



სულხან-საბა ორბელიანის
უნივერსიტეტი

Master's Educational Programme

Programme Title	Theology
Programme Director	Vazha Vardidze
Language of Instruction	Georgian
Qualification Awarded	Part I of the programme (60 ECTS): Master of Theology Part II of the programme (60 ECTS): Master of Research in Theology
Programme Credits	The Master's programme is based on the ECTS system, is student-centred, and is founded on the academic workload required to achieve the objectives of the educational programme. The Master's Educational Programme in Theology comprises 120 ECTS credits and consists of two parts of 60 ECTS credits each (Part I and Part II). The standard workload is 60 credits per academic year and 30 credits per semester. Depending on the student's individual workload, the annual number of credits may be fewer or greater than 60, but may not exceed 75
Approval and Update	28.09.2009 № 02-09/09
Date of Programme Update and Protocol Number	26.08.2026 №07-26

Programme Objectives

The objective of Part I (60 ECTS) of the Master's Educational Programme in Theology is for the student to:

- Become familiar with the Church's official position on social issues, the biblical foundations and historical development of social teaching, and models of relations between the Church and the State; understand the consequences of interaction between the Church and the State and, on this basis, identify relevant issues in Church-State relations and apply the Church's social teaching.
- Study in depth the Orthodox concept of the divine economy of salvation in comparison with the soteriological tradition of Protestantism; study the relationship between revelation and theological language, as well as the history and specific characteristics of the formation of theological terminology; and become familiar with the principal Trinitarian concepts and the historical context of their development.
- Know the most important representatives of contemporary Christian theology and their concepts.
- The objective of Part II (60 ECTS) is for the student to analyse various theological problems in depth and, through academic writing techniques, plan and conduct academic research on theological issues.

Learning Outcomes

After completing Part I (60 ECTS), the graduate:

- (A) (A) Is familiar with the views of contemporary Christian theologians and the latest major trends in Christian theology, including their relationship to religious and secular issues, science, culture, other confessions and religions, and on this basis develops original ideas in the field.
- (B) (B) Understands the legal aspects of relations between the Church and the State, their historical experience and contemporary condition, and the consequences of Church–State interaction; understands the importance of categories of the Church’s social teaching such as human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity, as well as the duties and rights of the human person as a member of society in light of the Church’s position.
- (C) (C) Understands key issues of the Church’s dogmatic teaching, including in-depth aspects of Trinitarian theology and soteriology, hermeneutics, and interconfessional, Orthodox and Catholic approaches.

After completing Part II (60 ECTS), the graduate also:

- (D) (D) Relates views expressed in Church documents to contemporary social problems; identifies specific models of Church–State relations and discusses their positive and negative aspects; evaluates the actions of public officials in accordance with constitutional principles and the political-legal concept of secularism.
- (E) (E) Participates in dialogue among confessions, identifies forms and prospects of ecumenical activity, communicates with representatives of different religions while focusing on relevant religious issues, and searches for and selects academic and scholarly literature in accordance with the principles of academic integrity; independently plans and carries out research using academic writing techniques.
- (F) (F) Engages in interdisciplinary communication and dialogue with specialists from other academic fields when discussing important social, worldview and legal problems, and presents relevant theological perspectives in an academic and terminologically appropriate form while taking social and ethical responsibilities into account.
- (G) (G) On the basis of profound and systematic knowledge of theology, critically evaluates the latest developments in the field and develops and further advances original ideas.
- (H) (H) Independently directs his or her own learning on the basis of theological sources, articles and monographs, assumes responsibility for continuing education and professional development, and contributes to the development of particular aspects of disciplinary knowledge.
- (I) (I) Understands and takes into account interpersonal and ethical aspects and the characteristics of different social groups, as well as the differing ethnic, cultural, social and other values of members of society; recognises and respects them and appropriately understands the complex, multidisciplinary problems of relations between the Church and the State.

(J) The ability to independently direct one’s own learning on the basis of theological sources, articles, and monographs; to assume responsibility for continuing education and professional development; and to contribute to the development of specific aspects of disciplinary knowledge.

(K) The ability to understand and take into account interpersonal relationships and ethical aspects, the characteristics of different social groups, and the diverse ethnic, cultural, social, and other values of members of society; to recognise and respect these values; and to appropriately comprehend the complex, multidisciplinary problems of relations between the Church and the State.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Master's programme (120 ECTS) is based on the results of the Unified Master's Examinations and internal university examinations, or, in cases defined by the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, in accordance with established procedures, following administrative registration and an order of the Rector.

The internal university examinations assess the general level of knowledge in the chosen specialty and English language proficiency at the B2 level. Examination questions/tests and assessment criteria will be published on the University website at least one month before the examinations begin.

Applicants are exempt from the English language test if they present a valid certificate confirming B2-level English proficiency, or if they have completed an undergraduate or Master's educational programme, or at least one full semester, in English. Accepted evidence includes FCE; IELTS 5.5–6.5; TOEFL Paper 513–547; TOEFL CBT 183–210; and TOEFL iBT 65–78.

Notice: All certificates must be valid at the time of application; expired documents will not be considered.

Admission by mobility is possible twice a year within the deadlines established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, subject to mandatory procedures and University regulations. Admission or transfer from a recognised higher educational institution in a foreign country is carried out on the basis of a decision of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

Teaching and Learning Methods

☒ Lectures ☐ work in small groups ☐ practical work ☒ seminars ☒ learning through electronic resources
☐ e-learning ☒ and other methods

Student Assessment System

Assessment of the achievement of learning outcomes in the educational component includes interim assessment (one or more assessments) and final assessment, the sum of which constitutes the final grade out of 100 points.

Interim and final assessments (forms of assessment) include one or more assessment components that determine the method or methods used to evaluate a student's knowledge and/or skills and/or competencies (such as oral/written examinations, oral/written questioning, homework, practical/theoretical work, etc.). An assessment component combines homogeneous assessment methods (such as tests, essays, demonstrations, presentations, discussions, completion of practical/theoretical assignments, group work, participation in discussions, case analysis, participation in simulated proceedings, etc.). The assessment method(s) are measured against assessment criteria—that is, the units of measurement for the assessment method—through which the level of achievement of the learning outcomes is determined.

Each form and component of assessment is assigned a specific weight in the overall assessment score (100 points) for the final grade. This is specified in the relevant syllabus and communicated to the student at the beginning of the academic semester.

It is not permissible to award credits based on only one form of assessment (either interim or final assessment). A student is awarded credit only upon receiving a positive grade.

In the implementation of the educational programme, the minimum competency threshold for the student's interim and final assessments is specified in the relevant syllabus and communicated to the student at the beginning of the academic semester. The grading system provides for:

five types of positive evaluations	
(A) Excellent	91-100 points;
(B) Very Good	81-90 points out of the maximum possible score;
(C) Good	71-80 points out of the maximum possible score
(D) Satisfactory	61-70 points out of the maximum possible score;
(E) Sufficient	51-60 points out of the maximum possible score.
two types of negative evaluations	
(FX) ვერ ჩააბარა	Fail (41–50 points): additional work is required, and the student has the right to take one additional examination after independent preparation.
(F) ჩაიჭრა	Fail (40 points or below): the student's work is insufficient and the course must be taken again.
Forms and Components of Assessment	
Forms and components of assessment	Maximum score
Midterm assessment, including:	70 points
1.1	
1.2	
1.3	
Final assessment	30 points
Final written/oral examination	30
Total	100 points
In the case of receiving an FX grade in a course component of an educational program, an additional examination shall be scheduled no earlier than 5 calendar days after the results of the final examination have been announced. The grade received by the student in the additional examination shall not be added to the number of points earned in the final assessment. The grade received in the additional examination constitutes the final grade and shall be reflected in the final assessment of the course component of the educational program. If, taking into account the grade received in the additional examination, the student's final grade for the course component is 0–50 points, the student shall be assigned an F grade (0 points).	

Employment opportunities
Graduates may be employed in public and private sector institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, scientific and research institutions, mass media, publishing houses, religious organizations, and other organizations where a Master's degree in Theology in the Humanities is required or sufficient.

Opportunities for further study
A graduate of the first part of the Master's program (60 ECTS) is entitled to continue their studies in the second part of the Theology Master's program (60 ECTS) at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University without taking the Master's entrance examinations, provided that no more than 5 years have elapsed since their admission to the first part of the program. A graduate of the second part of the Theology Master's educational program (60 ECTS) may continue their studies in a Theology doctoral program or another doctoral program at a higher education institution in Georgia or abroad, provided that the doctoral program does not require, as a prerequisite, a Master's degree in another field/specialization.

Material Resources necessary for the implementation of the Program

The material resources owned and possessed by the University ensure the achievement of the objectives of the Master's educational program and the planned learning outcomes.

Buildings and facilities – The Master's educational program is implemented in buildings owned and possessed by the University on a 24-hour basis, where sanitary, hygienic, and safety standards are observed. The buildings are equipped with alarm systems and fire extinguishers, video surveillance is conducted throughout the premises, and security is ensured by University security personnel. The buildings fully comply with the technical requirements established for higher education institutions and include appropriately equipped classrooms with the necessary technology and furniture, including projectors, chairs, desks, whiteboards, and other equipment.

Library – The University library provides access to printed and electronic resources relevant to the Master's educational program, which are available to students, invited staff, and academic personnel. The library has a reading room equipped with appropriate furniture and computers. It also has a multifunctional photocopier, which students may use with the assistance of library staff. The reading room provides students with access to the Internet and international electronic resources, including the Legislative Herald of Georgia, EBSCO, HeinOnline, ELSEVIER: Scopus, ScienceDirect, and SciVal Funding (Funding Institutional). The University library also has an electronic catalog.

Academic staff workspace – An appropriate working environment is provided for academic staff, equipped with the necessary furniture and technology, including chairs, desks, cabinets, Internet-connected computers, and a multifunctional photocopier.

Information and communication technologies – To support the implementation and administration of the Master's educational program, the University uses information and communication technologies. Appropriate software is available for the Master's educational program, while the existing computer equipment meets modern requirements, is connected to the Internet, and is accessible to students, academic, invited, and administrative staff. To ensure students' access to their assessment results and to support the monitoring of academic performance and the organization of the educational process, the University uses an electronic system for student assessment and learning management. Through the University website, which provides access to the educational programs catalog and other information related to the implementation of educational programs and the organization of the educational process, the University ensures the transparency and accessibility of information.

Program Structure

The Master's Educational Program in Theology (120 ECTS) consists of two parts, each comprising 60 ECTS credits.

The first part (60 ECTS) of the Master's Educational Program in Theology comprises a study component consisting of compulsory and elective courses.

The second part (60 ECTS) comprises study and research components. The study component consists of elective and research-oriented courses, while the research component is represented by the preparation and defense of a Master's thesis.

For students admitted to the Master's Educational Program in Theology through student mobility, other courses completed at another higher education institution may be recognized in place of elective courses, without requiring compliance with the number of credits prescribed for accumulation in each module. The same rule applies to the recognition of credits earned through an international exchange program.

In the first part (60 ECTS), students must earn 48 credits from compulsory courses and 12 credits from elective courses. Students may select courses either from the elective courses within the main field of study of the Master's Program in Theology or from any other Master's program offered by the University.

In the second part (60 ECTS), students must earn 6 credits from the compulsory course "Academic Writing and Research Methods." This course is designed to develop students' written and oral research skills in various areas of theology, including the identification and processing of primary and secondary sources, independent research, and scientific-analytical skills. Students must earn 24 credits from elective courses. They may select courses either from the elective courses within the main field of study of the Master's Program in Theology or from any other Master's program offered by the University.

The results of the student's independent research are reflected in the Master's thesis (30 ECTS). The Master's thesis constitutes a completed piece of academic work demonstrating the student's ability to conduct research or other scholarly work. During the thesis defense, the student must present the completed work and demonstrate the ability to participate effectively in an academic discussion.

Curriculum of the Educational Program

№	Admission Prerequisites	Module/Course	ECTS credits				Student Workload ¹	
			I year		II year		Contact Hours ²	Independent Study Hours ³
			Semester					
			I	II	III	IV		
The first part of the Master’s Program in Theology (60 ECTS)								
Study component								
Compulsory Courses								
1.	without precondition	Soteriology	6/150				29	121
2.	without precondition	Political Theology	6/150				29	121
3.	without precondition	Wisdom in Holy Scripture		6/150			29	121
4.	without precondition	Contemporary Orthodox Theology	6/150				29	121
5.	without precondition	Church and State		6/150			29	121
6.	without precondition	Trinitarian Theology		6/150			29	121
7.	without precondition	Social Teaching of the Catholic Church		6/150			29	121
8.	without precondition	Christian Anthropology		6/150			29	121
Elective Courses								
1.	without precondition	Theological Aspects of the Catholic Epistles	6/150		+		29	121
2.	without precondition	Sociology of Religion	6/150		+		29	121
3.	without precondition	Theology and Language	6/150		+		29	121
4.	without precondition	History of the Eastern Greek Orthodox Churches	6/150		+		29	121
5.	without precondition	The Teaching of Augustine	6/150		+		29	121
6.	without precondition	Church Source Studies	6/150		+		29	121

7.	without precondition	Political Islam and the Contemporary World	6/150		+		29	121
8.	without precondition	Christian Social Ethics (Perspectives of Eastern and Western Christian Churches)	6/150		+		29	121
9.	without precondition	The Church of Georgia in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Period	6/150		+		29	121
10.	without precondition	Hesychast Controversy	6/150		+		29	121
11.	without precondition	Major Theological Trends of the 20th Century	6/150		+		29	121

The second Part of the Master's Program in Theology (60 ECTS)

Study component

Compulsory Courses

1.	without precondition	Academic Writing for Students of the Master's Program			6/150		28	122
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Elective Courses

Elective Courses of the First Part (60 ECTS) of the Master's Educational Program in Theology

Research Component								
1.	Academic Writing for Students of the Master's Program	Master's Thesis				30/750	13	737
Per semester			30	30	30	30		
Per year			60		60			
Total			120					

Mapping of the Program Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Programme Objectives	Program Learning Outcomes								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
To familiarize themselves with the official position of the Church on social issues, the biblical foundations and historical development of its social teaching, and models of Church–State relations. To understand the implications of interaction between the Church and the state, thereby enabling them to identify relevant issues in Church–State relations and implement the Church’s social teaching.	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓
To acquire an in-depth understanding of the Orthodox concept of the divine economy of salvation in comparison with the soteriological tradition of Protestantism; to examine the relationship between revelation and theological language, as well as the history and specific characteristics of the development of theological terminology; and to become familiar with the principal Trinitarian concepts and the historical context of their formation.			✓						
To be familiar with the most important representatives of contemporary Christian theology and their theological concepts.	✓								
To analyze various theological issues in depth and, using academic writing techniques, to plan and conduct academic research on theological topics.					✓		✓	✓	

Mapping of the Program’s Compulsory Courses and Program Learning Outcomes

N	Course	Course Status	Program Learning Outcomes								
			(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Social Teaching of the Catholic Church	D				D	D		D	D	
2.	Trinitarian Theology	D			D		D		D	D	
3.	Contemporary Orthodox Theology	D	D		D		D		D		
4.	Church and State	D		D		D		D		D	D
5.	Soteriology	D			D		D		D	D	
6.	Christian Anthropology	D	D	D	D				D		
7.	Wisdom in Holy Scripture	D	D		D					D	D
8.	Political Theology	D	D	D		D		D			
9.	Academic Writing for Students of the Master’s Program	P					P	P	P	P	P
10.	Master’s Thesis	M	M		M		M	M	M	M	M

Course Status

D - Developing	P - Practical	M- Master
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Mapping of the Learning Outcomes of the Programs' s Compulsory and Elective Courses

№	Module/Course	Competencies		
		Knowledge and Understanding	Skills	Responsibility and Autonomy
	Compulsory Courses			
1.	Soteriology	+	+	+
2.	Political Theology	+	+	+
3.	Wisdom in Holy Scripture	+	+	+
4.	Contemporary Orthodox Theology	+	+	+
5.	Church and State	+	+	+
6.	Trinitarian Theology	+	+	+
7.	Social Teaching of the Catholic Church	+	+	+
8.	Christian Anthropology	+	+	+
9.	Academic Writing for Students of the Master's Program	+	+	+
10.	Master's Thesis	+	+	+
	Elective Courses			
11.	Theological Aspects of the Catholic Epistles	+	+	+
12.	Sociology of Religion	+	+	+
13.	Theology and Language	+	+	+
14.	History of the Eastern Greek Orthodox Churches	+	+	+
15.	The Teaching of Augustine	+	+	+
16.	Church Source Studies	+	+	+
17.	Political Islam and the Contemporary World	+	+	+
18.	Christian Social Ethics (Perspectives of Eastern and Western Christian Churches)	+	+	
19.	The Church of Georgia in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Period	+	+	
20.	Hesychast Controversy	+	+	+
21.	Major Theological Trends of the 20th Century	+	+	+