



## Undergraduate Torah Studies Programs

The guiding vision of Yeshiva University—that the best of the heritage of contemporary civilization and knowledge is compatible with the ancient traditions of Jewish law and life—is embodied in the University’s dual curriculum of general and Torah studies. In addition to the general studies curricula leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts at Yeshiva College and Bachelor of Science at Sy Syms School of Business, students concurrently participate in Torah studies programs requiring intensive analysis of classic texts in the original Hebrew and Aramaic.

Intended to deepen ethical and philosophical insight and values, and to broaden textual skills and analysis, these programs also offer valuable training in research methods and opportunities for independent work. Students often forge life-long religious and spiritual relationships with *Rebbeim* (faculty), *Mashgichim* (spiritual guidance counselors) and other fellow students. To achieve this end, each student must be enrolled in a full course of study in any one of the University’s four undergraduate Torah studies (UTS) programs: the Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies (IBC), James Striar School of General Jewish Studies (JSS), Irving I. Stone Beit Midrash Program (SBMP), or Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies (MYP).

The UTS programs offer robust programming both on-campus and off-campus in faculty’s homes, which provide many opportunities for students to learn from their teachers and friends in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.

### ADMISSION

Applicants are interviewed by the Dean, director, or an appointed administrator [which may include the bochein or advisors] of the program in order to provide an opportunity to evaluate the applicant’s background in Torah studies and to discuss the student’s program and course of study. Students wishing to enter a UTS program must demonstrate an interest in Torah studies, a respect for Yeshiva University’s distinctive history and tradition, and an ability to learn Jewish texts.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

#### Associate of Arts (AA)

- A. **Course and credit requirements:** See the specific course and credit requirements as noted by each program.
  - B. **Residence requirement:** Full-time residency in the Undergraduate Torah Studies programs for at least four semesters.
  - C. **Grade requirement:** A minimum cumulative average of 2.000 (C grade).
  - D. **Administrative requirements:** The prior or simultaneous receipt of a Bachelor’s degree. Each student must have filed an Application for Degree during the registration period of the semester in which he completes all requirements.
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## SCHOOL REGULATIONS

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all their scheduled class sessions and to be present promptly at the beginning of the session unless prevented from doing so by illness or other compelling cause. The instructor keeps a record of each student's class attendance.

A student's attendance record is taken into account when determining his continuing status in the program. Continued unexcused absences of more than 50% of the scheduled sessions will result in the student receiving a grade of a G for the course, which may lead to probation or academic dismissal from the school.

Permission to register late in a course does not in itself excuse the student's absence from classes already held.

**Probation:** Students who do not maintain a GPA of at least 2.000 will be placed on probation for the next academic semester. Students on full academic probation are limited to 13 credits in Yeshiva College or Sy Syms including a mandatory transfer of UTS credit that appears on the Bachelor's transcript as HES credit. Other restrictions follow those of the undergraduate schools as noted in the catalog.

Students with two consecutive semesters or three semesters overall of work below a 2.000 are subject to dismissal from the school. Students must show positive progression through the program and cannot graduate if in their last semester they receive less than a 2.000 GPA.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY), representing the UTS student body, meets regularly with the administration on matters of mutual concern. SOY coordinates and sponsors activities such as Shabbatonim, holiday celebrations, charity drives, periodic sales of *seforim* (texts) and lectures.

SOY publishes an annual Torah journal, *Beit Yitzchak*, which features articles of Talmudic and halakhic analyses.

## ETHICS AND SCHOLARSHIP

Faculty and students alike seek to create an atmosphere that provides and promotes the highest standards of ethical conduct and scholarship in the achievement of personal and professional goals. All rules and procedures delineated in the academic integrity policy on cheating and plagiarism apply to students in undergraduate Torah studies courses.

## ISAAC BREUER COLLEGE OF HEBRAIC STUDIES

Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies (IBC) provides a rich undergraduate course of study for students seeking a structured and comprehensive yet flexible program in the major areas of Jewish learning, such as Talmud, Bible, Hebrew language and literature,

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Jewish history, Jewish philosophy and ethics, and Jewish law. The program attracts students interested in a broad range of Jewish studies in addition to Talmud studies.

The school was named in 1982 in recognition of a major gift by the late Hermann Merkin and his wife, Ursula, in memory of her father, Isaac Breuer. The college is the successor of Teachers Institute for Men, 1917–66, and Erna Michael College of Hebraic Studies, 1966–82. IBC is located at the Wilf Campus and benefits from its association with several of the university's other schools and their educational resources as well as from the wealth of public and private educational facilities in New York City. Faculty and students alike seek to create an atmosphere that provides and promotes the highest standards of ethical conduct and scholarship in the achievement of personal and professional goals.

A wide range of courses provides valuable training in the utilization of primary sources, research methods, and independent work. IBC also provides career preparation for those interested in Jewish education, ordination, or graduate Hebraic or Semitic studies. Its rich offerings in many academic areas qualify it as a preparatory program for both ordination at the affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and for advanced graduate study at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration.

Students generally register for at least 12.5 credits within the program each semester. The cumulative index of these courses will transfer as three HES credits per semester toward completion of their bachelor's degrees at Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School of Business.

### **IBC HONORS COURSES**

Launched in the Spring Semester of 2013, honors courses offer students the opportunity to study *Halakhah*, *Tanakh*, Jewish Philosophy, Jewish History and Talmud at an advanced level. Open to all IBC students, honors courses feature in-depth study stressing both textual analysis and fascinating in-class discussion. Students are expected to have proficiency in reading Hebrew texts and they develop a true appreciation for the beauty of Torah study. Courses are taught by IBC faculty along with faculty from other departments within the university.

### **AA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Successful completion of the courses required of all students to fulfill the YC/SSSB Jewish Studies requirement and thirteen additional courses distributed as follows: one Bible/*Tanakh* course and twelve more elective courses chosen from Bible/*Tanakh*, *Halakhah* (Jewish Law), Hebrew, Jewish History, Jewish Philosophy/Thought, Judaic Studies and/or Talmud.

## **THE JAMES STRIAR SCHOOL OF GENERAL JEWISH STUDIES**

The James Striar School is a comprehensive program for students seeking to improve and expand their skills and knowledge of Jewish studies on either the beginning or

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intermediate level. JSS is the only introductory Jewish studies program for college age students in the country designed to be taken simultaneously with a prestigious college program on the same campus. No matter what background they may have, all JSS students demonstrate an eagerness to grow in their commitment to “Jewish Living, Jewish Learning, and Jewish Leadership.

The program teaches the fundamentals of Jewish scholarship and heritage through a unique curriculum and exciting out-of-classroom experiences. It offers courses in Hebrew language, Bible, Mishnah & Talmud, and Jewish History, Philosophy, Laws, & Customs. Rabbi Moshe Besdin zt”l, the founding director, sought to create an atmosphere dedicated to teaching “It, and not just about It” – i.e. to learn about Judaism in text and context, in thought and practice.

In addition to its small classes, the program pairs students with a member of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) for regular study sessions. These study sessions help students gain textual skills in a relatively short amount of time. Furthermore, the program sponsors regular weekend retreats as well as field trips to enhance the academic and Jewish experiences of its members. In addition to formal classes, the program fosters close relationships between teachers and students through continuing individual guidance.

The James Striar School of General Jewish Studies was established in 1956 as the Jewish Studies Program and renamed in 1965 to honor the generosity of the Striar family in memory of their father, James Striar. Its location at the Wilf Campus affords stimulating interactions with the university’s other undergraduate schools as well as graduate schools and affiliates, and provides easy access to the major resources of the Institution.

### **STUDENT ADVISEMENT**

The James Striar School feels that the key to a successful Torah learning experience is creating a warm relationship between a teacher and student. To help create this bond, each student is guided toward an individualized course of study.

Prior to each registration each student meets with the director, who evaluates the skills and interests of the student and then pairs the student with the teachers who might be the best fit for that student. Class sizes are kept small and intimate.

### **REQUIRED COURSES**

Students must register for at least 15 credits within the program each semester. The cumulative index of these courses will transfer as three HES credits per semester toward completion of their bachelor’s degrees at Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School of Business. If a student registers for 17.5 or more JSS credits in a semester, the courses can transfer as 4 HES credits.

- *Tanakh* (Bible) — four courses.
- Hebrew language — two courses: 1203, 1204. Some students may place into 1101



or 1102 before they can begin 1203. Students who demonstrate Hebrew proficiency are exempted from this requirement.

- Jewish History — two courses.
- Jewish Studies — six courses from *Halakhah*, Jewish History, Jewish Philosophy/Thought, Judaic Studies, *Tanakh* and/or Talmud.

### **AA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Completion of the required courses listed above for all students and six additional electives including at least two from *Tanakh* as well as four courses chosen from *Halakhah*, Jewish History, Jewish Philosophy/Thought, Judaic Studies, *Tanakh* and/or Talmud.

### **IRVING I. STONE BEIT MIDRASH PROGRAM**

Established in 1995 through the benefaction of the Irving I. Stone Support Foundation, the Irving I. Stone Beit Midrash Program (SBMP) offers students a Jewish studies program that recognizes their special academic needs and time constraints while maintaining a high level of traditional study in a structured and diversified curriculum. The mission of SBMP is to create an educated and committed Yeshiva graduate with a broad base of knowledge. In addition to Talmud *sefer* (preparation period) and *shiur* (lecture), the program includes courses in *Tanakh* (Bible), *Machshevet Yisrael* (Jewish thought, ethics, and philosophy) and *Halakhah* (Jewish law). Students derive the unique benefits of learning in a yeshiva Beit Midrash environment.

SBMP provides preparation for both ordination at the university's affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and for advanced graduate Hebraic or Semitic studies. The program also fosters a *keshet* (strong relationship) between the *talmid* (student) and his *rebbe* (teacher). Rebbeim in the Stone Beit Midrash Program are available to their talmidim during evening *sefer* as well as Shabbat. Additionally each *shiur* has a *shoel u'maishiv* (teaching mentor) to help students in their learning and ensure newcomers a smooth transition to SBMP from either high school or Israel Yeshiva experience.

A strong complement of *mashgichim* (spiritual guidance counselors) who staff the various Batei Midrash for regular morning and night *sedarim* helps students in their learning and spiritual growth.

Students may transfer up to three credits per semester toward completion of their bachelor's degrees at Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School of Business.

### **AA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Successful completion of the courses required of all students to fulfill the YC/SSSB Jewish Studies requirement plus twelve additional courses chosen from *Halakhah*, Jewish Thought, Talmud and *Tanakh*.

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## YESHIVA PROGRAM/MAZER SCHOOL OF TALMUDIC STUDIES

The Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies (MYP) offers an undergraduate course of study in which Talmudic texts and commentaries are studied intensively in the original Aramaic and Hebrew in a classical yeshiva setting.

MYP was named through a major gift in 1979 by the Joseph and Ceil Mazer Foundation. It has been in existence as a separate entity since 1970, but is a continuation of the institution's oldest component, the yeshiva from which the university developed. Students in MYP have varied professional and academic interests but are united in their desire to develop in Talmudic scholarship and knowledge of *Halakhah* (Jewish law).

The heart of the curriculum is the intensive study of Talmud and its commentaries, designed not only to give the student a firm foundation in traditional learning skills and in the handling of original texts, but also direction, in both learning and character, and to develop an appreciation of the Jewish tradition. Students prepare for their lectures by studying with chavrusa partners in the Beit Midrash – which has always been the academic heart of the great centers of Jewish learning through the ages.

In addition to Talmud, there are elective classes in related texts and lectures in Mussar, which emphasize ethics, character improvement and an emphasis on the continuity of Jewish tradition from Sinai to the present. The faculty includes graduates of the foremost yeshivot, both here and abroad, who are internationally recognized scholars.

An integral part of the program is the highly successful voluntary night *seder* (study period) in the Beit Midrash, overseen by night *seder* Rebbeim and *shoalim u'maishivim*. Students also have the opportunity to attend *bekiut shiurim* (classes in additional Talmudic texts). MYP sponsors an annual Bekiut Incentive Award Program, with rewards for students who master large segments of additional texts beyond the regular curriculum.

A strong complement of *mashgichim/shoalim u'maishivim* (spiritual guidance counselors/teaching mentors) who staff the various Batei Midrash for regular morning and night *sedarim* helps students in their learning and spiritual growth. Additionally each shiur has an assistant to help students in their learning and ensure newcomers a smooth transition to MYP from either high school or Israel Yeshiva experience.

Students may transfer up to three credits per semester toward completion of their bachelor's degrees at Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School of Business.

**Class Assignments:** Students are assigned to classes by the Dean, bochein, or a Mashgiach based on level and progress of learning as well as on student requests. Shiur changes may be made only with the permission of the dean, bochein, or administrator. Students not attending, or who are attending classes other than those officially assigned to them, may be placed on probation the following semester. Students receiving notices





that they have not been assigned to a class must arrange to see the Dean, bochein or administrator immediately.

### **AA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Successful completion of the courses required of all students to fulfill the YC/SSSB Jewish Studies requirement plus six additional intensive (16 credit) courses in Talmud.

### **ALL DAY LEARNING PROGRAM**

In 2012 Yeshiva University introduced a full day learning program that enables students who have been accepted into Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School of Business to spend up to one year learning full time in the Yeshiva Program, with special afternoon and evening requirements prior to commencing their course of study at YC or SSSB.

### **BA/SEMIKHAH PROGRAM**

Yeshiva University and its affiliate Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary have a long and rich history as an outstanding Yeshiva with the finest roshei yeshiva and talmidim. In keeping with this tradition, in 2015, Yeshiva University inaugurated the BA/Semikhah Program. This new program allows students interested in Jewish education or the rabbinate to pursue a quality undergraduate degree, while fully immersed in the Torah that YU has to offer. Over the course of six years, talmidim will have the ability to earn a bachelor degree and rabbinic ordination, learn three sedarim a day and enjoy a unique *halakhah* curriculum, including a *chelek* of Mishnah Berurah each year.

### **YESHIVA MASMIDIM HONORS PROGRAM**

Yeshiva University proudly inaugurated the Yeshiva Masmidim Honors Program in Fall 2006. The program, under the aegis of MYP, identifies exceptional incoming students each year who demonstrate potential to become genuine *talmidei chochomim*. Yeshiva University will provide these students with the opportunity to maximize their potential through a rigorous learning schedule and curriculum, within the framework of the university's unique commitment to Torah Umadda. The program, directed by Rabbi Mayer Twersky, a renowned *talmid chochom* and rosh yeshiva, provides significant scholarships, mentorship, and *bechinot*.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY**

The program is open to students who have applied to Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School of Business. The admissions process for the Yeshiva Honors Program will include:

- An application
- A *bechina* focusing on general *yedios*, previously studied sugyos, and the ability to prepare a new *sugya*
- Interviews with the director, the Dean of RIETS, and/or other Roshei Yeshiva.
- Two letters of recommendation



## ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

The application and letters of recommendation must be submitted by February 15 prior to the fall term. *Bechinos* will be administered in February or early March in Eretz Yisrael and New York and decisions will be announced in early April. Admitted *talmidim* must formally accept in writing (including e-mail) and may not defer their awards nor begin their studies in the spring semester.

## EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students will be mentored by Rabbi Twersky and others who will help them work to achieve their full potential in learning.

In addition, we have incorporated into our program other responsibilities in order to foster the *shleimus* we seek for our *talmidim*.

- *Bekius* expectation of a minimum of 60 *blatt of gemara* per year with *Rashi* and *Tosaphos* (beyond what is covered in *iyun shiur*, and when possible within the Yeshiva's *mesechta*) with *bechinos*
- Weekly tests on the *parshah*, *Rashi*, and *Onkolos*
- Weekly *hashkafah chaburah* given by Rabbi Twersky
- Expectations increase over the course of the program. For example, the *Chumash* requirement will expand to include the study of selected passages of *Ramban* in the second year.

## TIME COMMITMENT

There will be additional mandatory learning times beyond the usual morning and night seder including:

Friday morning seder 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

*Elul Zman*

*June Zman*

*Talmidim* are also expected to remain in Yeshiva at the following times:

*Yomim Noraim*

*Shavuos*

Two out of every four Shabbosos

## SUMMERS

*Talmidim* are not required to stay in Yeshiva University for the summer, but the expectation is that other than a traditional *bain hazmanim*, *talmidim* will be involved in full-time learning. The program director will meet with *talmidim* to discuss and guide them in their specific summer plans.

## PROGRAM MAINTENANCE AND SECULAR STUDIES

To remain eligible for the program, *talmidim* must maintain the following standards:

90 average on Yeshiva Honors *bechinos*

3.400 GPA in Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School of Business

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Appropriate progress in the regular MYP *shiur*, in keeping with the expectations of honors students

To allow excellence in all aspects of study, *talmidim* are expected to take between 12 and 16 bachelor's credits per semester, subject to approval of the program director. Students must remain in the program three years and are encouraged to allow four years for college, beyond their studies in *Eretz Yisrael*.

Additional Program Benefits:

Scholarships ranging from partial to full tuition

Yeshiva Honors notation upon graduation