College/School Name: Stern College

Department/Program Name: The Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies (GPATS)

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Mission Statement

The Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies (GPATS) is a two-year master's program that provides women an opportunity for post-college, high-level study to further their growth in Torah knowledge and skills. This program creates an elite cadre of female scholars of Talmud and Halakhawho will serve as leaders and role models for the Orthodox Jewish community. After completing the two-year program and taking two additional Tanach classes at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies or Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, the women will receive a master's degree in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation.

1) Goal: Students will be able to know in depth the laws of niddah/kashrut. Students will be able to demonstrate this knowledge by:
   Objectives:
   a. Describing Jewish practice in this area as it is observed today, as reflected in codes and response
   b. Citing and explaining the sources for the development of these practices in the Talmud and its interpreters
   c. Locating the relevant material in the Shulchan Arukh

2) Goal: Students will be able to intelligently navigate halakhic source material. Students will be able to demonstrate this ability with regard to important halakhic works by:
   Objectives:
   1) Identifying their historical sequence
   2) Categorizing them as codes, commentaries, or responsa, and explaining the relationships among them
3) Rating their relative degree of influence and precedential authority

3) Goal: Students will be able to read and decode a text of Gemara and Rishonim.

Objectives:
1) Students will be able to study independently and grapple with the primary sources
2) Students will be able to demonstrate their proficiency during small in-class discussion groups.
3) Students will be able to translate Aramaic words from the Gemara and answer content based questions related to their study.

4) Goal – Students will be able to identify and analyze underlying concepts and apply these concepts toward understanding new sources and applications.

Objectives:
1) Students will be able to think critically about the underlying assumptions and concepts that produce the halakhic data they study.
2) Students will be able to analyze new material on their own based on prior learning.
3) Students will be able to synthesize their thoughts in the form of written essays - summarizing the new unseen material, reviewing learned concepts, and subjecting the new material to a critical analysis in light of their prior learning.