

MA in Jewish Professional Studies | Regional Cohort Frequently Asked Question and Answers

MOUNTAIN--SOUTHWEST

What is the MAJPS Program?

The Master of Arts in Jewish Professional Studies (MAJPS) program is a model of learning and skill development specifically for professionals who work for and with the Jewish community. It offers core courses in the areas of classical and contemporary Jewish knowledge that are most relevant to Jewish communal life today, combined with essential professional training from one of two concentration areas: Nonprofit Management or Jewish Studies.

Where do classes take place?

Core courses take place during seminars at the award-winning Spertus Institute building, at 610 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago (approximately four blocks south of the Art Institute and two blocks from the Harrison Red Line stop). Webconferencing and independent study cover the remaining coursework.

Is Spertus Institute accredited?

Yes. Spertus Institute is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

What type of student is enrolled in the MAJPS program at Spertus Institute?

Students are professionals from a broad range of agencies and organizations that serve the Jewish community, as well as individuals currently working in other areas but looking to switch careers. Most students begin the program with three to five years of professional experience, although the program has been useful and important for participants with considerably more work experience as well. For those with 12+ years of experience, we suggest looking at our accelerated Executive MAJPS. See spertus.edu/executive.

How long is the program?

Students can complete the program in two years and three months.

What are the hours and days that students attend class?

MAJPS-Southwest program consists of: four weeklong seminars (two per year over two years, five days each) at Spertus Institute in Chicago, one mini-seminar (2 1/2 days), webconferencing, and independent study.

Who teaches in the MAJPS program?

Our highly credentialed faculty members have extensive experience in their fields and many have taught in this innovative program since its start in 2008. The Spertus MAJPS program also has a strong mentoring component that fosters professional development and the integration of coursework and professional work. MAJPS mentors are experienced Jewish communal professionals and consultants working in the upper echelons of their fields.

What is the class size?

The MAJPS program is run on a cohort basis, offering the opportunity for students from a range of institutional and professional backgrounds to network, learn from one another, and create a vibrant community of practice. Cohorts generally consist of 10–18 students.

How much is the tuition?

The full cost of the two-year program is \$19,000. Through a combination of fellowship and scholarship funds, students who work for Jewish organizations may be eligible for a tuition reduction of approximately 60%. Ask for details.

How much for textbooks, materials, and other fees?

The cost for textbooks and materials averages \$200 per year. Students will also be responsible for travel and accommodations and a graduation fee.

Is there financial aid available?

Yes. Financial aid is available in the form of subsidized and unsubsidized federal loans.

What if I have young professionals who work at my organization whom I think might benefit from this program or something similar?

Thank you for thinking about staff members who deserve an opportunity to grow as Jewish professionals! We can provide organization-specific cohorts (as we have done for the Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago) or your staff members can apply for a cohort with students from other organizations. The individualized portion of the curriculum (including the mentorship and applied final project) can be geared to specific needs or goals in your organization. Payment plans can be arranged for organizations paying all or part of students' tuition.

What are the academic requirements?

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 (on a 4.0 scale). No GMAT or GRE required.

What is the application process?

Prospective students need to (1) Submit a completed application, (2) Submit an admissions essay of 500 words, (3) Provide official transcripts from all colleges attended, and (4) Participate in an interview with the admissions committee.

How long does the application process take?

Once the application process is completed, the student should receive a reply from the MAJPS office within two to three weeks.

How can I get more information?

Contact **Center for Jewish Leadership Director of Enrollment Anita Silvert**, to discuss your goals and learn how the Spertus MAJPS program can accelerate your career or empower your staff. Reach her at asilvert@spertus.edu or 312.322.1707.



Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership
610 South Michigan Avenue | Chicago | 60605
312.322.1700 | spertus.edu

A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.