

Orthodox Pastoral Theology

1. Admission Requirements:

• Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of high school studies and obtaining a baccalaureate degree or equivalent.
- Non-EU Citizens - Contingent upon the presentation of the Graduation Certificate from the preparatory year (excluding those who have completed their previous studies in the Romanian language) and obtaining the Letter of Acceptance issued by the Ministry of Education.
- EU Citizens + Swiss Confederation - Contingent upon the presentation of the Graduation Certificate from the preparatory year (excluding those who have completed their previous studies in the Romanian language) and the recognition of their studies by the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED).

• Entrance Exams:

The admission average of registered candidates is made up of:

- Psychological examination (Pass/Fail)
- Assessment of musical aptitudes (Pass/Fail)
- Written examination – weight 50%;
- Average of the baccalaureate exam – weight 50%.
- Admission to undergraduate studies is strictly in descending order of the general admission averages obtained by the candidates respecting the capacity of tuition for each study program

2. Degree Levels:

- Bachelor's Degree: 4-year program.

3. Curriculum:

• Core Courses:

Mandatory courses that all students in the program must take:

- Church Music and Ritual
- Fundamental Theology
- Greek Language
- History and Philosophy of Religions
- History of the Romanian Orthodox Church
- Homiletics
- Liturgical and Pastoral Practice
- Liturgical Theology
- Latin Language
- Moral Theology
- New Testament Studies
- Old Testament Studies
- Orthodox Canon Law: Legislation and Church Administration
- Orthodox Dogmatic and Fundamental Theology

- Orthodox Missiology
- Orthodox Spirituality
- Pastoral Theology
- Patrology and Patristic Literature
- Physical Education
- Practical Specialty
- Specialty Practice
- Spirituality of Byzantium
- Universal Church History

• **Electives:**

- Christian Anthropology
- Church Music and Ritual
- History of Dogmas
- History of Philosophy
- Introduction to Scientific Research Methodology
- Modern Language - English
- Modern Language - French
- Orthodox Catechetics
- Orthodox Spirituality
- Science and Religion
- Spiritual Formation: History and Philosophy, Choral Ensemble, Pedagogy, Science and Religion

• **Major/Concentration:**

- This program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of Orthodox Christian pastoral practices, theology, and ministry. Rooted in the rich traditions of the Orthodox Church, the curriculum explores the theological foundations of pastoral care, ethical considerations in ministry, liturgical practices, and the pastoral responsibilities within the community. Students engage in in-depth studies of Orthodox Christian teachings, sacraments, and pastoral counseling. Practical training and internships further equip students with the skills required for effective pastoral leadership, emphasizing the integration of theology and pastoral ministry in the contemporary world. The program aims to nurture spiritually grounded and ethically responsible individuals prepared for various pastoral roles within the Orthodox Christian community.

• **General Education Requirements:**

- Effectively completing both compulsory courses and seminars.

4. **Credits:**

- A minimum of 240 ECTS are needed to graduate, with 30 ECTS assigned to each semester.

5. **Internships and Practical Experience:**

- Practical internships take place at the parishes of the students or within the municipality of Târgoviște, specifically at churches that have established practice agreements with the Faculty of Theology and Educational Sciences. These internships are conducted under the guidance of faculty members who serve as academic mentors. The aim is to provide students with hands-on experience in a real-world pastoral setting, fostering the application of theoretical knowledge under the guidance of experienced instructors.

6. **Research Requirements:**

- Throughout their studies, students engage in research activities under the guidance of faculty members, either through seminar activities or participation in student scientific centers.

7. **Academic Advising:**

- A supervising teacher is assigned to each year of study and partially assisted activities are coordinated by supervising teachers.
- The bachelor thesis is also supervised by a scientific supervisor.

8. **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Scientific activities such as conferences, roundtable discussions, and meetings with renowned specialists in the field, as well as interactions with potential employers, are periodically organized for students.
- Students have the option to participate in clubs, organizations, student scientific circles, or extracurricular activities related to their field of study or personal interests.

9. **Examinations:**

- The courses will span 14 weeks during each semester and conclude with oral, written, or practical examinations. Successful completion of these exams is mandatory to earn study credits. The grading system for a subject ranges from 10 to 1, with whole numbers assigned as marks. The minimum passing grade is 5, and the highest achievable mark is 10.

10. **Thesis Defense:**

The prerequisites for presenting a bachelor thesis before a committee include:

- Attainment of 180 ECTS credits throughout the program.
- Obtaining the approval of the scientific supervisor to present the bachelor thesis.

11. **Graduation Requirements:**

- Eligibility for the examination is open to graduates of the program who have accumulated 240 ECTS credits over the four years of study. The title of bachelor is conferred upon successfully passing the bachelor's examination, which consists of two components: (I) a written and oral test assessing fundamental and specialized knowledge, and (II) an oral examination involving the defense of the bachelor's thesis. Successful completion of both components is required to obtain the degree.

12. **Degree Awarding:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Orthodox Pastoral Theology.