

JEWISH STUDIES, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNAL LEADERSHIP M.A.

Degree: Master of Arts

Jewish Studies, Education & Communal Leadership (M.A.) | Towson University

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The Master of Arts in Jewish Studies, Education, and Communal Leadership offers students one degree, and two tracks. Students can specialize in Jewish Studies and delve into the world of the Bible and ancient Near Eastern Civilizations, Jewish history from medieval to modern times, Jewish thought and philosophy, or modern Judaism and mysticism. Students can earn their M.A. degree to enhance their qualifications and advance in their career, prepare for graduate school and further studies, or continue their education from a passion to learn. Specialize in the Leadership in Jewish Education and Communal Services track to develop expertise in the management of Jewish communal service organizations and educational institutions. Whichever track a student may choose, the JSECL program offers individualized support and an intellectually exciting journey.

Accelerated Bachelor's-Master's Program

Students may also earn the M.A. in Leadership in Jewish Education and Communal Service through the accelerated bachelor's to master's program. This program is designed to allow students to complete both the undergraduate and graduate degrees in five years, including 9 units taken during the summer terms. Students are required to complete the Hebrew Language requirement necessary for both the B.A. and acceptance into the M.A. program.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Application deadlines and a full listing of materials required for admission can be found on the website.

Degree Requirements

The MA in Jewish Studies, Education, and Communal Leadership requires successful completion of 32 units with an average GPA of 3.00 or higher.

All students complete a curriculum of core Jewish Studies courses (14 units) and then select a track (9 units): Leadership in Jewish Education and Communal Services (LJEC) or Jewish Studies (JDST). After completing the track requirements, LJEC students complete their degree with additional LJEC electives (9 units) and JDST students complete their degree with additional JDST electives (9 units). All students have a co-requisite of intermediate level language requirement.

Code	Title	Units
Jewish Studies Core Courses		
Select at least one course in each of the following areas:		
Biblical Civilizations		3
JDST 600	BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND CIVILIZATION	

JDST 650	SPECIAL TOPICS IN JUDAIC STUDIES	
Rabbinic Literature		3
JDST 680	INTRODUCTION TO RABBINIC LITERATURE AND HISTORY	
JDST 685	JEWISH LAW AND ETHICS	
Jewish History		3
JDST 630	MEDIEVAL JEWISH HISTORY	
JDST 631	JEWS IN THE MODERN WORLD	
Jewish Thought		3
JDST 650	SPECIAL TOPICS IN JUDAIC STUDIES	
JDST 666	INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH THOUGHT	
Track Required Coursework (see below for list of courses)		11
Electives (see below for list of courses)		9
Total Units		32

Leadership in Jewish Education and Communal Services Track

Code	Title	Units
Required Track Courses		
LJEC 600	LEADERSHIP IN JEWISH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES	3
LJEC 612	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS: MATERIAL RESOURCES	3
LJEC 614	JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE PRACTICUM SEMINAR	2
LJEC 618	SUPERVISED JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE INTERNSHIP	3
Total Units		11

Jewish Studies Track

Code	Title	Units
Required Track Courses		
JDST 719	JEWISH STUDIES SEMINAR	2
Select three from the following (Students must work with their program director to choose coursework to encompass different geographic areas, methodology, and chronological period):		9
JDST 600	BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND CIVILIZATION	
JDST 610	DIASPORA JEWISH COMMUNITIES	
JDST 611	AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY	
JDST 615	GLOBAL JEWISH LITERATURE	
JDST 625	RACE, GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND JUDAISM	
JDST 630	MEDIEVAL JEWISH HISTORY	
JDST 631	JEWS IN THE MODERN WORLD	
JDST 650	SPECIAL TOPICS IN JUDAIC STUDIES	
JDST 663	CONTEMPORARY JEWISH ETHICS: RESHAPING THE JEWISH IDENTITY IN OUR GENERATION	
JDST 666	INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH THOUGHT	
JDST 680	INTRODUCTION TO RABBINIC LITERATURE AND HISTORY	
JDST 685	JEWISH LAW AND ETHICS	
JDST 783	HISTORY OF JEWISH BIBLICAL EXEGESIS I: FROM THE BIBLE TO THE CLOSE OF THE TALMUD	

JDST 784	HISTORY OF JEWISH BIBLICAL EXEGESIS II: FROM THE CLOSE OF THE TALMUD TO THE MODERN PERIOD	
Total Units		11
Electives		
Code	Title	Units
9 units of coursework with approval by the program director		
Jewish Education courses		
EDUC 613	MORAL QUESTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM	
FMST 620	PROJECT IN FAMILY FOCUSED PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	
LJEC 602	FOUNDATIONS JEWISH EDUCATION	
LJEC 604	CURRICULUM PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING FOR THE JEWISH SCHOOL	
LJEC 764	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN JEWISH EDUCATION	
Teaching Jewish Subject courses		
LJEC 557	HEBREW LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EDUCATORS	
LJEC 647	TEACHING CLASSICAL JEWISH TEXTS	
FMST 665	JEWISH FAMILIES UNDER NAZI RULE AND BEYOND	
ILPD 650	EXPLORATION OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION	
LJEC 621	MODELS AND METHODS OF TEACHING JEWISH HOLIDAYS	
Professional courses		
FMST 665	JEWISH FAMILIES UNDER NAZI RULE AND BEYOND	
LJEC 610	PRINCIPLES OF JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE	
LJEC 611	MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES: LEADERSHIP AND SUPERVISION	
Nonprofit courses		
FMST 550	FUNDAMENTALS OF LEADERSHIP IN THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR	
FMST 555	FUNDRAISING, FRIENDRAISING AND VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT	
ILPD 650	EXPLORATION OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION	
Thesis coursework		
JDST 897	JDST THESIS	
or JDST 898	JDST THESIS	
Comprehensive Exam courses		
JDST 683	DIRECTED INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH	
JDST 697	DIRECTED READING IN JEWISH STUDIES	

Other possible electives: JDST, FMST, LJEC, EDUC, ELED, ECED or other related discipline, or Independent Study with approval from program director.

Other Requirement for Graduation

All students are required to submit a master's project, professional portfolio, research thesis or comprehensive exams in order to graduate.

Hebrew Requirement

Knowledge of Hebrew is the foundation of Judaic learning. All entering students must take the Hebrew placement examination. In order to receive the degree, students must demonstrate proficiency in Hebrew equivalent to the level of two years of college Hebrew (through Biblical or Modern Hebrew IV).

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate content knowledge in Jewish studies.
2. Students will display Hebrew language and cultural literacy and proficiency in Hebrew reading, writing and speaking.
3. Students will be able to apply best practices in leadership of organizational management, community development or education.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of research techniques relevant to organizational management, community development or education.