



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. Through a partnership with the Legacy Heritage Fund, students dedicated to a career in Jewish education major in Jewish Studies with a concentration in Jewish Education. Outstanding students interested in pursuing this three-year track may apply to become Legacy Heritage Fund Scholars.

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
- Journalist
- Marketing Professional
- Public Relations Professional
- Writer

Social Service

Communications

- Advertising Executive
- Editor
- Case Worker
- Higher Education Administrator
- Legislative Assistant
- Nonprofit Administrator

- Politician
- Rehabilitation Worker
- School Administrator
- School Counselor
- Synagogue Administrator
- Teacher
- Vocational Counselor

Graduate Study Required

- Professor of Jewish Studies
- Lawyer
- Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Physician
- Psychologist
- 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

Additional Information

In addition to the B.A. in Jewish Studies, there are a number of joint programs in which students can enroll. For those students interested in Jewish Studies (Bible, Jewish History, or Jewish Philosophy), there is a joint B.A./M.A. degree with Bernard Revel Graduate School. For those students interested in Jewish Education, there is a joint B.A./M.A. program with Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. For those students interested in Tanakh or Talmud, there is a joint B.A./M.A. program in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation from Stern College for Women.