

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE PhD THESIS IN ADVANCED THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

*Status: January 2025*

The examination board usually consists of at least three persons (i.e. the director of the doctoral program or a deputy; the supervisor; and one or two reviewers of the dissertation or subject-related professors/lecturers).

Examinations can be conducted in German or English.

The examination interview lasts a maximum of one hour and consists of the following two parts:

- 1. Short presentation of the findings of the dissertation by the doctoral candidate (maximum 20 minutes!):** Above all, the presentation should answer the proposed research questions and especially focus on each part of the dissertation which demonstrates progress from or improvement upon previous research. Possible points of criticism in the two reviews should also be responded to.
- 2. Defense of the thesis (approx. 30–40 minutes):** The starting point are the critiques of the reviews to which the doctoral candidate can replicate (if not already done in the short presentation). Furthermore, the members of the examination board are able to ask additional critical questions on the coherence and scope of specific findings of the dissertation – if possible in such a way that requires the candidates to present arguments for their results.