

DISSERTATION OPTIONS

Curriculum Design and Development

In addition to the empirical social-science researched dissertations traditionally undertaken at Azrieli, students in the Executive EdD Program are encouraged to consider designing and developing a curriculum in fulfillment of their dissertation requirement.

This curriculum—in an area of Judaic Studies or an integration of Judaic and General Studies—should demonstrate competence in its four foundations: philosophy, history, psychology, and sociology, and familiarity with each of the curricular commonplaces: learning, instruction, milieu, and mastery of the operative subject matter, at the designated grade level.

- If the student wishes to focus on a particular instructional component of a curriculum, then the student must arrange for said curricular unit to be field tested, and incorporate either a quantitative or qualitative research module attesting to its implementation.

Case Study

Case studies describe situations that require administrative decision-making, and may have the following methodological purposes:

- research
- evaluation
- policy study
- teaching

We will grant some latitude in terms of the size of the proposed case, in light of the fact that it may vary according to its intended purposes.

Action Research

According to the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory:

"Action research is inquiry or research in the context of focused efforts to improve the quality of an organization and its performance. It typically is designed and conducted by practitioners who analyze the data to improve their own practice. Action research can be done by individuals or by teams of colleagues. The team approach is called ***collaborative inquiry***."

We are open to a joint project, providing the collaborative inquiry is undertaken by colleagues who share either the same institutional/organizational background, or who fulfill identical organizational roles in comparable institutions.

Program Evaluation

Program evaluation is an individual or collaborative attempt to provide data for the assessment of the processes or outcomes of a distinct educational program. It may be formative, and provide data (to staff) for an ongoing program, or summative, and provide data (to funders or regulators) for evaluation of a concluded program.

Either or both quantitative and qualitative methods can be used—as in traditional social science research—although program evaluation tends to be more “client-focused” as researchers work closely with program staff to both obtain the data and implement evaluation.

We are open to a joint project, providing the collaborative inquiry is undertaken by colleagues who share the same institutional/organizational background.

AZRIELI PH.D. PROGRAM

The New York State Department of Education has recently granted our application to award the PhD degree along with the traditional EdD. Here are some of its guidelines.

Admissions:

There are no admissions directly into the PhD program. Students who wish to enter the PhD program can submit an application during their second year of residence. The application should consist of a detailed description of their proposed field of research, including the rationale, hypotheses, and proposed methodology. The proposal must be sufficiently persuasive that an AGS faculty member will undertake to sponsor it. (In other words, proposals in areas outside the purview of Azrieli faculty will not be considered.)

Additional Requirements:

PhD students will have to take 2 (two) specific methods courses, one each in:

- Quantitative research, and
- Qualitative research

These courses can be taken in another branch of Yeshiva University (WSSW, FGS), or at another university—including online—with the prior permission of the program director.

If these requirements are met during the course of years 2 or 3 of the program, they may be substituted for Doctoral Preparation and Presentation (DRAPE), which is ordinarily taken during year 3 (see Program Outline, above).

Capstone Projects:

Once accepted, two capstone projects will be required.

1. A specific piece of research conducted in collaboration with a faculty member, which is judged appropriate for either publication in a professional journal or presentation before a professional conference.
2. A dissertation, consisting of either an empirical study that utilizes quantitative or qualitative research (or mixed methods), or a humanities-styled dissertation. Curriculum studies—emphasizing historical, philosophical, sociological, or psychological rationales more than scope and sequence—will be eligible as well.

MIFGASHIM FALL 2016

The following dates have been set **tentatively** for the required in-person participation in the Azrieli Executive EdD program (*mifgashim*) for the 2016-2017 academic year. All *mifgashim* occur at the Wilf Campus of Yeshiva University in Washington Heights, New York City, although selected portions may involve off-site visits.

Students who accept admission to the program are making a good-faith commitment to attend ALL of these *mifgashim*, as well as those that will occur during years 2 and 3 of the program.

Students who are unable to attend any portion of the live sessions may forfeit credit for that semester, and will not be able to complete the coursework until that semester content is repeated. (Bear in mind that due to prospective biennial admissions, it may take up to two years for courses to be repeated.)

FALL 2016

Sunday, September 18 9 am-9 pm

Monday, September 19 9 am-2 pm

[Shabbat accommodations will be made available upon request for those travelling to insure that they can be present at the Sunday 9 am session.]

Sunday, November 13 10 am – 6 pm

Monday, November 14 9 am – 6 pm

Tuesday, November 15 9 am—2 pm

SPRING 2017

Sunday, February 12 10 am– 6pm

Monday, February 13 9 am—6pm

Tuesday, Feb 14 9 am – 1 pm

Sunday, March 26 10 am—6 pm

Monday, March 27 9 am—6 pm

Tuesday, March 28 9 am—1 pm

SUMMER 2017

Sunday, June 25 – Thursday, June 29 (5 full days, some evenings)