



GUIDE TO MAJORS AT YESHIVA: JEWISH STUDIES (SCW)

Choosing a major can be stressful, but it is important to understand that you can pursue almost any career regardless of which major you choose. While there are some exceptions, most entry-level positions simply require general transferable skills—those that can be learned in one setting and applied in another. Relevant experience through internships and activities is generally more important to employers than a major. It is best to choose an area that you find interesting and where you have the ability to do well.

What is the Jewish Studies Major?

Within the Jewish Studies major students focus on Biblical Studies, Jewish Law, Hebrew Language and Literature, Jewish History, and/or Jewish Philosophy. Courses for a Jewish Studies major are taken in addition to the required Jewish Studies core curriculum required of all YU undergraduates. Students of Jewish Studies learn critical thinking and analytical skills through the study of Jewish Law and Philosophy, develop an ability to read and analyze texts through Biblical Studies and Hebrew Language and Literature, and gain perspective and research skills through the study of Jewish History. In addition, there are two tracks one General Jewish Studies and one with a concentration in Jewish Education for those students dedicated to starting a career in Jewish Education immediately upon graduating with their B.A. degree.

What can I do with a Major in Jewish Studies?

A major in Jewish Studies is excellent preparation for careers working for the Jewish community, most often in the areas of Jewish education and academia or Jewish communal services. Jewish educational and communal professionals work in day schools, community centers, synagogues, congregational schools, federations, universities, social service agencies, and the military, among others. The Jewish Studies major also prepares students for a variety of careers in the secular community, as well as provides a foundation for graduate study. Some career areas to consider as a Jewish Studies major include:

Business

- Benefits Specialist
- Financial Planner
- Human Resources Generalist
- Mediator
- Paralegal
- Recruiter

Communications

- Advertising Executive
- Editor
- Journalist
- Marketing Professional
- Public Relations Professional
- Writer

Social Service

- Case Worker
- Higher Education Administrator
- Legislative Assistant
- Nonprofit Administrator
- Politician
- Rehabilitation Worker
- School Administrator
- School Counselor
- Synagogue Administrator
- Teacher
- Vocational Counselor
- Youth Group Leader/Supervisor

Graduate Study Required

- Chaplain
- Lawyer
- Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Physician
- Professor of Jewish Studies
- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Speech Therapist
- Yoetzet Halacha (Mediator/Advocate in Jewish Law)

Skills and Abilities

Whether in academic, business, or social change careers, majors in Jewish Studies learn and apply communication, research, and critical thinking skills. They develop an understanding of several disciplines including history, philosophy, law, and literature. The following list provides a sample of the potential skills acquired through study in Jewish Studies.

Analysis

- Interpreting information
- Evaluating ideas and theory
- Applying historical knowledge to the present
- Analyzing texts
- Reasoning logically

Communication

- Articulating and defending positions
- Describing and evaluating issues and problems
- Writing concisely and analytically
- Presenting thoughts, ideas, and information

Research

- Reading critically
- Organizing and classifying materials
- Gathering, reviewing, and critiquing information
- Translating text

Joint Programs

Jewish Education - B.A./M.S.: Stern College and Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration (AGS) of Yeshiva University offer a joint program to qualified students. During their senior year, SCW students may take up to 12 credits at AGS, which count towards both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. Students are awarded the B.A. degree after completion of all B.A. requirements and an M.S. upon completion of the graduate program.

Jewish Studies - B.A./M.A.: The Joint Program with Bernard Revel Graduate School (BRGS) of Yeshiva University allows students during the senior year to take up to 12 credits at BRGS, which count towards both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. Students are awarded the B.A. degree after completion of all B.A. requirements and an M.A. upon the completion of the graduate program.

Additional Programs

GPATS Program- M.A.: In addition, Stern College offers a Master's program in Advanced Talmudic Studies, and use this training to assume leadership positions in various Jewish Communal settings.