The Leadership Certificate in Combating Antisemitism

Executives of Jewish organizations need to be equipped to respond to antisemitism with strength, skill, and expertise. To be ready, they need training.

This new Spertus Institute certificate program will fill this critical need.
Why do we need this program?

Antisemitism is on the rise and has recently reached historic levels in the United States.

There is a critical need for Jewish communal leaders to respond with knowledge, strength, and skill—but most never received training in this area.

Participants who complete this program will gain:

- Broad knowledge of historical and current manifestations of antisemitism
- A network of institutional leaders who can leverage each other’s talents, resources, relationships, and support
- Skills in community engagement, risk assessment, and strategic philanthropy
- Confidence in crisis communications and critical conversations
- Insight into views of antisemitism outside the Jewish community to build interreligious bonds and cross-community alliances
- An overview of the landscape of antisemitism and social media
- A project or initiative developed to meet their own organizational needs

Program Elements

Real-time online training
Two hours/week for eleven weeks

Seminar at Spertus Institute’s downtown Chicago campus
February 19–23, 2023

Individual professional coaching to provide support for project development

Final applied institutional project or initiative

Courses combine theory and practice. Course content includes case studies and experiential learning.

More at spertus.edu/lcca
For executives of Jewish organizations

We are accepting applications from those in leadership positions in North American Jewish organizations of all types, including social justice, social services, synagogues, advocacy, education, community relations, philanthropy, campus engagement, and interreligious partnerships.

**Cost**

The cost to participate in this inaugural cohort is $1,500. This includes tuition as well as lodging and meals during the February seminar. Travel to Chicago is not included.

This cost is substantially underwritten—from a total cost of $6,500 per participant—specifically for this important program.

Payment due upon acceptance to reserve your space.

**The initial cohort launches in January 2023.**

Preferred admission deadline > October 3, 2022
Final application deadline > November 1, 2022

This is a selective-admission program. Applications will be reviewed following each deadline.

**Find out more**

Contact Amie S. Barrish at abarrish@spertus.edu or 312.322.1707.
Jewish learning for a better world

Leadership Certificate in Combating Antisemitism is designed to enable individuals and their organizations to combat antisemitism as it relates to their mission and communal role.

As a signature Spertus Institute educational initiative, this program will engage critical contemporary and emerging issues through Jewish lenses, utilizing scholarship to build adaptive capacity for a rapidly changing world. Ultimately, it will empower participants to make substantial, significant impact in their communities.
Module 1
Antisemitism Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
Five online sessions
Weekly on Wednesdays 6 pm–8 pm CT
January 18 through February 15, 2023

We will begin with definitions of antisemitism. We will explore historic antisemitism and recent manifestations, including developments on the political right and left and those impacted by societal changes. We will examine views on antisemitism and anti-Israel/anti-Zionism, outside and within the Jewish community, and look at links between antisemitism and other forms of hatred, exploring how both can be better addressed. An orientation to resources and current research on antisemitism will be included.

Module 2
Intra-Community Relations
Presented at core onsite seminar, Spertus Institute, Chicago
Monday, February 20 through Thursday, February 23, 2023

Through case studies and discussions, we will address lay-professional relations, community dynamics, and ways to navigate conversations across communities. We will address ways to educate constituents to respond to antisemitism and support them as they do so. We’ll explore ways to raise funds for work in this area, including how to navigate funder politics. This module will include threat assessment and risk mitigation plans.

Module 3
Communication: Internal and External
Presented at core onsite seminar, Spertus Institute, Chicago
Monday, February 20 through Thursday, February 23, 2023

This module focuses on crisis communications. We will look at when and how to engage, including suggestions for productive engagement on social media. At the same time, we will explore the ways in which social media is often used as a platform to express antisemitism and how best to respond. We will examine how organizations can respond to antisemitism proactively and impactfully and how we can best educate and engage.

Module 4
External Relations
Presented at core onsite seminar, Spertus Institute, Chicago
Monday, February 20 through Thursday, February 23, 2023

Building on Module 2, this module focuses on alliances outside the Jewish community. We will discuss advocacy and intercultural and interfaith engagement. We will examine how others hear about, understand, and engage with antisemitism, as well as other forms of bias and hate. Participants will learn to build an engagement strategy for working with external organizations. The module will also include discussion of broader DEI issues.

Module 5
Leadership, Theories of Change, and Practical Application
Six online sessions
Weekly on Wednesdays 6 pm–8 pm CT
March 8 through March 22 and May 3 through May 17, 2023

This module focuses on leading change. It will include a series of adaptive leadership case studies along with three executive coaching sessions relating to the development and execution of a special project to advance the work of the participant’s organization or community in addressing antisemitism. Participants will explore ways to develop training, secure resources, and create an effective ecosystem to combat antisemitism.

Program-Culminating Event (to be held online)
Wednesday August 9, 2023 6-7:30 pm CT

Presented with Spertus Institute’s Center for Jewish Leadership, supported in part by a generous grant from the Crown Family.

Spertus Institute is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.