

# Description of Assessment at Estonian Free Church Theological Seminary

## Introduction

This assessment is based on the Regulation of the Minister of Education, "A unified assessment system of higher education, with conditions for diploma cum laude" (As of, 1.09.2010), and was approved by the Council of Tartu Theological Seminary in November in 2016, edited in 2024.

The assessment will take place according to the learning outcome curriculum approach. This means comparing the students' actual competencies with planned learning outcomes. If the learning outcomes are achieved, the outcome of the assessment will be positive. The assessment is conducted by using methods that conform to the intended learning outcomes and associated assessment criteria. Faculty members provide preliminary information on the assessment methods of the subject in the course syllabus before the scheduled start of the course.

## Non-differentiated and differentiated assessment

Assessment is divided into non-differentiated and differentiated forms. There can be parts in differentiated assessment subjects that are assessed according to non-differentiated assessment criteria.

### Non-differentiated assessment

When all the assessment methods are in accordance with the corresponding assessment criteria, the student's result is "positive". When the result is lower, even in one assessment method, the result is "negative".

### Differentiated assessment

Differentiated assessment distinguishes the learning outcomes of students' achievement level on the following scale (using percentages is justified only in clearly quantitative estimation):

«A» («5») - «excellent» - an outstanding and particularly broad level of achievement of learning outcomes, which are characterized by a very high level of free and creative use of knowledge and skills;

«B» («4») - "very good" - a very high level of achievement of learning outcomes, characterized by creative and purposeful use of knowledge and skills. Specific and detailed elements of knowledge and skills may have some non-substantive and non-essential errors;

"C" ("3") - "good" - a high level of achievement of learning outcomes, characterized by a purposeful use of knowledge and skills. Specific and detailed elements of knowledge and skills have uncertainty and imprecision;

"D" ("2") - "satisfactory" - a sufficient level of achievement of learning outcomes, characterized by the use of knowledge and skills in typical situations, occasionally there are gaps and uncertainty;

«E» («1») - «poor» - a minimally acceptable level of achievement of learning outcomes, characterized by the use of knowledge and skills in limited ways in typical situations, occasionally there are considerable gaps and uncertainty;

"F" ("0") - "deficient" - the student has acquired the knowledge and skills to a level lower than the minimum.

## **Granting conditions for diploma with honors (cum laude)**

**Diploma with honors (cum laude) may be issued to a person:**

- who has completed the full curriculum;
- who defended the thesis or completed the final exam and got graded for «A»; and
- whose average weighted grade is 4.60 or higher, while taking into account all of the academic report attributed scores.

When calculating the weighted average grade, the following numerical values will be assigned:

"A" - 5;  
"B" - 4;  
"C" - 3;  
"D" - 2;  
"E" - 1;  
"F" - 0.

## **Recognition of prior learning (RPL)**

Previously non-assessed learning and professional experience will be transferred to credit points by using non-differentiated assessment to assess the applicant's previously acquired knowledge and skills in compliance with the course or module learning outcomes.

## **Previously obtained credit points transfer:**

- the original grade is transferred when the course has been previously assessed in the same evaluation system;
- the scores of a comparable assessment system are calculated as equivalent to a current valid assessment system and scores will be given according to that, or
- the scores will be transferred using non-differentiated assessment when the assessment systems cannot be compared.

## **Assessment appeal**

The student has the right to appeal their result within one month after receiving the grade of the course by submitting a challenge to the director of studies. In the case of a dispute the performance of the student shall be compared to the assessment methods and criteria as described in the course syllabus.