

A. Advanced Certificate in Jewish Bioethics

The YU/RIETS Certificate in Jewish Bioethics concentrates on a practical approach to bioethics governed by Jewish Law in the clinical setting. Upon completion, graduates will be equipped to analyze ethical dilemmas they face and provide education and guidance to their patients on navigating their healthcare decisions within a framework of Jewish values and Halacha. The Certificate is a 2 semester program designed to be taken sequentially.

To receive the Advanced Certificate in Jewish Bioethics, students must complete the following course of study:

Requirements:

Admission into the MHL program and completion of the requirements below.

Admissions Requirements:

1. A recognized bachelor's degree.
2. Interview and examination by the Program Director.
3. Background in Talmud and Halakha.

Required Course of Study:

Students can complete the program in one year as full-time students. All coursework is delivered remotely and synchronously.

Curriculum (6 credits total)

All students must take **Bioethics & Jewish Law I** and **Bioethics & Jewish Law II** in the first two semesters of the program. These courses are prerequisites and co-requisites for all other coursework in the MHL program. The Advanced Certificate may be earned en route to completing the full MHL in Bioethics & Jewish Law.

1. **HAL 6301 - Bioethics & Jewish Law I (3 credits)**
Foundational principles in Halacha and clinical ethics; topics include autonomy, reproductive ethics, and risk in medical decision-making.
2. **HAL 6302 - Bioethics & Jewish Law II (3 credits)**
Continuation of foundational issues; covers end-of-life care, abortion, emerging technologies, and case-based Halachic reasoning.

B. Master's in Hebrew Literature (MHL) – Bioethics & Jewish Law

The Master's Degree in Hebrew Literature (MHL) in Bioethics & Jewish Law is a certified graduate degree for students with strong backgrounds in Jewish learning who seek to develop deep Halakhic and ethical fluency in navigating the pressing bioethical challenges of modern medicine. It is open to semikha students, medical professionals, and others seeking to study Torah at a high level while gaining expertise in the rapidly evolving field of Jewish bioethics.

To receive the MHL in Bioethics & Jewish Law, students must complete the following course of study:

Requirements:

Admission into the MHL program and completion of the requirements below.

Admissions Requirements:

1. A recognized bachelor's degree.
2. Interview and examination by the Program Director.
3. Background in Talmud and Halakha.

Required Course of Study:

Students can complete the program in one year as full-time students, or part-time over two or more years. All coursework is delivered remotely and synchronously.

A. Core Curriculum (18 credits total)

All students must take **Bioethics & Jewish Law I** and **Bioethics & Jewish Law II** in the first two semesters of the program. These courses are prerequisites and co-requisites for all other coursework in the program.

3. **HAL 6301 - Bioethics & Jewish Law I (3 credits)**
Foundational principles in Halacha and clinical ethics; topics include autonomy, reproductive ethics, and risk in medical decision-making.
 4. **HAL 6302 - Bioethics & Jewish Law II (3 credits)**
Continuation of foundational issues; covers end-of-life care, abortion, emerging technologies, and case-based Halachic reasoning.
 5. **HAL 6312 - Surgery & Risk in Halacha (3 credits)**
Sources and debates on medical interventions, risk and liability in procuring and providing different forms of treatment.
 6. **HAL 6311 - Fertility & Infertility in Halacha (3 credits)**
Halachic and ethical approaches to clinical decision-making and possible mechanisms to deal with issues of fertility and procreation.
 7. **HAL 6313 - Death & Dying (3 credits)**
Halachic frameworks for palliative care, hospice, euthanasia, patient advocacy, and medical futility.
 8. **HAL 6314 - Fetal Personhood & Abortion (3 credits)**
Jewish legal approaches to fetal personhood, gestational viability, approach to sanctity of life, criminality/legality of abortion.
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B. Electives (8 credits total – 2 credits each)

Students must choose four of the following elective courses:

- 1) HAL 6321 DNA & Lineage (2)
 - 2) HAL 6322 Diminished Capacity (2)
 - 3) HAL 6323 Defining Death (2)
 - 4) HAL 6324 Public Health & Research Ethics (2)
 - 5) HAL 6325 History Of Jewish Bioethics (2)
 - 6) HAL 6326 Bioethics Consultation (2)
 - 7) HAL 6327 Bioethics Mediation (2)
 - 8) HAL 6328 Emerging Technologies In Jewish Bioethics (2)
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C. Capstone Requirement (4 credits total)

Students must complete a year-long capstone project under the guidance of a faculty advisor. The two components must be registered for in successive semesters.

1. **HAL 6391 - Capstone I – Seminar & Research Proposal (2 credits)**
2. **HAL 6392 - Capstone II – Written Thesis & Presentation (2 credits)**