



Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459  
Office of Admissions: 617-559-8610 • Fax: 617-559-8601 • Email: [admissions@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:admissions@hebrewcollege.edu)

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

## SHOOLMAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JEWISH EDUCATION

### MASTER OF JEWISH EDUCATION

Thank you for your interest in applying to the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education of Hebrew College. Please read these instructions carefully before completing your application. Should you have any questions about the application process or regarding the status of your application, please call the Office of Admissions, 617-559-8610, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday–Thursday and 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Friday, or email [admissions@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:admissions@hebrewcollege.edu).

**Selection of Candidates** Admissions decisions are based on a careful review of a candidate's completed application, credentials, supporting documents and appropriateness for the degree program. Applicants for graduate degree programs must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and a competitive grade point average. Hebrew College admits qualified students without regard to age, sex, religion, disability, race, color or national origin. An application for financial aid does not in any way affect a candidate's application for admission.

**Application Submission** Please send your completed application and all supporting materials to the Office of Admissions, Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459. You are responsible to ensure that all of your application materials are received; we welcome calls or emails from candidates regarding the status of their applications.

#### Deadlines

- Early Decision—Application and, if relevant, financial aid forms, must be postmarked by December 15; preference for fellowships and financial aid will be given to these applicants. Interviews will be scheduled during the last two weeks of December. Applicants will be notified of admission decisions by January 15. *Candidates applying for admission during the spring semester must apply by the December 15 deadline.*
- March Decision—Application and, if relevant, financial aid forms, must be postmarked by February 15. Interviews will be scheduled during the last week of February. Applicants will be notified of admission decisions by March 15.
- June Decision—Application and, if relevant, financial aid forms, must be postmarked by May 30. Interviews will be scheduled during the first two weeks of June. Applicants will be notified of admission decisions by June 15.

**Application Checklist** All applicants must submit the following materials:

- A completed, signed application form
- One typewritten essay as described below
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies from accredited academic institutions. Please have official copies of transcripts forwarded directly from the issuing institution to the Office of Admissions.
- An official score report from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for all foreign students whose native language is not English and who have not received a degree from an accredited United States college or university.
- Three letters of recommendation, including at least one (if possible), from an academic instructor. Letters should be completed on the enclosed forms and mailed directly to the Office of Admissions.
- A non-refundable application fee of \$50; please submit a check or money order made payable to Hebrew College.

#### Interview

The interview is an essential and required part of the application process for all Hebrew College graduate degree programs. This is an opportunity for us to get to know you better; for you to visit the campus, sit in on classes and meet students; and to learn more about the College and program for which you are applying. Though on-campus interviews are preferred, if you live far from campus and are unable to travel, a phone interview may be arranged.

**Fellowships and Financial Aid** Qualified applicants are invited to apply for the Hebrew College Fellows Program; priority is given to those applying for December 15 Early Decision. For more information, please contact the Dean of Students, 617-559-8618, iregosin@hebrewcollege.edu.

A financial aid application is included in this packet. Instructions are on the form. If you are applying for financial aid, please complete the form and submit it with your application materials according to the deadline schedule above.

### Essay Questions

Please compose a 2–3 page essay in which you display your understanding, interpretation (or critique) and possible applications to Jewish education of **one** of the following three texts. Note that we are less concerned with your particular knowledge or experience with these kinds of texts, or with how accurate or informed your interpretation is. Rather, we are interested in your best writing and reflective thought in engaging these texts.

- a. "Our goal should be to make it possible for every Jewish person, child or adult, to be exposed to the mystery and romance of Jewish history, to the enthralling insights and special sensitivities of Jewish thought, to the sanctity and symbolism of Jewish existence, and to the power and profundity of Jewish faith. As a motto and declaration of hope, we might adapt the dictum that says, 'They searched from Dan to Beer Sheva and did not find an *am ha'aretz!*' *Am ha'aretz*, usually understood as an ignoramus, an illiterate, may for our purposes be defined as one indifferent to Jewish visions and values, untouched by the drama and majesty of Jewish history, unappreciative of the resourcefulness and resilience of the Jewish community and unconcerned with Jewish destiny. Education, in its broadest sense, will enable young people to confront the secret of Jewish tenacity and existence, the quality of Torah teaching which fascinates and attracts irresistibly. They will then be able, even eager, to find their place in a creative and constructive community."

—From "A Time to Act," presented by Dr. Isadore Twersky, June 12, 1990, to Council on Initiatives in Jewish Education

- b. "The work of the teachers I have recounted here could never have been effective without the supporting religious culture of Jewish families and the pervasive presence of Jewish communities and institutions for which Jewish learning had the highest metaphysical status, intrinsic value, the character of religious worship, as well as the reliability to serve as practical guide in all spheres of life..."

"Jewish teachers of today cannot, by and large, rely on a religious family culture, nor on an authoritative Jewish community.... It is commonly said that education is a reflection of its society. Contemporary Jewish education has the task of creating the very society of which it should be the reflection. Not only must it interpret the received texts, it needs to reinterpret the very conditions of its role, assess the new situation and invent unprecedented methods for meeting it. A repetitive application of traditional approaches will not suffice. There is no substitute for philosophy in this context—a rethinking of the bases of Jewish life and learning in our times."

—Israel Scheffler, *Teachers of My Youth* (Boston: Kluwer, 1995), p. 173.

- c. "One must study with powerful exertion to attain the true meanings of Torah, each according to his capacity. The more one learns, the more he wants to learn... for by means of the light which we have already attained we can see that there is yet more light, and we hope to attain that too. It may be compared to one who enters a room in the treasure house of the king, which is filled with all kinds of precious objects. There he finds a door leading to an inner chamber, and in there he finds yet another door to other inner chambers; and the closer one comes to the chamber of the king himself, the more precious and beautiful it is than the one before it. Had he not entered the outermost chamber, he would have known nothing of the other, inner chambers. So it is with Torah: by means of the light he attains at first, one sees that there is yet greater light, and so on. Thus does one desire to understand and attain more, until one has attained all the mysteries of the world and its fullness."

—Hayyim of Volozhin (d. 1821), Ru'ach Hayyim 6:1 as translated in Norman Lamm, *Torah Lishma; Torah for Torah's Sake in the Works of Rabbi Hayyim of Volozhin and his Contemporaries* (Hoboken, NJ: Ktav Publishing House, Inc., 1989), p. 244.

ולזה צריך ללמד ביגיעה עצומה, להשיג אמיתות כוונות התורה לפי השגתו. וכל אשר יוסיף ללמוד, כן יוסיף לחפוף ללמוד עוד... כי על ידי אור שהשגנו נראה יותר שיש עוד אור ונקווה להשיגו. כדמיון הנכנס לחדר המלך. בבית גנזיו המלך אור יקרות. ומשם רואה דלת לחדר פנימי עוד וחפץ לכנס לתוכו. ומשם רואה עוד חדרים פנימיים. וכל הקרוב יותר לחדר המלך עצמו, יותר יקר ומהודר עד אין חקר מהחדר החיצון. ואם לא נכנס מתחילה בחדר הראשון, לא היה יודע מאומה אם יש חדרים פנימיים זה לפני זה. וכן לענין התורה. כי על ידי אור ששיג מתחילה, רואה כי יש עוד אור גדול מזה, וכן להלאה. ועל ידי זה יתאווה תאוה להבין ולהשיג עוד עד כי ישיג כל סתרי העולם ומלואה.

הרב חיים מוולוז'ין  
רוח חיים ו'



Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459  
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## APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**Name**  Mr.  Ms.  Other \_\_\_\_\_ (First, Middle, Last) \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Address** \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Address** (if different) \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Security Number** \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

**Citizenship**  U.S.  Permanent Resident  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If not a U.S. Citizen** Visa Number \_\_\_\_\_ Alien Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact** (Name, Relationship, Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

### Applying for

December 15 **early decision** for Fall 20\_\_\_\_ ; Spring 20\_\_\_\_

February 15 decision for Fall 20\_\_\_\_

May 30 decision for Fall 20\_\_\_\_

### Graduate program

Master of Arts in Jewish Studies (MAJS)

Online MAJS

Combined MAJS/Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies

Master of Jewish Education (MJEd)

Combined MJEd/Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies

### Matriculation status

Full-time study (3–5 courses/semester)  Part-time study (2 courses/semester)

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

ID \_\_\_\_\_

APP \_\_\_\_\_

FA \_\_\_\_\_

STATUS \_\_\_\_\_

**Current School or Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Undergraduate GPA** \_\_\_\_\_ **Graduate GPA** (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**How would you assess your level of Hebrew proficiency?**  Advanced  Intermediate  Beginner

**If English is *not* your native language, how would you assess your English language proficiency?**

Advanced  Intermediate  Beginner

**Letters of Reference** Three letters of reference are required for application to master's degree programs. Please refer to the instruction sheet for details about the type of references needed for the program to which you are applying. Reference letters should be mailed directly to the Office of Admissions, Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459.

Please list the names, occupations and contact information for the individuals you have asked to serve as references:

<b>1.</b>	_____	_____
	Name	Title/Occupation
	_____	_____
	Address	Phone
<b>2.</b>	_____	_____
	Name	Title/Occupation
	_____	_____
	Address	Phone
<b>3.</b>	_____	_____
	Name	Title/Occupation
	_____	_____
	Address	Phone

**Formal Academic Experience** Please list chronologically all post-secondary institutions of higher learning that you have attended since high school.

	Name of institution	Location	Dates of attendance	Major	Degree/Certificate
<b>1.</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>2.</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>3.</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>4.</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Do you consider your academic record an adequate index of your intellectual ability?**

Yes  No

If *not*, please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Informal Post-secondary Learning Experience** Please list chronologically any institutes, Israel programs, study groups, travel-study experiences, retreats, etc., that you have attended since high school that are relevant to your plans to study at Hebrew College. If there is additional information you would like to share about these experiences, please explain on a separate sheet of paper.

Name of organization	Program	Dates of attendance	Area of study
1.	_____		
2.	_____		
3.	_____		
4.	_____		

**Professional Experience** Please list chronologically from most recent.

Dates of employment	Employer	Position	Address	Telephone
1.	_____			
2.	_____			
3.	_____			
4.	_____			

**Relevant Extracurricular Activities**

Activity	Dates of Participation	Offices/Positions held
1.	_____	
2.	_____	
3.	_____	
4.	_____	

**Please list any awards, honors, distinctions or scholarships received.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Essay** On separate sheets of paper, please address the essay question(s) listed in the Instructions for Applicants. Essays should be typed, include your name and a page number on each sheet, and should be submitted with this application.

**Have you ever applied for admission or been a student at Hebrew College? If so, when and what program did you attend?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Are you applying to other graduate schools besides Hebrew College?**  Yes  No

**Have you spoken with a Hebrew College representative?**  Yes  No

**If yes, with whom?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about Hebrew College?** (check as many as apply)

- Graduate School Fair
- Mailing
- Word of Mouth
- Friend/Family
- Website
- Advertisement (which one?) \_\_\_\_\_
- Conference/Event (which one?) \_\_\_\_\_
- On-campus Event (which one?) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** I certify that I have considered each item on this application carefully, and that my statements are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that admission to or enrollment in Hebrew College may be denied if any information is found to be incomplete or inaccurate. I authorize the use of my transcripts and recommendations by the appropriate College personnel in evaluating my application to Hebrew College.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant (required to be considered for admission) date

Please send completed application with non-refundable application fee of \$50 (payable to Hebrew College) to Office of Admissions, Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459.

All documents filed for this application become the property of Hebrew College and are not returnable. Hebrew College does not discriminate in admission or any matter with regard to age, sex, religion, disability, race, color or national origin. Hebrew College is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.





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## LETTER OF REFERENCE

**To be completed by the applicant:**

**Applicant** (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Degree/Certificate Program** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reference** (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Title) \_\_\_\_\_

**Reference** (Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), which gives students the right to inspect and review their educational records, students may waive their right to see specific confidential statements and letters of evaluation. I hereby (please check one):  waive  do not waive my right of access to this document should I matriculate to Hebrew College.

**Applicant's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by the reference** Please evaluate the applicant's capacity for success in his/her proposed field of study, commenting when possible on the candidate's academic potential and ability. Please include how long and in what capacity you have known the applicant. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

**Reference's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_



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**Applicant's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by the reference** Please evaluate the applicant's capacity for success in his/her proposed field of study, commenting when possible on the candidate's academic potential and ability. Please include how long and in what capacity you have known the applicant. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

**Reference's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_



Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459  
Office of Student Financial Services: 617-559-8642 • Fax: 617-559-8601 • Email: [financialaid@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:financialaid@hebrewcollege.edu)

## APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL AID

Hebrew College has a comprehensive financial aid program and assists students in developing a financial plan to support their education. Should you have any questions about financial aid options, the application process or the status of your application, please call the Office of Student Financial Services, 617-559-8642 (Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) or send an email to [financialaid@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:financialaid@hebrewcollege.edu).

**Confidentiality** All financial aid information supplied by the applicant is considered confidential and will not be made available to any individual or entity not directly connected with granting financial aid at Hebrew College.

**Eligibility** Financial aid is awarded on the basis of need to students who have been accepted into most of Hebrew College's degree or certificate programs and to matriculated degree or certificate candidates in good standing. Matriculated students must reapply for financial aid each year. All financial aid granted by Hebrew College applies only to tuition.

**Deadlines** There are three rounds of application deadlines for admissions decisions at Hebrew College: December 15 (early decision), February 15 and May 30. The deadline for Rabbinical School applicants is February 15 only. Financial aid applications are due with admissions materials. For matriculated students, financial aid application forms are due by May 1.

**Application Checklist** All of the following material must be included with your application before your request for financial aid will be considered.

- Answer all questions on this form, sign and date.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Although the FAFSA may not be submitted before January 1, if you are applying for the December 15 early decision deadline, please complete the FAFSA as soon as possible. For more information and an application form, visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The Hebrew College code is 002157.
- Attach a copy of your most recent federal and state income tax returns.
- If there is any other relevant information that would help us to understand your needs, please attach a typed statement on a separate sheet.

**Name**  Mr.  Ms.  Other \_\_\_\_\_ (first, middle, last) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student ID Number** (matriculated students only) \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Security Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

**Current Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Address** (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Citizenship**  U.S.  Other \_\_\_\_\_ Visa Type \_\_\_\_\_

**Most Recent Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_ **Job Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Business Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Salary** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dates of Employment** \_\_\_\_\_

Single  Married  Divorced  Widow/er

**Spouse Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse Business Address/Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dependent Children** (continue on separate sheet if necessary)

1. (Name/age) \_\_\_\_\_

(School or college attending/tuition cost) \_\_\_\_\_

2. (Name/age) \_\_\_\_\_

(School or college attending/tuition cost) \_\_\_\_\_

3. (Name/age) \_\_\_\_\_

(School or college attending/tuition cost) \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No Do you receive any financial support from family members?

Yes  No Do you receive any financial support from other sources?

Yes  No Do you participate in a tuition assistance program at your place of employment?

**If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please specify source and amount** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you own or rent your residence?**  Own  Rent **Monthly mortgage or rental payment** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list the total value of each category below:**

Cash, savings and checking accounts \_\_\_\_\_

Current market value of your home \_\_\_\_\_ Amount owed on this property \_\_\_\_\_

Automobile(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**What other schools are you attending?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your annual tuition at the above institution(s)?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What Hebrew College program are you applying to?**

Rabbinical School

Master of Arts in Jewish Studies (MAJS)

Online MAJS

Combined MAJS/Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies

Master of Jewish Education (MJEd)

Combined MJEd/Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies

Cantor-Educator program (MJEd and Cantorial Ordination)

Certificate in \_\_\_\_\_

**How many total credits will you take this year?** (fall and spring) \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you planning to work during the school year?** (If so, please describe proposed work and salary) \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** I hereby certify that the information given above is complete and accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please review the Application Checklist on the previous page before returning your completed form.**