

Official Announcements

Contents:

Regulations governing conferral of the degree
“*Philosophiae Doctor* (PhD)”
of the Faculty of Protestant Theology

of the University of Bonn

dated November 30, 2023

Requirement to give notice of deficiencies:

Pursuant to § 12, paragraph 5 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz NRW*, HG NRW), claims over breach of procedural or formal requirements under the Higher Education Act or regulations of or other autonomous legal acts by the University of Bonn can no longer be asserted if one year has passed since the date of their announcement, unless

1. the regulations were not properly announced;
2. the Rectorate previously objected to the resolution by the body adopting the regulations;
3. the University was previously notified of the formal or procedural deficiency, indicating the legal provision that was violated and the facts leading to the deficiency.

This translation is provided solely for informational purposes. Only the German original is legally binding.

Regulations governing conferral of the degree
“*Philosophiae Doctor (Ph.D.)*”
of the Faculty of Protestant Theology
of the University of Bonn

dated November 30, 2023

The Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Bonn has issued the regulations set forth in the following, in line with § 2, paragraph 4 and § 64, paragraph 1 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz NRW*, HG NRW) dated September 16, 2014 (Legal and Regulatory Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt NRW*, GV NRW) p. 547), last amended by Article 1 of the Act on Membership of University Hospitals in the State Employers Association of June 30, 2022 (GV NRW p. 780b).

Contents

§ 1 Degree conferred.....	- 5 -
§ 2 Doctoral program objectives and achievements.....	- 5 -
§ 3 Doctoral board, examination committee, examination sub-committee.....	- 5 -
§ 4 Requirements for admission to the qualification phase	- 6 -
§ 5 Acceptance as doctoral student	- 7 -
§ 6 Supervision	- 8 -
§ 7 Scope and structure of the doctoral degree program.....	- 8 -
§ 8 Admission to the examination phase	- 9 -
§ 9 Doctoral thesis	- 9 -
§ 10 Thesis defense	- 11 -
§ 11 Maternity leave, parental leave, caregiver leave, accessibility accommodations	- 12 -
§ 12 Overall grade.....	- 12 -
§ 13 Publication of the doctoral thesis, submission of mandatory copies.....	- 13 -
§ 14 Conferral of the doctoral degree	- 13 -
§ 15 Declaration of invalidity of achievements in doctoral studies and revocation of degree and title	- 14 -
§ 16 Access to doctoral examination records.....	- 14 -
§ 17 Joint doctorate.....	- 15 -
§ 18 Entry into force and publication	- 15 -

§ 1

Degree conferred

The Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Bonn awards the academic degree of “*Philosophiae Doctor (Ph.D.)*” based on a doctoral examination procedure conducted in accordance with these Regulations.

§ 2

Doctoral program objectives and requirements

- (1) The title of Ph.D. is awarded for academically noteworthy independent work in one of the primary research areas within the fields of theology and religious studies at the Faculty of Protestant Theology.
- (2) The primary research areas for the purposes of these Regulations are (applicable German terms stated in parentheses):
 - (a) Hebrew Bible (*Altes Testament*)
 - (b) New Testament and Early Christianities (*Neues Testament und entstehendes Christentum*)
 - (c) Church History/History of Christianity (*Kirchen- und Christentumsgeschichte*)
 - (d) Systematic Theology (*Systematische Theologie*)
 - (e) Hermeneutics and Ethics (*Hermeneutik und Ethik*)
 - (f) Ecumenical Studies (*Ökumenische Theologie*)
 - (g) Practical Theology (*Praktische Theologie*)
 - (h) Religious Education (*Religionspädagogik*)
- (3) The prerequisite work and requirements per paragraph 1 are
 - (a) the successful completion of a structured doctoral program with a chosen specialization area as per § 7;
 - (b) the submission of a doctoral thesis (dissertation) on a topic falling within the chosen area of specialization as per § 9; and
 - (c) the completion of a public oral defense of the doctoral thesis as per § 10.
- (4) The doctoral examination procedure has a two-phase structure: a qualification phase and an examination phase.
 - (a) During the qualification phase, the student completes her*his doctoral coursework and writes a doctoral thesis.
 - (b) In the subsequent examination phase, the student’s submitted doctoral thesis is reviewed and evaluated, followed by the defense and concluding overall grade assessment.
- (5) The doctoral examination procedure is not public, with the exception of the doctoral defense and awarding of the diploma. Committee members involved in the process are bound by civil service non-disclosure obligations. Committee members who are not civil servants must be bound to confidentiality by the respective committee chairperson.

§ 3

Doctoral board, examination committee and examination sub-committee

- (1) The Faculty Council forms a doctoral board to conduct doctoral degree procedures for both the Dr. theol. and Ph.D. titles. The doctoral board is responsible for conducting formal doctoral examination procedures, for initiating the procedures and for appointing the first and second reviewers as proposed by the dean and the members of the examination sub-committee. The doctoral board is composed of the dean, vice dean, two professors, two research associates and one student enrolled in a doctoral program of the Faculty. The members are appointed by the Faculty Council, along with respective deputy members. The term of office is two years; for the student member the term is one year. The doctoral board has a quorum

when four or more members are present at a meeting, which must include the dean or vice dean and at least one professor.

(2) The examination committee decides on substantive matters, including particularly the evaluation and approval of the thesis, conducting of the doctoral examination procedure and the possible revocation of a doctoral degree and title as per § 15. The examination committee is comprised of professors from the Faculty and the dean as chair. Members of the University and of the University of Cologne Department of Protestant Theology (in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities) who hold a *Habilitation* may be approved by the doctoral board to participate in conducting the examination procedure, and in such case are then voting members of the examination committee for the procedure in question. The first doctoral thesis reviewer is a voting member of the examination committee for the ongoing procedure.

(3) The dean chooses members of the examination committee to be on the examination sub-committee responsible for conducting of the oral examination. In addition to the dean as chair, the sub-committee consists of three representatives of the specialization areas per § 2, paragraph 2. The first doctoral thesis reviewer is always a member of the examination sub-committee. If the dean is to be an examiner on the examination sub-committee, he must appoint another examination committee member to serve as examination sub-committee chair.

(4) The doctoral board, examination committee and examination sub-committee meet in closed session; any members of the Faculty may attend the thesis defense per § 10, paragraph 3. All board/committee members are obligated to uphold confidentiality.

§ 4

Requirements for admission to the qualification phase

- (1) The requirements for admission to the qualification phase are
 - (a) holding a graduate degree or an undergraduate degree that is not a bachelor's degree in a subject pertinent to the doctoral thesis and the chosen research area awarded by a state or state-recognized university in a German-speaking country which has a minimum eight-semester standard period of study; or
 - (b) holding an equivalent degree from a foreign university in a subject closely relevant to the doctoral thesis and academically related to a subject taught at the Faculty; the doctoral board decides regarding equivalence based on the equivalency agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the German federal and state governments and by the German Rectors Conference; in case of doubts regarding degree equivalence, an independent expert opinion must be obtained from the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) established by the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs;
 - (c) for doctoral candidates who have written a thesis in a language other than German or English, proof of level C1 language competency in German or level B2 in English is required in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) by way of recognized language test (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS) or equivalent documentation;
 - (d) documentation of language competency required for the chosen specialization and doctoral thesis topic, which is noted as part of the supervision agreement per § 6, paragraph 2;

- (e) a written declaration by a Faculty member qualified to act as doctoral supervisor that they will take on the supervisory role.

(2) Graduates of three-year or longer bachelor's degree programs at a university or equivalent institution of higher education in Germany or another country who are especially qualified may be approved to take a two-to-four-semester aptitude study program in which they must demonstrate being sufficiently qualified to conduct academic research in the chosen discipline of the doctorate. The doctoral board determines the coursework and examinations to be completed as part of the aptitude study program. The doctoral board holds a concluding colloquium to determine whether the candidate is qualified to conduct academic research and has sufficient specialized knowledge in their chosen research area for the doctorate.

§ 5

Acceptance as doctoral student

- (1) Any individual who meets the requirements per § 4 may apply in writing to the doctoral board for acceptance as doctoral student.
- (2) The application must state/include the following:
 - (a) the doctoral thesis topic and area of specialization,
 - (b) written letter from a professor or adjunct member of the Faculty confirming the supervision arrangement,
 - (c) the documentation showing that the requirements of § 4 are met.
- (3) If one or more of the requirements per § 4 are not met, acceptance may be still be granted on a conditional basis if existing deficits are expected to be remedied within a reasonable period of time. All prerequisites per § 4 must be fully met by the time of admission to the examination phase.
- (4) Acceptance as doctoral student may be refused if
 - (a) one or more of the requirements for admission to the qualification phase of the doctoral program are not met and the deficits concerned are not expected to be remedied within a reasonable period of time, in no case later than the point of admission to the examination phase; or
 - (b) the doctoral thesis topic chosen is obviously unsuitable or does not fall within the Faculty's scope of competency; or
 - (c) the applicant has failed to pass a previous doctoral examination procedure for a Ph.D. or Dr. theol. degree more than one time; or
 - (d) reasons are in evidence justifying revocation of an academic degree, or the applicant has already had an academic degree withdrawn.
- (5) After the doctoral board chair has verified that formal requirements have been met, the board decides whether to approve the applicant as doctoral student in accordance with the recommendation of their supervisor. The decision is communicated to the applicant in writing. In the case of admission on a conditional basis, the stipulated conditions must be specifically outlined and a reasonable period of time granted for their fulfillment. The reasons for a rejection decision must be stated in writing, accompanied by advisory of legal recourse.
- (6) The doctoral candidate is obligated to enroll in the Faculty of Protestant Theology in accordance with § 5 of the University of Bonn Enrollment Regulations.

§ 6
Supervision

- (1) In recognizing an applicant as doctoral student, the Faculty agrees to assist the student in preparations to obtain the doctoral degree.
- (2) A written supervision agreement is concluded between the doctoral student and the supervisor, to be signed by both parties and by the doctoral board chair. The doctoral thesis topic must at a minimum be stated in this agreement and what binding supervision arrangement will be in place, what language competency is required for the chosen research area and for the doctoral thesis topic per § 4, paragraph 1, letter (d) as well as the mandatory coursework and examinations per § 7, paragraph 3.
- (3) The doctoral board may appoint a professor or adjunct lecturer (“Privatdozent”) who is not a member of the Faculty as second supervisor if such is deemed called for with regard to scholarly expertise considerations.
- (4) If the supervising professor should depart the Faculty, the supervision relationship may continue if the supervisor and doctoral student agree thereto, barring compelling reasons to the contrary. The doctoral board determines whether such reasons are in evidence.
- (5) As part of their agreement, the doctoral student and supervisor agree to promptly seek resolution to any arising conflict. The doctoral board must be involved if any such conflict cannot be resolved within a reasonable period of time. After giving both parties a hearing, the board then meets to decide on whether the supervision relationship should be continued or ended, appointing a new supervisor as necessary.
- (6) For any amendment to the supervision agreement, a new supervision agreement document per paragraph 2 must be signed.
- (7) If the qualification phase takes more than eight semesters to complete, the supervision agreement has to be renewed in accordance with paragraph 2 with the renewed agreement containing a schedule for completing the qualification phase. Thereafter, the supervision agreement per sentence 1 must be renewed again every two semesters.

§ 7
Scope and structure of the doctoral degree program

- (1) The qualification phase of the doctorate involves structured a structured program, the purpose of which is to further and advance the student’s knowledge and academic research competencies in the research area chosen for the doctorate per § 2, paragraph 2.
- (2) The structured program should generally be completed within six semesters.
- (3) It must involve the following:
 - (a) active participation (including the required coursework) in courses which further and advance the student’s academic growth, including, for example, societies, regular and advanced seminars, colloquia, specialized exercises, language classes and courses of a propaedeutic nature for a total time commitment of 540 workload hours (= 18 ECTS credits) and an overall minimum of 12 hours per semester week;

- (b) participation in at least two international conventions, conferences or similar events of relevance to the chosen research area; the doctoral student must provide documentation of having presented independent work in a talk or presentation of at least twenty minutes' length at one or more such events;
- (c) supplemental study as per § 4, paragraph 2, as required.

(4) The content per paragraph 3, letters (a) and (b) is determined by the supervisor and doctoral student in mutual agreement. The doctoral board decides in case of any conflicts.

§ 8

Admission to the examination phase

- (1) The candidate must apply in writing for admission to the examination phase.
- (2) The following must be provided in or attached to the application:
 - (a) the candidate's CV;
 - (b) documentation of having completed at least two semesters of study at the University of Bonn, Faculty of Protestant Theology; § 5, paragraph 6 applies;
 - (c) any documentation per § 4 and § 7 which was not submitted along with the application for acceptance as doctoral student;
 - (d) the doctoral thesis in print form per § 9 as well as an identical version in electronic form as specified by the doctoral board;
 - (e) a declaration that the student has independently prepared the doctoral thesis, has cited and documented all sources and resources utilized and has not previously submitted the doctoral thesis or parts thereof in another doctoral examination procedure;
 - (f) a declaration that the student has not applied for a Ph.D. or Dr. theol. degree at any other university;
 - (g) a police record issued within the last six months.

§ 9

Doctoral thesis

- (1) The doctoral thesis in one of the research areas per § 2, paragraph 2 of these Regulations is generally an independent scholarly study (monograph) which has not yet been published. Given justifying academic or methodological reasons, a cumulative doctoral thesis comprising multiple individual scholarly papers with related content may be acceptable; details are regulated under paragraph 3.
- (2) The doctoral thesis must be submitted in German, English or French, as a rule.
- (3) If a cumulative doctoral thesis is approved, at least three articles with the doctoral student as first author or in shared first authorship must have been published by or accepted for publication in scholarly series or peer-reviewed journals. If the articles submitted for a cumulative doctoral thesis were co-authored by two or more individuals, it must be specified what the doctoral student's own contribution was. A general introduction accompanying the submitted articles is required outlining the connection between the individual papers and the student's overall research output; further details are regulated under the supervision agreement.
- (4) The doctoral student may request that certain requirements for a cumulative doctoral thesis as per paragraphs 1 and 3 be waived on an exceptional basis, outlining the reasons in a written petition which the doctoral board may approve. An opinion by the student's supervisor must be attached to the petition. The same applies if the thesis is to be rendered by any other form of media.

- (5) The doctoral board appoints two or more reviewers to review and evaluate the doctoral thesis. The first reviewer is typically the student's supervisor. The second reviewer must be an individual who is not in a supervisory relationship. At least one of the reviewers must be a professor or adjunct lecturer ("Privatdozent") at the Faculty. The second review opinion may be prepared by a retired university professor.
- (6) In justified cases, the doctoral board may appoint an additional reviewer from a different university or academic institution of equivalent status, located in Germany or abroad.
- (7) In the case of a cumulative doctoral thesis, a co-author of the papers submitted may not be appointed as a reviewer.
- (8) Reviewers independently evaluate the doctoral thesis and submit their own written review. With this review a recommendation must be stated whether
- (a) the doctoral thesis should be accepted;
 - (b) the doctoral thesis should be rejected; or
 - (c) the doctoral thesis should be returned for revision.
- (9) If it is recommended that the doctoral thesis be accepted, a proposed distinction/grade level must be stated. The following distinction levels are possible:
- "summa cum laude"* = top-level achievement of excellence (grade 1)
 - "magna cum laude"* = a strong, stand-out achievement (grade 2)
 - "cum laude"* = achievement at the average level (grade 3)
 - "rite"* = indicates that the work meets the requirements despite deficiencies (grade 4)
- (10) The examination committee is to decide regarding acceptance and grading of the doctoral thesis within eight months of the date of its submission. The reviewer recommendations must be submitted to the examination committee within three months of the date when the reviewer was appointed.
- (11) If the review recommendations per paragraphs 5–9 differ in their recommendation to accept, reject or return the doctoral thesis for revision, or if the recommended distinction/grade differs by two or more levels, the examination committee is to commission another reviewer to prepare a recommendation.
- (12) Examination committee members must have access to the doctoral thesis and the reviewer recommendations. The members must be given a period of four to eight weeks to consider these after receiving the reviewer recommendations.
- (13) Professors of the Faculty are entitled to prepare further review recommendations. In such case these recommendations must be submitted to the examination committee in written form at least one week prior to the date on which the committee is to discuss and decide on acceptance and grading of the doctoral thesis.
- (14) Based on the submitted recommendations the examination committee members decide in accordance with paragraphs 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 13 whether to accept, return for revision or reject the doctoral thesis, and on what distinction level to assign to the doctoral thesis if accepted.
- (15) The decision to accept, return or reject the doctoral thesis and what distinction level is assigned, as applicable, will be communicated to the doctoral student in writing immediately following the decision. If the doctoral thesis is returned or rejected, the reasons must be outlined with an accompanying advisory of legal recourse.

(16) If a doctoral thesis is returned for revision, the examination committee must grant a reasonable period of time, taking into account the extent of necessary revision and the doctoral student's personal situation. The committee chair is to inform the doctoral student in writing of the stipulations which are imposed on the basis of the deliberations and decisions of the examination committee. When the doctoral thesis is re-submitted, the chair is to prepare a written recommendation on the basis of which the examination committee makes its final decision on acceptance or rejection of the doctoral thesis.

(17) If the doctoral thesis is rejected, the student can only reapply once to proceed to the examination phase and only after a one-year waiting period. The doctoral thesis submitted must be new or substantially improved and evaluated by two or more reviewers. If the examination committee rejects that doctoral thesis as well, the doctoral student has failed the doctoral examination procedure with finality.

§ 10

Thesis defense

- (1) If the doctoral thesis is accepted, the doctoral student is invited to defend it in a public session.
- (2) The purpose of the defense is for the doctoral student to demonstrate that she*he is able to explain the academic findings of her*his doctoral thesis and defend them against criticism with reference to a written list of the thesis' central claims submitted in advance. The list must be submitted to the examination sub-committee chair at least one week prior to the date scheduled for the doctoral defense.
- (3) The doctoral defense is to be held before the examination sub-committee per § 3, paragraph 3 of these Regulations in a session open to attendance by members of the Faculty. The doctoral defense is to be held no earlier than four weeks after acceptance of the doctoral thesis, and within three months at the latest. Invitations to attend the event must be sent out to Faculty members in a timely manner as stipulated by the doctoral board. Print copies and/or digital versions of the list of the thesis' central claims thesis arguments are to be made available to attendees.
- (4) The doctoral defense includes
 - (a) an approximately twenty-minute presentation by the doctoral student of the research findings/conclusions from their doctoral thesis, oriented around the pre-submitted list for discussion, discussing the research context with regard to the chosen research area; and
 - (b) a discussion of the thesis' central claims, the doctoral student's presentation and the doctoral thesis as a whole.
- (5) The minimum duration of the defense procedure, including the presentation per paragraph 4, letter (a), is 60 minutes; it shall not extend beyond 120 minutes.
- (6) The examination sub-committee chair moderates the discussion. All doctoral degree-holding members of the doctoral board, the members of the examination committee, retired professors and adjunct lecturers ("Privatdozenten") of the Faculty are entitled to participate in the discussion.
- (7) Minutes are kept documenting the thesis defense which are to be signed by the examination sub-committee chair.
- (8) After the defense procedure the examination sub-committee members decide whether the defense was passed, taking the recommendation of the chair into account, and on the distinction/grade level per § 9, paragraph 9 to be assigned based on the doctoral student's performance in the defense. The decision is to be communicated to the candidate in a closed meeting immediately following.
- (9) If the thesis defense is not passed, it may be repeated once upon petition by the doctoral student within the next 18 months, subject to a minimum three-month waiting period.

(10) If the doctoral student is absent unexcused from the thesis defense, the doctoral examination procedure is failed with finality.

§ 11

Maternity leave, parental leave, caregiver leave, accessibility accommodations

(1) Applicable deadlines per these Regulations may be extended for valid reasons upon petition by the doctoral student. Necessary documentation shall be attached to the application. Valid reasons include in particular going on maternity leave or parental leave, having to care for a close relative or family member in accordance with applicable laws, illness lasting more than one semester, chronic illness, disability and or other bodily and psychological conditions. The doctoral board chair decides regarding the extension of deadlines per sentence 1.

(2) If by presenting a medical certificate the doctoral student credibly demonstrates that they are wholly or partially unable to take required examinations and complete other required work in the intended form due to illness lasting more than one semester or to permanent physical disability or chronic illness, the doctoral board will accept the completion of an equivalent examination within a period set by the board, or completion in another form determined by the board.

§ 12

Overall grade

(1) The examination sub-committee chair assigns the overall grade for the doctorate when a candidate successfully completes the doctoral defense.

(2) The overall grade is calculated as a weighted average of the grades earned for the doctoral thesis and the doctoral defense. The grade for the doctoral thesis is weighted 2x, the doctoral defense 1x.

(3) When the calculated overall grade is not a whole number, only the first decimal place is considered. Decimal values from 1 to 4 are then rounded down to the nearest whole number and decimal values from 5 to 9 are rounded up.

(4) The individual grades and overall grade for the doctorate are communicated to the doctoral student verbally upon completion of the last part of the oral defense.

(5) Doctoral students are issued a transcript documenting their individual grades and overall grade for the doctorate. This transcript certificate does not confer entitlement to use the title of "*Philosophiae Doctor* (Ph.D.)."

§ 13

Publication of the doctoral thesis, submission of mandatory copies

- (1) The doctoral degree is awarded once the doctoral student provides proof of publication of the accepted doctoral thesis.
- (2) Proof of publication of the doctoral thesis must be given in one of the following ways:
 - (a) printing out at least 40 copies of the complete doctoral thesis paper and delivering these to the University Publications Office at Bonn University and State Library;
 - (b) presenting a contract for publication with an academic publisher to the doctoral board;
 - (c) open-access publication in electronic form on the publication server of the Bonn University and State Library.
 - (d) If, in the case of a cumulative doctoral thesis, parts of the doctoral thesis have already been published, those parts that have not yet been published must be published in accordance with letters (b) or (c).
- (3) The doctoral student must ensure that the doctoral thesis is published in accordance with these Regulations as amended and with formal requirements stipulated by the doctoral board. Confirmation from the library of publication as per paragraph 2, letters (a) and (c) must be presented.
- (4) Three printed copies of the doctoral thesis published as per paragraph 2, letters (a) to (c) must be submitted to the Faculty. These copies must meet formal requirements stipulated by the doctoral board.
- (5) In the foreword or elsewhere in the published doctoral thesis it must be stated, without exception, that the paper has been accepted as a doctoral thesis by the Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Bonn.
- (6) Publication must take place within two years of the last examination conducted as part of the doctoral examination procedure.
- (7) A deadline extension per paragraph 6 by a maximum 18 months may be approved on a one-time basis for valid reasons. A corresponding petition must be filed with the doctoral board immediately upon becoming aware of the need for such, and in no case later than three months before the date of the original publication deadline.
- (8) If the doctoral student fails to meet the deadlines per paragraphs 6 and 7, any rights/claims accruing to the student by virtue of the procedure are forfeited.

§ 14

Conferral of the doctoral degree

- (1) Once the doctoral thesis has been published, the dean invites the doctoral student to the doctoral diploma award ceremony. Upon conferral of the degree, the individual may legally use the title of "*Philosophiae Doctor (Ph.D.)*."
- (2) Presentation of the diploma at the public ceremony confers the degree.
- (3) The doctoral diploma states the following:
 - (a) "Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn",
 - (b) the name of the graduating doctoral student,
 - (c) the student's date and place of birth,
 - (d) "Philosophiae Doctor" as academic degree, stating the research area per § 2, paragraph 2,
 - (e) the title of the doctoral thesis,
 - (f) the overall distinction/grade for doctoral study,

- (g) the date of presentation of the diploma,
- (h) The dean's name and signature and the Faculty seal.

(4) An English translation of the diploma is issued upon request by the recipient.

§ 15

Declaration of invalidity of achievements in doctoral studies and revocation of degree and title

(1) Should the doctoral board become aware during the course of the doctoral examination procedure that the doctoral student has made fraudulent representations, the board may declare the doctoral examination procedure as failed, wholly or part depending on the severity of the case.

(2) If the doctoral student has made fraudulent representations in connection with their achievements in doctoral studies which only become known after issuance of the transcript of grades and credits per § 12, paragraph 5 or of the doctoral diploma per § 14, the achievements in question may be retroactively declared as failed and the title of doctor may be revoked.

(3) The doctoral title may be revoked if it emerges that the doctoral student obtained admission to the doctoral program by means of fraud, threats or bribery.

(4) If after issuance of the transcript of grades and credits per § 12, paragraph 5 or of the doctoral diploma per § 14 it emerges that the requirements for a student's admission to the doctoral program were not met but without fraudulent intent on the part of the student, the fact of their passing the doctoral examination procedure shall be deemed to remedy this deficiency.

(5) The doctoral board may revoke a doctoral degree if the degree holder is sentenced to a prison term of one year or more for a criminal offense committed with willful intent, in connection with which they abused the academic qualification or the title of doctor either in the run-up to or the commission of the act, or if the degree holder committed an act of academic misconduct with willful intent, thereby demonstrating themselves to be unworthy of holding the title of doctor.

(6) The accused must be given an in-person hearing before a decision is made in accordance with paragraphs 1–3 and paragraph 5.

§ 16

Access to doctoral examination records

A doctoral student may be allowed to view their doctoral examination records upon request after completion of the examination procedure. Such request must be filed within four weeks of issuance of the transcripts per § 12, paragraph 5 of these Regulations.

§ 17

Joint doctorate

- (1) The Faculty of Protestant Theology may confer the title "*Philosophiae Doctor* (Ph.D.)" jointly with another university or academic institution of equivalent recognized status which is entitled to award doctoral degrees.
- (2) This requires a cooperation agreement regulating procedural specifics to be in place between the institution concerned and the Faculty of Protestant Theology. The agreement must provide that a joint doctorate is subject to approval by the doctoral board, barring exceptional cases.
- (3) For a joint doctorate, one of the doctoral thesis supervisors must be a member of the University of Bonn Faculty of Protestant Theology.
- (4) For joint doctorates the rule applies, superseding § 9, paragraph 6, that one doctoral thesis reviewer must be a member of the University of Bonn Faculty of Protestant Theology.
- (5) Only students who meet the requirements per § 4 and have been accepted as doctoral students per § 5 may pursue a joint doctorate.
- (6) The diploma per § 14 confers one academic degree, the title for which may be used in the form as awarded by the partner university or in the form as awarded by the University of Bonn Faculty of Protestant Theology. The degree is awarded in a joint diploma. The joint diploma is signed by the responsible representative of the partner university and the dean of the Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Bonn, bearing the seals of both universities.

§ 18

Entry into force and publication

These Regulations shall enter into effect on the day following the date of their publication in the Official Announcements of the University of Bonn.

C. Richter

Dean
of the Faculty of Protestant Theology
at the University of Bonn
Prof. Dr. Cornelia Richter

Executed pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Faculty of Protestant Theology on June 7, 2023, with the agreement of the Protestant Church of the Rhineland granted October 26, 2023.

Bonn, November 30, 2023

M. Hoch

Rector
of the University of Bonn
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch