

Confirmed by the Council of Elders of the Union of Free Evangelical and Baptist Churches of Estonia at 7. December 2021

The Union of Free Evangelical and Baptist Churches of Estonia
Estonian Free Church Theological Seminary
Curriculum: Theology and Society 120 EAP (ECTS credit points)

Four major modules offer together 90 EAP (including 10 EAP for practicum)

Module of elective courses 10 EAP

Module of Master's thesis 20 EAP.

Objectives of the curriculum: the objective of the educators is to train specialists, who have competence in development of the church and missionary presence in the society. The successful completion of the curriculum enables graduates to work both in public sector and church environment and to pursue studies at a doctorate level.

Learning outcomes of the curriculum

The curriculum offers students competences in:

- reflecting on personal and church spirituality in dialogue with the development of the Christian church, religious, Biblical and cultural history;
- applying the practices of hermeneutics to the Bible study in the Free Church context, enabling incarnation of its missionary message in the local community;
- analysing different phenomena in social and church context in the light of the Biblical teaching and offer justified and innovative solutions to the occurring problems;
- involving different parties and invest in people according to discipleship principles, in order to increase the trust in churches and the whole society;
- analysing and synthesizing the research data in a creative way and to applying it in responding to the theologically established question of the Master's thesis.

Cross-cutting themes

Bible and Society 36 EAP (TÜ.01)

Learning outcomes

The module offers students competences in:

- knowledge of the Bible and analysing skills of the meaning of its parts and entire content from the perspective of church and social life;
- interpretation of the Biblical message using basic methods of hermeneutics and exegesis in order to transform the research results into a message;
- analysing social and church phenomena in the light of the Biblical teaching and offering ways to increase trust in church and society;
- wording and contextualizing major questions of ethics and mission on local and global level, based on the Bible message;

- analysing the differences and similarities of the religious experience and religious identity, using references to the research data of sociology of religion.

The cross-cutting theme includes following courses:

- Theological hermeneutics and practical exegesis 4 EAP (TÜ.01.01)
- How do Christians read the Old Testament? 4 EAP (TÜ.01.02)
- What is Bible? 4 EAP (TÜ.01.03)
- Teaching and preaching the New Testament 4 EAP (TÜ.01.04)
- Gospel of Luke and Acts of Apostles 4 EAP (TÜ.01.05)
- Great questions of modern mission 4 EAP (TÜ.01.06)
- Christian ethics in an uncertain world 4 EAP (TÜ.01.07)
- Intercultural dialogue 4 EAP (TÜ.01.08)
- Psychology of religion 2 EAP (TÜ.01.09)
- Sociology of religion 2 EAP (TÜ.01.10)
- Practicum: from hermeneutics to a message 4 EAP (TÜ.01.11)

Theology and Identity 20 EAP (TÜ.02)

Learning outcomes

The module offers students competences in:

- basic questions of theology and their development through church history;
- analysing personal and church spirituality as seen through the Free Churches prism;
- knowledge of questions and answers related to the intercourse between Christian church tradition, culture and history of religion;
- analysing social and church phenomena in the light of the Biblical teaching and church practice, underlining vital issues.
- maintaining and developing disciple-like lifestyle in order to incarnate the missionary message in the local community.

The cross-cutting theme includes following courses:

- Introduction to theology and studies 4 EAP (TÜ.02.01)
- Discipleship originating from Jesus 2 EAP (TÜ.02.02)
- Historical theology 6 EAP (TÜ.02.03)
- The spirituality of Free Churches in ecumenical and secular world 4 EAP (TÜ.02.04)
- Philosophy of religion 2 EAP (TÜ.02.06)
- Hot issues of theology 2 EAP (TÜ.02.07)

Communication and Leadership 24 EAP (TÜ.03)

Learning outcomes

The module offers students competences in:

- recruiting people, investing in discipleship, creating and developing teams and leading the church or other vision-based community in the mission awareness;
- using the tools of communication and personal development in everyday work, church ministry and media environment;
- expressing personal opinion clearly and Biblically both in native language and foreign languages, using relevant target group approach in different church and training environment;
- knowing main themes of pastoral care and the implementation of its tools in the context of everyday life and work;
- understanding the language of media and art in order to apply it to the proclamation of Christian message.

The cross-cutting theme includes following courses:

- Mission-driven leadership and teamwork of talents 2 EAP (TÜ.03.01)
- Vision based church 2 EAP (TÜ.03.02)
- Public speaking and preaching 4 EAP (TÜ.03.03)
- Themes and methods of pastoral care 4 EAP (TÜ.03.04)
- Psychology of communication skills 4 EAP (TÜ.03.05)
- Network Society Media 2 EAP (TÜ.03.06)
- Methods of supporting development 4 EAP (TÜ.03.07)
- The language of art and dialogue 2 EAP (TÜ.03.08)

Creativity and Realization 10 EAP (TÜ.04)

Learning outcomes

The completion of the module of Master's thesis offers students following competences:

- making sense to and analysing personal spirituality, raising questions that are meaningful for personal development and local context;
- knowing about main tools and ways of thinking concerning collecting and analysing research data;
- planning, leading and analysing one's personal life, Masters' internship and different projects;
- linking the Biblical and church teaching with modern social issues, offering and testing justified and creative solutions to some emerging problems.

The cross-cutting theme includes following courses:

- Self- and project management 2 EAP (TÜ.04.01)
- Sociological literacy 2 EAP (TÜ.04.02)
- Internship of the Master's thesis (creation of a prototype) 6 EAP (TÜ.04.03)

Module of Electives 10 EAP (TÜ.05)

Learning outcomes

The completion of the module offers students following competences:

- in depth understanding of some areas of theology that are associated with the Master's thesis theme;
- connecting and integrating the knowledge of different areas into a unified whole.

Module of Master's thesis 20 EAP (TÜ.06)

Learning outcomes

The completion of the module of Master's thesis offers students competences in:

- analysing the points of contact of theology and context, and respective problems;
- planning, managing and analysing the process of completing the Master's thesis;
- linking the Biblical and church teaching with modern social themes, offering justified and creative solutions to address some emerging issues;
- analysing and synthesizing creatively the collected data and applying it to the area of Master's thesis in order to answer the theologically raised question;
- defending the Master's paper in public in clear and intelligible manner, justifying the work using all knowledge acquired during completion of the whole curriculum.