



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

## JEWISH MUSIC INSTITUTE

### SHOOLMAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JEWISH EDUCATION

#### CANTOR-EDUCATOR PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in applying to Hebrew College's Cantor-Educator Program. 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. An application for financial aid does not in any way affect a candidate's application for admission.

Applicants must be Jewish by birth or conversion process as recognized by at least one major rabbinic body. Because the Cantor-Educator Program is transdenominational, there is no specific requirement regarding religious observance. It is expected, however, that each candidate will evidence serious grappling with the *mitzvot* and the question of personal observance. Hebrew College also has a policy of non-discrimination with regard to sexual orientation. Applicants who are married to or in committed relationships with non-Jews will not be considered for acceptance to this program.

**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
- Two typewritten essays 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 Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test. (Hebrew College test code 3435)
- 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 one from a cantor or other Jewish professional well-acquainted with your musical and Jewish background, and another 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, Audition, Placement Exams and Psychological Testing** 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 the Cantor-Educator Program.

During your visit to Hebrew College, you will also participate in a vocal audition and take placement exams in Hebrew and musicianship. In addition, you will take the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory-III (MCMI-III). For more information and to schedule your interview, audition and placement exams, please contact the Office of Admissions.

**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 with your application materials according to the deadline schedule above.

**Essay Questions** On separate sheets of paper, please submit **two** typewritten essays of approximately 1,000 words each in response to the following:

- a. Discuss the path that has led you to apply for graduate study in the cantorate and Jewish education. Reflect on your personal growth as a Jew, a musician, an educator and a community leader.
- b. Read "The Vocation of the Cantor," Chapter 16 in *The Insecurity of Freedom* by Abraham Joshua Heschel (ISBN 0805203613). If you have difficulty locating this source, please call the Office of Admissions. Respond to Heschel's views on the cantorate, prayer and Jewish music. In what ways do you agree or disagree with his assessment?



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## APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION CANTOR-EDUCATOR PROGRAM

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

**Hebrew Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Advanced  Intermediate  Beginner

**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\_\_\_\_

### Matriculation status

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

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

ID \_\_\_\_\_

APP \_\_\_\_\_

FA \_\_\_\_\_

STATUS \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Status**  Single  Married/Partnered  Divorced  Widowed

**Name of spouse/partner** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s) and age(s) of child(ren)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**If you are a Jew by choice, please list date of conversion, name of officiating rabbi and provide a copy of your conversion document or a letter from the officiating rabbi.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Hebrew Proficiency** All entering students must take a Hebrew proficiency examination. However, we would appreciate your rating your proficiency subjectively. How well can you do the following:

- a. Read unvocalized Hebrew text with comprehension?  Advanced  Intermediate  Beginner
- b. Understand spoken Hebrew?  Advanced  Intermediate  Beginner
- c. Converse in Hebrew?  Advanced  Intermediate  Beginner
- d. Express yourself in written Hebrew?  Advanced  Intermediate  Beginner

**Letters of Reference** Three letters of reference are required for application to the Cantor-Educator program. Please refer to the instruction sheet for details. 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:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title/Occupation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Address Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title/Occupation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Address Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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
1.	_____			
2.	_____			
3.	_____			

**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.	_____			

**Musical Education** Please list any music institutions attended (not mentioned previously under Formal Academic Experience) and/or private music instructors with whom you have studied.

Name of institution/instructor	Location	Dates of attendance	Degree/Certificate
1.	_____		
2.	_____		
3.	_____		
4.	_____		

**Please list any undergraduate or graduate music courses you have taken.** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Do you play any musical instruments?**  Yes  No

If yes, which one(s) and how accomplished are you? \_\_\_\_\_

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**All entering students must take a music theory placement exam before entering. However, we would appreciate your rating the following:**

How fluent are you in reading music?  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

How do you rate your sight-singing ability?  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

**Musical and Performing Arts Experience** Please list any experience you have had in formal musical ensembles, theatre or other performing arts. Include any leadership roles you have held.

Organization	Address	Dates	Role
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.**

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**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 been dismissed or suspended from any academic institution?**  Yes  No

If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Have you ever withdrawn or taken a leave of absence from any academic program due to physical or psychological difficulties?**  Yes  No

If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Have you ever been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons?**  Yes  No

If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.



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# LETTER OF REFERENCE

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**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 the cantorate and in the field of Jewish education. Please describe his or her academic, musical and leadership potential. Additionally, feel free to offer insight into his or her personal qualities and interpersonal skills.

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