

Name of the academic discipline: Theology

Type of the programme: Doctoral (PhD) Programme

Training Objective: Preparation for earning an academic degree. Mastering the latest research methodologies, preparing students for independent academic work and participation in professional conferences, and, where possible, gaining experience in higher education.

Duration of the programme: 8 semesters

Work schedule: full-time

Financing: state-funded or self-funded

Requirements for admission to the program: at least a master's degree (M.A.) in Protestant Theology or Teacher of Religious Education from an accredited university, along with a successful entrance exam; language requirements: a state-recognized, at least intermediate-level "B2" complex language proficiency exam

The programme ends: with a final certificate (Absolutorium)

Number of credits for the final certificate (Absolutorium): 240

Method of earning credits: credits can be earned through academic work, scientific research, and teaching activities

The Doctoral School's subprograms, program titles, and subprogram directors:

- Old Testament subprogram: *Historical and linguistic study of the Hebrew*
Head of subprogram: Prof. Dr. István Karasszon, university professor,
- New testament subprogram: *Exegetical and ethical traditions of the New Testament and early Christianity*
Head of subprogram: Prof. Dr. Péter Balla, university professor
- Biblical Theology and Religious Studies subprogram: Examination of the teachings of the Entire Old and New Testaments
Head of subprogram: Prof. Dr. Gergely Hanula, university professor
- Regular theological and philosophical subprogram: *Regular theological and religious philosophical problems in the Protestant theological tradition.*
Head of subprogram: Prof. Dr. István Szabó, university professor
- Church history subprogram: *"Semper reformanda" The idea of reformation in the eras of church history.*
Head of subprogram: Földváryné Dr. Réka Kiss, university associate professor
- Practical theology subprogram: *Dialogue between theology and social sciences in practical theology*
Head of subprogram: Prof. Dr. Dávid Németh, university professor, professor Emeritus

The system for acquiring and assessing knowledge:

(a) 240 credits must be completed during the 48-month doctoral program, of which 30 credits per semester are recommended.

(b) During the entire duration of the program, a total of 86 credits can be obtained for completing compulsory subjects, a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 40 credits for completing specialized seminars, a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 40 credits for completing alternative courses, a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 24 credits for completing research seminars, a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 70 credits for publication activities, a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 50 credits for other scientific activities (e.g. conferences) and maximum 50 credits for teaching activities.

(c) Doctoral students must earn a minimum of 15 credits during an academic semester, which is a prerequisite for enrolment for the next academic semester.

(d) A full-time doctoral student, who has not completed at least 20 credits during a semester may continue his/her studies without a scholarship in the following semester. In such a case the Council can award the doctoral scholarship to a self-funded student.

(e) During the training period, doctoral students must present at least two scientific publications published or accepted for publication that are related to their research topic.

(f) Completed courses are evaluated using a five-grade scale (1–5) or with the following verbal assessments: “pass with distinction,” “pass,” and “fail.” The number of credits for each course is determined jointly by the thesis supervisor, the head of the subprogram, and the lecturer responsible for the course, based on the announced courses and topics.

General sample curriculum:

The sample curriculum below, tailored to typical circumstances, provides an ideal schedule for completing the doctoral program. The course titles listed in the sample curriculum may correspond to courses with different content depending on the subprogram and the student. The corresponding sample curriculum code must be assigned to each course. Subprograms may develop their own unique sample curricula. Lecturers must enter the course descriptions into the electronic student administration system each semester.

Doctoral comprehensive exam questions by subprogram:**I. Old Testament Subprogram**

The God of Israel and the gods of the surrounding peoples. Monotheism and polytheism, the religion of Israel and the religions of the surrounding peoples.

1. Writing and Silent Testimony: Archaeological Findings and Biblical Exegesis.
2. Approaches to Biblical Exegesis. Methods, commentaries, and handbooks for interpreting the Old Testament.
3. The God of Israel and History. God’s message through historical events. The history of salvation and political events.
4. God’s word through humankind. Kings, priests, prophets, and the Messiah – mediators of God’s will.

5. Man before God. Old Testament law, worship, and Old Testament piety.
6. What was left out of the Old Testament? A collection of books, canon(s), and the transmission of the Old Testament text.

II. New Testament subprogram

1. Contemporary approaches to the synoptic question
2. The history of research on the life of Jesus
3. The distinctive features of the Gospel of John
4. The History of the origins of the gospels and the question of oral
5. The generic characteristics of the acts of the apostles and the authenticity of its historical accounts
6. The Apostle Paul's "new approach"
7. The main themes of the Apostle Paul's theology in light of an exegetical analysis of his epistles
8. The characteristics of the Letter to the Hebrews
9. Problems in the Exegesis of the General Epistles
10. Approaches to the Book of Revelation
11. The findings of New Testament canon history in contemporary research
12. The findings of New Testament textual criticism in contemporary research
13. Alternatives in New Testament introductory studies
14. Exegesis of selected New Testament passages based on the Greek text

III. Biblical Theology and Religious Studies subprogram

1. The development of Old Testament biblical theology
2. Crime, punishment, and forgiveness
3. The anthropology of the Old Testament
4. The relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament
5. Approaches to the interpretation of the canon in biblical theology
6. The emphases of Paul's theology
7. The dilemmas of research on the historical Jesus

IV. Regular theological and philosophical subprogram

1. A presentation of a pagan philosopher or philosophical school from ancient times that is significant from the perspective of Christian theology.
2. In-depth knowledge of a school of thought or a prominent figure in patristic or medieval theology/philosophy.
3. A comprehensive understanding of Reformed theology, particularly a presentation of a work by one of the Reformers
4. An in-depth understanding of a theologian of Protestant orthodoxy
5. A presentation of a prominent figure in Pietism and Puritanism and his works

6. An Introduction to a prominent 19th-century Protestant theologian through a review of one of his works
7. An introduction to a prominent Protestant theologian of the 20th century through his or her works
8. An introduction to the ecumenical movement – through an in-depth analysis of selected documents
9. Knowledge of a modern philosopher or philosophical system of universal significance that is most closely related to the dissertation topic
10. In-depth knowledge of a major modern philosopher or philosophical school

Note: The topic may be indirectly related to the dissertation's research area, but it cannot be identical to it.

V. Church history subprogram

1. The history of church historiography, its major schools, and approaches
2. The history and characteristics of the Hungarian Reformation
3. The influence of Calvinism on the worlds of 3ducation, politics, culture, and science
4. The cultural history of Hungarian Reformed Christianity
5. The development and evolution of the Reformed Church's constitution and organization, with particular reference to the Hungarian Reformed Church
6. The social history of Hungarian Reformed Protestantism
7. The relationship between the state and Hungarian Reformed Protestants from the age of the reformation to 1990
8. Devotional movements in the Hungarian Reformed Church from the 17th century to the mid-20th Century

VI. Practical theology subprogram

1. Key concepts in practical theology from the 19th to the 21st century
2. The history and contemporary issues of theoretical and practical homiletics
3. Theological and historical aspects of worship and the liturgy
4. The development of pastoral psychology and its dialogue with psychology from the early 20th century to the present.
5. Theories and methodology of contemporary religious education
6. The theological foundations of church-building concepts and their practical implications

Amended by Decision No. 24/2024. (V.30.) of the University Doctoral and Habilitation Council, effective from 31 May 2024.