



GUIDE TO MAJORS AT YESHIVA: JEWISH STUDIES

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?

Academic Jewish Studies at Yeshiva College, which combines the rigorous application of the methodology of the relevant academic disciplines with a reverence for tradition, lies at the heart of YU's mission. The Jewish Studies major should evoke interest on the part of the student who has a desire to attain a broad and sophisticated appreciation of Judaism and the Jewish people. The Jewish Studies Department includes programs in Jewish History, Bible, Hebrew, and Jewish Philosophy and Thought. Beyond the subject matter, these disciplines teach critical thinking, analytical and research skills, and mastery of challenging texts.

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 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

Graduate Study Required

- Cantor

- Lawyer
- Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Physician
- Professor
- Psychologist
- Rabbi /Theologian
- Social Worker
- Speech Therapist

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

Graduate Program at Yeshiva University

Yeshiva College offers a joint program (BA/MA) in Jewish Studies with Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies of Yeshiva University. Students can begin taking graduate-level courses while still in their undergraduate program. For more information visit <http://www.yu.edu/yeshiva-college/combined-joint-programs/>.