

Regulations
Amending the Examination Regulations
for the Master's degree program Religion, Ethics, and Politics
at the Department of Humanities and Theology
of TU Dortmund University
dated 5 November 2025

Pursuant to Section 2 (4) in conjunction with Section 64 (1) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz NRW*, HG) of 16 September 2014 (GV.NRW. p.547), as last amended by Article 1 of the Act of 29 October 2024 (GV.NRW. p.704), TU Dortmund University has issued the following regulations:

Article I

The Examination Regulations for the Master's degree program Religion, Ethics, and Politics at the Department of Humanities and Theology of TU Dortmund University dated 27 June 2023 (AM 14/2023, p. 26 ff.) are amended as follows:

1. **Section 3** (Access requirements) is amended to include a new **subsection 2**; the existing subsection 2 becomes subsection 3; the existing subsection 3 becomes subsection 4; the existing subsection 4 becomes subsection 5; and the existing subsection 5 becomes subsection 6:
 - (2) The significant basic knowledge in a field of philosophy, political science, or theology as specified in subsection 1(a) are generally considered to be met if the degree program includes 50 credit points in a field of philosophy, political science, or theology.
2. **Section 9** (Examinations), **subsections 1, 7, 9, and 10** are amended as follows, **subsections 11 and 12** are newly inserted; the existing subsection 11 becomes subsection 13; the existing subsection 12 becomes subsection 14; the existing subsection 13 becomes subsection 15; and the existing subsection 14 becomes subsection 16:
 - (1) Each module is usually completed with only one examination. In particularly justified cases, several modules may be completed with a joint examination. A module is successfully completed through a graded module examination or through the cumulative completion of graded partial assessments. Partial assessments are completed within the framework of individual courses. The respective examination format and type (module examination or partial assessments) are specified in the appendix to these Examination Regulations.
 - (7) Oral examinations are always conducted as group or individual examinations before two examiners or before one examiner in the presence of a knowledgeable observer (Section 15 (1)). In group examinations, no more than four candidates are admitted at a time. The main topics and results of the oral examination must be recorded in a protocol respectively minutes. The result of the examination must be communicated to the candidate immediately following the examination. Students who wish to take the same examination during a later examination period are admitted as listeners, subject to available space, unless the candidate objects.

The admission of listeners does not extend to the consultation or the announcement of the examination result. If listeners influence or disrupt the examination, the examiner may exclude them from the examination.

- (9) Examination performance in written or oral examinations that conclude a degree program, and in repeated examinations for which no opportunity for make-up is provided in the event of an irrevocable failure, must always be evaluated by two examiners in accordance with Section 15 (1).
 - (10) In modules that conclude with a module examination, additional coursework may be required in the individual courses. These may include, in particular: oral presentations, term papers, graded practical/laboratory experiments, practical exercises, written or oral performance assessments, lectures, or reports. Coursework may be graded or evaluated as “passed” or “failed.” For coursework that may be repeated an unlimited number of times, Section 20 (4) (b) does not apply. A prerequisite for taking the module examination is the successful completion of all coursework required for that module.
 - (11) Written examinations as defined in subsection 9 must be graded separately by both examiners in accordance with Section 20 (1). The grade for the written examination is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the two individual grades. Section 20 (7) applies accordingly. The provisions of Section 22 apply to the evaluation of the Master’s thesis.
 - (12) For electronic examinations, the regulations governing written examinations shall apply accordingly.
3. **Section 14** (Examination Board), **subsections 1 and 3** are amended as follows:
- (1) The Department of Humanities and Theology shall establish an Examination Board to organize the examinations and carry out the tasks assigned by these Examination Regulations. The Examination Board consists of seven members: five members from the group of university teachers, one member from the group of scientific staff members, and one member from the students of the Master’s degree program Religion, Ethics, and Politics. The members are elected by the Department Council, separated by group, for a term of three years; the member from the student group is elected for a term of one year. The Examination Board elects the Chairperson and the deputy from among its members who are university teachers. The Department Council elects substitutes for the members of the Examination Board, with the exception of the Chairperson and the deputy. Re-election is permitted. The composition of the Examination Board is announced by the Dean. If the election of the Examination Board or of individual members is declared invalid after they have taken office, this does not affect the legal validity of the resolutions and official acts; this applies accordingly in the event of an erroneous composition of the Examination Board.

- (3) The Examination Board has a quorum if, in addition to the Chairperson or the deputy and one other member from the group of university teachers, at least one other member with voting rights is present. The Examination Board makes decisions by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson has the deciding vote. Abstentions are permitted; they are not counted toward determining the majority of votes. Decisions may be made by written circulation of resolutions. The student members of the Examination Board do not participate in pedagogical or academic decisions. Such decisions include, in particular, the evaluation of students, the recognition of academic achievements, the determination of examination questions, and the appointment of examiners and observers.
4. **Section 17** (Absence, withdrawal, deception, and violation of regulations), **subsection 3** is amended as follows:
- (3) If an examination performance is influenced by deception respectively cheating (e.g., use of unauthorized aids, copying text passages without citing them as quotations, copying or having someone else copy for you, or providing assistance to others in their attempts to cheat, etc.), the exam in question is graded as “insufficient” (5.0) or “failed.” This also applies to an attempt at cheating. Failing the examination results in failure of the module. If, during an examination, an attempt at cheating or an act of cheating as defined in the first sentence is detected by the supervisor, the supervisor shall document the attempt at cheating or the act of cheating. The decision as to whether an attempt at cheating or an act of cheating has occurred - and thus whether the examination is to be graded as “insufficient” (5.0) or “failed” - is made by the respective examiners. The principles of *prima facie* evidence apply. The criminal law principle of *in dubio pro reo* (i.e., in doubt, in favor of the accused) does not apply. A candidate who disrupts the proper conduct of the examination may, as a rule, be excluded from continuing the examination by the respective examiner or the supervisor following a warning; in this case, the examination in question is considered to have been graded “insufficient” (5.0) or “failed.” The specific reasons for these decisions must be documented. In serious cases of cheating or disruption, the Examination Board may exclude the candidate from taking further examinations.
5. **Section 20** (Assessment of course-related examination performances, acquisition of credit points, and calculation of grades), **subsections 9 and 10** are amended as follows:
- (9) The overall grade is reported in the form of a grade according to the *European Credit Transfer System* (ECTS). In addition, ECTS grades may be reported for all graded examinations. This requires a corresponding resolution by the Examination Board. The ECTS grades are reported as follows:

A = generally the top approximately 10% of successful students;

B = generally the next approximately 25% of successful students;

C = generally the next approximately 30% of successful students;

D = generally the next approximately 25% of successful students;

E = generally the next approximately 10% of successful students.

As an alternative to the ECTS grade, the grade distribution can be presented in the form of an ECTS grading table.

- (10) ECTS grades or the reference group for the ECTS grading table are generally determined by comparing cohorts from the last six semesters. If this group consists of fewer than 50 students, the reference group must be determined based on the last 10 semesters. As a general rule, the current semester should not be included for the determination of the reference group. As long as no statistical data are available to calculate a relative assessment, no ECTS grades will be issued. To ensure legal certainty in the awarding of grades, the Examination Board may decide to refrain from assigning ECTS grades. The same applies to the creation of the ECTS grading table. When composing the reference group, a distinction must be made based on the degree and the degree program. Furthermore, in cases where there are objective grounds, a different composition of the reference group may be adopted. This requires a corresponding resolution by the Examination Board.

6. **Section 24** (Certificate, documents for a change of university), **subsection 1** is amended as follows:

- (1) Upon passing the Master's examination, the candidate generally receives a certificate no later than four weeks after the evaluation of the final examination. The certificate shall bear the date on which the final examination was taken. The certificate shall include the overall grade for the Master's examination, including the ECTS grade or the ECTS grading scale pursuant to Section 20 (9); the topic and the grade of the Master's thesis; the modules and module grades; and the number of credit points earned in each module.

7. **Section 28** (Scope of Application, entry into force, and publication), **subsection 4** is amended as follows:

- (4) These Examination Regulation in their current version shall enter into force as of the Winter semester 2025/2026 and shall apply to all students enrolled in the Master's degree program Religion and Politics at TU Dortmund University, unless a new Examination Regulation for the Master's degree program Religion, Ethics, and Politics at TU Dortmund University has already entered into force. Excluded from this provision is Section 21 (8) sentence 2, which stipulates that the Master's thesis must be written in English. Students who were enrolled in the German-language Master's degree program Religion and Politics at TU Dortmund University prior to their automatic transfer to the English-language degree program may still write their Master's thesis in German until 30 September 2026.

Article II

- (1) These Examination Regulations are published in the Official Communications of TU Dortmund University and shall enter into force on 1 October 2025.
- (2) The provisions of items 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 apply to all students who have been enrolled in the Master's degree program Religion and Politics and in the Master's degree program Religion, Ethics, and Politics at TU Dortmund University.

Issued on the basis of the resolutions of the Department Council of the Department of Humanities and Theology dated 15 October 2025, and of the Rectorate of TU Dortmund University dated 27 August 2025.

Note

Attention is drawn to the fact that, pursuant to Section 12 (5) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz*, HG NRW), a violation of procedural or formal requirements of the university's regulatory or other autonomous law can no longer be asserted after the expiry of one year from the date of this announcement, unless

1. the regulations have not been duly published,
2. the Rectorate has previously objected to the decision of the committee adopting the regulations,
3. the formal or procedural fault has been notified to the university in advance and the violated legal provision and the fact giving rise to the fault have been indicated, or
4. the legal consequence of the exclusion of the right to complain was not pointed out when the regulations were publicly announced.

Dortmund, 5 November 2025

The President
of TU Dortmund University

Professor Dr. Manfred Bayer