

Take the Next Step on Your Jewish Journey

Jewish Studies graduate programs at Spertus Institute make serious study available for students of all backgrounds.

At Spertus Institute, we believe that the study of Jewish thought and history are critical to the development of thoughtful and informed perspectives on Judaism's past, present, and future.

Spertus Institute's Master's and Doctoral Programs

- Impactful and relevant
- Offered in a flexible, self-paced, part-time format designed to accommodate the schedules of busy learners, wherever they live
- Taught by skilled and distinguished faculty
- Presented in a welcoming, pluralistic environment
- Priced to be affordable — with financial assistance available for qualified applicants
- Designed with opportunities for students to pursue individual areas of interest



Spertus
Institute

Accepting applications year round.

A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community



Our Jewish Studies programs draw students who are passionate, motivated, and engaged.

Our students come from across North America and around the globe. They pursue Jewish Studies for a range of personal and professional reasons aligned with their own interests and individual journeys.

Some pursue their education for work they do in Jewish or interfaith communities. Others pursue learning for its own sake.

Degrees Offered

Master of Arts in Jewish Studies (MAJS)

MAJS students explore the evolving nature of Jewish civilization and the religious and intellectual history of Jews and Judaism.

Doctor of Science in Jewish Studies (DSJS)

DSJS students address challenging, critical issues of Jewish life and thought, and their relevance to individuals and the community.

Doctor of Hebrew Letters (DHL)

Individualized program for rabbis and educators who study classical texts, modern Jewish literature, and the Jewish experience to address issues in contemporary Jewish life.



Program Requirements

Spertus Institute's Jewish Studies degree programs are offered on a quarter-term system, which allows for greater flexibility. As a result, course credit is granted in quarter hours as opposed to semester hours.

MA in Jewish Studies

Course Requirements

(16 courses | 48 quarter-hour credits)

- Core Courses
(7 courses, 3 quarter-hour credits each)
- 2nd-Level Core Courses
(3 courses, 3 quarter-hour credits each)
- Elective Courses (6 courses, 3 quarter-hour credits each)

Doctor of Science in Jewish Studies

Course Requirements

(18 courses | 54 quarter-hour credits)

- Core Courses (7 courses, 3 quarter-hour credits each)
- Text Courses (5 courses, 3 quarter-hour credits each)
- Elective Courses (4 courses, 3 quarter-hour credits each)
- Courses Related to Final Project
(2 courses, 3 quarter-hour credits each)

Doctor of Hebrew Letters

Course Requirements

(18 courses | 54 quarter-hour credits)

- Reading Courses
(7 courses, 3 quarter-hour credits each)
- Text-Based Courses
(7 courses, 3 quarter-hour credits each)
- Research and writing related to the **Project Demonstrating Excellence**
(4 courses, 3 quarter-hour credits each)

The **Project Demonstrating Excellence** is not a traditional thesis, but an applied, practical project grounded in traditional Jewish sources and intended to address current issues. It is unique for each participant, and is primarily completed offsite, under faculty advisement.



Program Delivery

Students learn through a combination of in-person and online participation since each format offers unique benefits.

In-Person

Courses are offered onsite during seminars at our award-winning downtown Chicago campus each June.

Online

Online courses are presented in both synchronous and asynchronous formats.

- Synchronous learning allows students to participate online in real time, together with faculty and fellow students.
- Asynchronous learning takes place at your own pace and on your own schedule.

For seminar courses, students receive access to course readings and materials approximately six weeks ahead of each of the week-long seminars, to allow time to prepare before the start of class (whether online or on campus). During the seminars, students immerse themselves in full days spent learning together with their professors and fellow students. After each seminar, students have approximately four weeks to complete their final papers or projects.

Most synchronous online courses meet for two-hour class sessions held weekly for eight weeks, with several weeks following to complete their coursework.



I learned from committed and exceptional professors who stretched my brain and taught me new ways of thinking.

Sherry Knazan | Independent Adult Learning Consultant, Petaluma, CA
Alumna, Spertus Institute MA in Jewish Students
Student, Spertus Institute DS in Jewish Studies

Next Steps

We are available to answer your questions and help you explore if a Spertus Institute program is right for you.

Find out more. Visit spertus.edu/learn or contact Amie S. Barrish, Assistant Director for Recruitment, at abarrish@spertus.edu or 312.322.1707.

Apply today to be able to join faculty and fellow students from around the world for Spertus Institute's next seminar.

Spertus Institute is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.