Theology (Canonical License)

Degree conferred
Sacrae Theologiae Licentiatus Canonicus

Languages of study
Study in two languages, in French and German

Commencement of studies
Commencement of studies in the Autumn Semester (September) or
in the Spring Semester (February)

Access to further studies
Ph.D.

A Canonical License is required for advancement to a doctorate by
students wishing to teach at a papal or other ecclesiastical
university or at a priests' seminary. To be eligible to apply for a
doctoral programme, candidates need a Canonical License; this
gives them access to a doctorate recognised by the church.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies
60 ECTS credits, 2 semesters

Admission
To be admitted to the Canonical License study programme,
students must have obtained a Master of Theology or another
diploma that is recognised as a canonical baccalaureate.

Students with a Master of Theology with a specialisation or Master
of Arts in Theological Studies are eligible for the Canonical License
study programme. However, they must catch up the missing course
work and examinations from the Master of Theology. This may
prolong the course of study by one semester.

Profile of the study programme

Fribourg profile
The Faculty of Theology of the University of Fribourg is the largest
theological faculty in Switzerland and one of two Catholic
theological faculties integrated into a state university. Like the other
faculties, it is subject to state law; however, it is also recognised by
the ecclesiastical authorities and is supported by the Dominican
Order and the Conference of Bishops of Switzerland.

The content of a Canonical License course consists of lectures and
classes, a thesis and ECTS credits in the license special subject
and in other theological fields, which are agreed with the license
supervisor. All departments must be taken into consideration: the
Hebraic Bible and its cultural context (OT), the New Testament in its
cultural and historical context, patristics and ancient church history,
modern and contemporary church history, the sciences of faith and
philosophy, dogmatic theology, the theology of ecumenism,
interreligious dialogue, theological ethics, practical theology and
liturgical science.

Candidates doing the license are mentored by their thesis
supervisor. He or she defines the license components in agreement
with the candidate.

Candidates who already have a specialised Master's degree in
Theology must catch up the subjects they did not study for their
Master's degree in agreement with the study advisor for their
license; this may prolong their studies to two years.

Learning outcomes and career openings
A Canonical License is required for advancement to a doctorate by
candidates wishing to teach at a papal or other ecclesiastical