theology of the School of Theology and any examination equivalent to these examinations;
2. The first State Examination for teaching secondary education (Gymnasien) with the subject protestant religious education according to the Examination Regulations I for Teaching Degree Programmes (LPO I);
3. The first State Examination for another type of teaching degree with the subject protestant religious studies (nicht vertieft) according to LPO I, if the subject grade is at least 'gut'. If the candidate has not achieved the subject grade 'gut', at least two certificates for written seminar assignments from different theological disciplines must be presented with a grade of 'sehr gut' (at least 1.50). The candidate must also complete another course in protestant theology at FAU for at least two semesters and provide evidence of four certificates. Two of the certificates must be graded certificates; one of these must be from the subject areas New Testament or Systematic Theology. A seminar certificate must be presented for exegetic, church history and systematic subjects; the subject of the fourth seminar certificate may be chosen by the candidate.

(3) ¹Proof of language proficiency shall be achieved by passing Latin, Greek and Hebrew language examinations according to the examination regulations of the School of Theology or equivalent examinations. ²The language proficiency requirement in one language may be reduced with due cause on the thesis supervisor's request to the Examining

Please note that this translation is for information only.
The most current German version of the document is legally binding.

Committee. ³The supervisor may also request that Latin be replaced by another classical church language.

§ 7 Doctoral Qualification Examination

(1) ¹Candidates shall be admitted to the doctoral qualification examination on application, who:

1. have achieved the grade 'sehr gut' in the final examination at a university of applied science in the subject religious education;
2. have subsequently studied at least two semesters of theology and achieved four certificates at FAU;
3. fulfil the admission requirements according to 0 Section 1 (2) and (3).

²Two of the certificates must be for written seminar assignments; one must be from either New Testament or Systematic Theology. ³A seminar certificate must be presented for exegetic, church history and systematic theology subjects; the subject of the fourth seminar certificate may be chosen by the candidate. ⁴0 Section 3 shall apply accordingly.

(2) ¹The doctoral qualification examination consists of two oral examinations in which the candidate must provide evidence that they have sufficient skills and knowledge for the doctoral degree and which determine the candidate's ability to work academically.

²The examination subjects are:

1. the subject of the doctoral degree;
2. a further subject according to 0 Section 3 (1).

³One of the examination subjects must be New Testament or Systematic Theology.

(3) The examination shall last for approx. 30 minutes in both subjects.

(4) ¹The speaker of the School of Theology shall appoint two examiners from the members of the Doctoral Affairs Committee. ²The speaker of the School of Theology and the two examiners form the Examining Committee which conducts the examination. ³The candidate shall be notified of the examination by the speaker of the School of Theology at least one week in advance.

(5) ¹A pass is awarded in the doctoral qualification examination when the Examining Committee decide that the achievements required in (2)(1) have been fulfilled in both subjects. ²Differential grading shall not take place.

§ 8 Admission to a Doctorate

(1) The following must be submitted with the application for admission to a doctorate:

1. Proof of language proficiency according to 0 (3) or reduced language proficiency according to 0 (3)(2)
2. Proof of 0 (1)(3)

(2) Admitted doctoral candidates shall be introduced to the Doctoral Affairs Committee by the supervisor.

III. The Doctorate Procedure

§ 9 Initiation of the Doctorate Procedure

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

1. A statement whether the candidate wishes the oral examination to be conducted as a *Rigorousum* or *Disputation*
2. A suggestion from the candidate of suitable reviewers and additionally for the *Rigorousum*
3. Details of which subjects according to 0 (3) the candidate wishes to be examined in; if a subject is chosen outside of the Faculty, the application according to 0 (3)(5) shall be submitted with the application
4. A declaration stating whether listeners shall be permitted

§ 10 Thesis Requirements

¹The dissertation shall not be longer than 300 A4 pages. ²A cumulative thesis shall not be permitted.

§ 11 Evaluation, Acceptance and Refusal of the Thesis

(1)¹The evaluation shall include a grade. ²The following grade scale shall apply:

summa cum laude	= ausgezeichnet (1)	= an outstanding achievement;
magna cum laude	= sehr gut (2)	= an excellent achievement;
cum laude	= gut (3)	= a commendable achievement;
Rite	= befriedigend (4)	an achievement that fulfils average requirements;
Insufficenter	= unzulänglich (5)	= an unsatisfactory achievement with significant omissions.

³To differentiate the grade of the thesis, the grade can be increased or decreased by increments of 0.3; the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 shall not be awarded.

(2) The display period according to Section 11 (4)(3), RPromO is three weeks.

(3)¹When all of the evaluations have been submitted, the speaker of the School of Theology determines the grade based on the arithmetic averages of the grades according to (1). ²In exceptional cases including contradictory evaluations or dissensions, the Doctoral Affairs Committee may deviate from the arithmetic average.

§ 12 Oral Examination

(1) According to 0 a), the oral examination can be held in the form of a *Rigorousum* [(2) to (6)] or a *Disputation* [(7) to (10)].

(2) ¹The *Rigorousum* is an oral examination in three subjects (one main subject and two additional subjects) and is examined in front of the Examining Committee with all of its members present. ²The oral examination lasts for approximately 45 minutes in the main subject and 30 minutes each for the additional subjects.

Please note that this translation is for information only.
The most current German version of the document is legally binding.

(3) ¹The examination subjects are Old Testament, New Testament, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology and Applied Theology. ²The subject of the thesis shall be the main subject. ³If the subject of the thesis is related to teaching methodology, the oral examination shall also include the related subject knowledge. ⁴One of the examination subjects of the *Rigorosum* must be New Testament or Systematic Theology. ⁵With the agreement of the Doctoral Affairs Committee, one of the additional subjects may be chosen from another Faculty if it has a useful connection to the other examination subjects and is represented by at least one professor.

(4) ¹For the oral examination, the candidate and the examiners may agree on two or more more comprehensive, clearly separate subject areas from each of the examination subjects before the examination. ²In this case, the subject areas shall be named in the candidate's presence at the start of the examination and recorded in the examination protocol. ³The examination will then be held within these subject areas but may include related areas.

(5) A member of the Examining Committee shall record a protocol of the *Rigorosum*.

(6) ¹The *Rigorosum* shall be open to eligible parties according to Section 12 (2)(2) RPromO. ²Doctoral candidates of the School of Theology can be admitted to the *Rigorosum* by the chairperson of the Examining Committee, insofar as a declaration according to 0 (4) has not been submitted.

(7) ¹If the oral examination is taken in the form of a *Disputation*, it shall be examined in the presence of all members of the Examining Committee. ²The *Disputation* is open to all members of the University. ³It shall last between 90 and 120 minutes.

(8) ¹The time and place of the *Disputation* shall be determined by the speaker of the School of Theology and the candidate shall be notified of the examination date at least two weeks beforehand in writing. ²The speaker of the School of Theology shall also request at the same time that the candidate must submit the arguments for the *Disputation* within one week.

(9) ¹The candidate must submit at least three arguments for the *Disputation* in writing (with short written explanations if necessary). ²The arguments must be related to the pursued subject and include interdisciplinary aspects. ³One of the arguments must be related to the thesis; the other arguments must be clearly different in content. ⁴The *Disputation* shall be opened with a 15-minute presentation in which the candidate reports the most important results of the thesis. ⁵This is followed by a scientific debate based on the candidate's arguments which shall include interdisciplinary aspects.

(10) A member of the Examining Committee shall record a protocol of the *Disputation*.

(11) ¹The examination shall be graded by the Examining Committee in each subject with a grade according to 0 (1)(2) and (3); the main subject shall be double-weighted. ²The public shall be excluded from the consultation and notification of the examination result.

Please note that this translation is for information only.
The most current German version of the document is legally binding.

§ 13 Resitting the Oral Examination

§ 14 Results of the Doctorate Procedure, Notification

¹If the candidate passes the oral examination, the Examining Committee shall determine the final grade of the doctorate procedure. ²This is calculated from the average of the grade of the thesis and the three grades from the *Rigorosum* or the grade of the *Disputation*. ³The grade of the thesis is double-weighted; the grade of the oral examination is single-weighted. ⁴The overall result is calculated from the average as follows:

up to 1.50 summa cum laude	= ausgezeichnet	= an outstanding achievement;
over 1.50 to 2.50 magna cum laude	= sehr gut	= an excellent achievement;
over 2.5 to 3.5 cum laude	= gut	= a commendable achievement;
over 3.50 to 4.00 rite	= befriedigend	=an achievement that fulfils average requirements;

§ 15

Publication of the Thesis and Submission of the Mandatory Copies of the Thesis

The deadline for submitting the mandatory copies of the thesis may be extended by an additional two years.

§ 16 Completion of the Doctoral Degree

¹The doctoral degree certificate shall be issued in German or Latin. ²The speaker of the School of Theology shall sign the doctoral degree certificate.

IV. Honorary Doctoral Degrees

§ 17 Honorary Doctoral Degrees

(1) An honorary doctoral degree according to 0 is awarded to recognise exceptional academic achievements or achievements directly furthering the discipline of Theology.

(2) The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall take the decision to award the honorary doctoral degree of Doktorin/Doktor der Theologie ehrenhalber.

(3) ¹The consultation on proposals for honorary doctoral degree candidates shall cover at least two sessions of the Doctoral Affairs Committee. ²A majority of two thirds of the members of the Doctoral Affairs Committee must be reached.

(4) An honorary doctoral degree shall not be awarded to an individual who has already been awarded an honorary doctoral degree at another German-speaking faculty of protestant theology.

V. Interuniversity Co-operation

§ 18 Interuniversity Co-operation

VI. Doctoral Degrees in Co-operation with Foreign Universities

§ 19 General information

§ 20 Examinations Procedure at FAU

§ 21 Examinations Procedure at the Partner Institution

§ 22 Joint Doctoral Degree Certificate

VII. Invalidation and Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

§ 23 Invalidation of Doctoral Examinations

§ 24 Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

VIII. Concluding Provisions

§ 25 Legal Validity and Transitory Provisions

¹These regulations shall come into effect on the day after their publication. ²They shall apply to all doctorate procedures submitted after this FPromO has come into effect.

The Doctoral Regulations of the University for the doctoral degree of Dr. theol from 28 January 1993, last amended on 15 August 2011, shall no longer apply subject to the regulations according to (3).

(3) ¹All existing doctorate procedures initiated prior to the RPromO and FPromO shall be governed according to the Doctoral Regulations of the University for the doctoral degree of Dr. theol. from 28 January 1993, last amended on 15 August 2011. ²Candidates whose doctorate procedures have already been admitted but are not yet initiated may choose whether these Doctoral Regulations or the regulations according to (2) shall apply. The candidate shall inform the Office of Doctoral Affairs by 31 March 2013 at the latest.

Please note that this translation is for information only.
The most current German version of the document is legally binding.

Published according to the resolution of the University Senate on 19 December 2012 and the President's authorisation on 21 January 2013.

Erlangen, 21 January 2013

Prof. Dr. Karl-Dieter Gröske
President

These regulations were established on 21 January 2013 at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg and displayed for public inspection at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg on 21 January 2013. The date of publication is 21 January 2013.