

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 *Halakhah* who 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.*