

A Description of the Baccalaureate Programme of Theology at Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary

The Baccalaureate programme is conducted by 5 academic members of the staff and 23 invited teachers.

The number of credits is 245, on average, 30 credits a month. Each of the academic year consists of 60-65 credits.

The requisites for the admittance to the Baccalaureate programme are:

A Reference Letter from the Spiritual father;

A certificate verifying the acquisition of general secondary education;

Gaining the scores above the lower margin at the National Examination in the Georgian Language and Literature;

The internal examinations are assigned in the following subjects:

Foundations of the Christian Teaching (oral);

History of Georgia (oral);

A Foreign Language (a test – English (A2), Russian (A2), German (A2), French (A2) or Modern Greek (A2)).

The lowest margin of scores at the internal examinations is 51, the upper margin – 100. The quota of the admittance of the students is 40.

Within the framework of the academic course, hours for lectures and seminars are considered which comprise the following multiple methods of teaching and activities: a method of independent work at the book; discussions and debates; preparation for the seminars/colloquiums of each semester and giving reports in them; a method of explanation and elucidation; preparation for a presentation; semester/final examinations.

The Students' achievements are assessed according to a system of 100 scores which unifies mid-term assessments, scores gained in colloquiums and seminars, the total of the attendance at the lectures and the scores of final assessments (in order to be admitted to the examinations, students must accumulate 11 scores). The educational course comprises the fulfillment of practical tasks at museums, churches and monasteries.

The first year comprises 65 credits. The core of the workload are humanities the goal of which is to attain improvement in oral speech and written language, to master skills for writing and to gain basic theoretical knowledge, to learn the history of their motherland, a foreign language and skills for a textological analysis of the Holy Scripture.

The second year comprises 60 credits. The students have every opportunity to, apart from learning the texts of the Holy Scriptures, familiarize themselves with the Holy Fathers' interpretations of the biblical texts. By learning the Church typicon, the students will be able to participate in the Church ministry (as Psalm-readers).

The third year comprises 60 credits. The students gain the basic knowledge of Theological Disciplines. The objective of the educational programmes in Ecclesiastical Law, History of the Church, Dogmatic Theology is to familiarize the students with the science of Ecclesiastical Law and the legislation of the Orthodox Church, events which took place throughout the history of the Church, figures who lived and worked in her bosom, problems which were to be tackled and to fundamentally study the Dogmas of the Orthodox Church.

The fourth year comprises 60 credits. History of Philosophy enables the students to gain the basic knowledge of the contemporary trends of philosophy and its key issues; by taking the starting course in Classical Greek, the students learn the basics of elementary grammar; by taking a course in Ascetics, the students gain a scientific knowledge, related to the peculiarities of practical ascetic life.

Upon the graduation from Tbilisi Theological Seminary, the graduates are entitled to be ordained as clergymen if they are recommended for this ministry, work as a teacher of theological subjects, be involved in the educational activities which serve to the promulgation and strengthening of the Orthodox Faith and values. The graduates will have acquired skills for: the use of their knowledge in practice,

communication in Georgian and in one of the foreign languages, reading professional texts of special fields and analyzing them, examination of a paper/a text (take concrete objectives and fulfill them within the planned timespan, quotation of other authors, observing the rules of reference, etc.). They can continue studies in the following stage of study or start independent practical work. The programme provides them knowledge of Theology, forms and develops in them methodological skills and habits.

The Baccalaureate Programme of Theology							
The Baccalaureate Programme of Theology of 2014-2019							
Semester I				Semester II			
Subjects		credits	hours	Subjects		credits	hours
1	The New Testament I	5	3	1	The New Testament II	5	3
2	New Georgian I	5	3	2	New Georgian II	5	3
3	History of Georgia I	5	3	3	History of Georgia II	5	3
4	A Foreign Language I	5	3	4	A Foreign Language II	5	3
5	History of Georgian Literature I	5	3	5	History of Georgian Literature II	5	3
6	Old Georgian I	5	3	6	Old Georgian II	5	3
				7	The Old Testament I	5	3
Total:		30	18	Total:		35	21
Semester III				Semester IV			
Subjects		credits	hours	Subjects		credits	hours
1	The New Testament III	5	3	1	The New Testament IV	5	3
2	The Old Testament II	5	3	2	The Old Testament III	5	3
3	Liturgics I	5	3	3	Liturgics II	5	3
4	History of the Church of Georgia I	5	3	4	History of the Church of Georgia I	5	3
5	A Foreign Language III	5	3	5	A Foreign Language IV	5	3
6	History of Religions I	5	3	6	Patristics I	5	3
Total		30	18	Total		30	18

Semester V				Semester VI			
subjects		credits	hours	subjects		credits	hours
1	The New Testament V	5	3	1	The New Testament VI	5	3
2	The Old Testament IV	5	3	2	The Old Testament V	5	3
3	Liturgics III	5	3	3	Liturgics IV	5	3
4	History of the Church I	5	3	4	History of the Church II	5	3
5	Ecclesiastical Law I	5	3	5	Ecclesiastical Law II	5	3
6	Dogmatic Theology I	5	3	6	Dogmatic Theology II	5	3
7	Patristics II	5	3				
Total		35	21			30	18

Semester VII			Semester VIII				
subjects		credits	hours	subjects		credits	hours
1	The New Testament VII	5	4	1	The New Testament VIII	5	4
2	History of the Church III	5	3	2	Philosophy II	5	2
3	Liturgics V	5	3	3	Liturgics VI	5	3
4	The Old Testament VI	5	3	4	Ascetics I	5	3
5	Classical Greek I	5	2	5	Classical Greek II	5	2
6	Philosophy I	5	2				
Total		30	17		Total	25	14
							245