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

Dated 21 January 2013

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I. General Conditions

§ 1 Scope

These 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. Provisions 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) Members 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

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

§ 7 Doctoral Qualification Examination

(1) Candidates 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 Section 1 (2) and (3).

Two of the certificates must be for written seminar assignments; one must be from either New Testament or Systematic Theology. A 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. Section 3 shall apply accordingly.

(2) The 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.

The examination subjects are:
   1. the subject of the doctoral degree;
   2. a further subject according to Section 3 (1).

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

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

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

(5) A 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. Differential 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 Rigorosum or Disputation
2. A suggestion from the candidate of suitable reviewers and additionally for the Rigorosum
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

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

§ 11 Evaluation, Acceptance and Refusal of the Thesis

1 The evaluation shall include a grade. 2 The 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 fulfills average requirements;
Insufficienter = unzulänglich (5) = an unsatisfactory achievement with significant omissions.

3 To 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) 1 When 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). 2 In 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 Rigorosum [(2) to (6)] or a Disputation [(7) to (10)].

2 The Rigorosum 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. The oral examination lasts for approximately 45 minutes in the main subject and 30 minutes each for the additional subjects.
The examination subjects are Old Testament, New Testament, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology and Applied Theology. The subject of the thesis shall be the main subject. If the subject of the thesis is related to teaching methodology, the oral examination shall also include the related subject knowledge. One of the examination subjects of the Rigorosum must be New Testament or Systematic Theology. With 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.

For 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. In 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. The examination will then be held within these subject areas but may include related areas.

A member of the Examining Committee shall record a protocol of the Rigorosum.

The Rigorosum shall be open to eligible parties according to Section 12 (2)(2) RPromO. Doctoral 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.

If 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. The Disputation is open to all members of the University. It shall last between 90 and 120 minutes.

The 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. The 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.

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

A member of the Examining Committee shall record a protocol of the Disputation.

The 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. The public shall be excluded from the consultation and notification of the examination result.
§ 13  Resitting the Oral Examination

§ 14  Results of the Doctorate Procedure, Notification

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 1.50</td>
<td>summa cum laude</td>
<td>= ausgezeichnet = an outstanding achievement;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 1.50 to 2.50</td>
<td>magna cum laude</td>
<td>= sehr gut = an excellent achievement;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 2.50 to 3.50</td>
<td>cum laude</td>
<td>= gut = a commendable achievement;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 3.50 to 4.00</td>
<td>rite</td>
<td>= befriedigend = an achievement that fulfils average requirements;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

§ 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

1 The doctoral degree certificate shall be issued in German or Latin. 2 The 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) 1 The consultation on proposals for honorary doctoral degree candidates shall cover at least two sessions of the Doctoral Affairs Committee. 2 A 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. Invalidity and Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

§ 23 Invalidity of Doctoral Examinations

§ 24 Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

VIII. Concluding Provisions

§ 25 Legal Validity and Transitory Provisions

1 These regulations shall come into effect on the day after their publication. 2 They 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) 1 All 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. 2 Candidates 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.
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 Grüske
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.