The Faculty of Theology in Fribourg is the largest faculty theology in Switzerland and one of two Catholic theology faculties integrated into a state university. It is subject to national law, like the other University faculties, but in addition is acknowledged by the Church and is supported by the Dominican Order and the Swiss Bishops Conference.

Theology differs from other scientific fields insofar as it has its own unique outlook: it deals primarily with God and humans, to the extent they refer to God as their origin and purpose. It reflects its own position as well as that of every Church in the community. Theologians share the responsibility for the planet's sustainable development with a human face. In light of the deregulation of religion and ethics (fundamentalist and esoteric movements) and the search for a peaceful world where different religions and cultures can coexist, theology plays a critical role in engaging a discourse on the question of truth and values.

From this perspective, the Faculty of Theology serves the Church as a community, as well as its individual members, and also serves society as a whole. The issues explored through the study of theology using a variety of scientific research methods play a critically constructive role.

Professors who are eligible to supervise theses

**Biblical studies**

- Prof. Luc Devillers
  - Origins of Christianity
  - Canonical gospels

- PD Dr. Philippe Hugo

**Areas of specialisation:**
- Hebrew Bible
- Greek Septuagint Bible

- Prof. Philippe Lefebvre
  - Bible
  - Relationship between the Bible (Christianity) and culture, the Bible and literature, cinema

- Prof. Thomas Schumacher
  - Exegesis of the New Testament

- Prof. Hans-Ulrich Steymans
  - Exegesis of the Old Testament

**Patristics and Church History**

- Prof. Mariano Delgado
  - History of the Church
  - Church and society in Latin America
  - Church and society in Europe in general, with a focus on Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Spain
  - Dialogue between religions
  - Religion and migration
  - Multiculturalism
  - Christianity/Church and politics

- Adj. Prof. Gregor Emmenegger
  - Patristics and the history of the Church

- Prof. Paul-Bernard Hodel
  - History of the Church in the Middle Ages, modern and contemporary times

- Prof. Franz Mali
  - Early Christianity
  - History of Christianity in the East, particularly in the Middle East

**Faith and Religious Studies, Philosophy**

- Prof. Benoît-Dominique de La Soujeole
  - Dogmatic theology
• **Prof. Gilles Emery**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – The question of God
  – The Trinity
  – Christ
  – Creation
  – The Christian vision of mankind
  – Life after death

• **Prof. Barbara Hallensleben**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Ecumenical questions
  – Churches in the East
  – Theology and spirituality of Churches in the East
  – Questions on faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church
  – Questions concerning the promotion of research

• **Prof. Veronika Hoffmann**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Dogmatic theology
  – German-language theological currents of the 20th century
  – The theological reception of Charles Taylor and Paul Ricoeur
  – The doctrine of salvation
  – Faith and religious indifference

• **Prof. Joachim Negel**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Fundamental theology

• **Adj.Prof. François-Xavier Putallaz**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Ethical, bioethical and societal issues

• **Adj.Prof. Bernard Schumacher**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Ethical, bioethical and societal issues

• **Prof. Helmut Zander**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Comparative history of religions and interreligious dialogue

**Moral theology and ethics**

• **Prof. Daniel Bogner**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – General moral theology and ethics

• **Prof. Thierry Collaud**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Special moral theology and Christian social ethics

• **Prof. Hansjörg Schmid**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Islam and society, interreligious ethics

• **Prof. Michael Sherwin**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Spirituality
  – Moral development
  – Virtue ethics
  – The theology of charity
  – Philosophy and psychology of love

• **Adj.Prof. Markus Zimmermann**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Foundation of Christian social ethics
  – Theological bioethics
  – Equal distribution of health
  – Decisions at the end of life
  – Ethics of palliative care
  – Work and social security
  – Migration and integration

**Practical theology**

• **Prof. François-Xavier Amherdt**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Pastoral issues
  – Parishes and dioceses, religious education and catechism
  – Theology and humanities, particularly psychology and sociology
  – Public Relations

• **Prof. Astrid Kaptijn**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Canon law

• **Prof. Martin Klöckener**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Liturgy
  – Worship
  – Celebration of the Sacrements
  – Liturgical periods and celebrations, Church year
  – Rites
  – Prayer
  – Piety
  – Popular piety
  – Liturgical space, construction and furnishing of churches

• **Prof. Salvatore Loiero**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Pastoral theology

**Studies organisation**

**Structure of studies**

No ECTS credits can be earned.

**Doctoral school**
Admission

In order to be admitted to a doctorate the candidate must have been awarded an academic bachelor's and master's degree or an equivalent qualification by an university recognised by the University of Fribourg.

Before applying for a doctorate the candidate must contact a professor who would be willing to supervise the thesis work.

There is no general right to be admitted to a doctorate.

The respective conditions of admission for each doctoral study programme are reserved.

Contact

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