

What is Jewish Studies?

Serving as a model for interdisciplinary study in the humanities and social sciences, academic Jewish Studies is a completely non-denominational program. Based on a broad range of literary, historical, cultural, and other models, the program permits students to analyze the ways in which Jews have lived with and among other peoples and cultures throughout the world, from antiquity to the present, from ancient Israel through medieval Europe to contemporary America. Jewish Studies provides a context for learning about issues that have had a profound impact upon other disciplines. These include identity under conditions of Diaspora life, the literature of postcolonialist communities, the authority of a traditional literary canon, the role of law and legal systems, the impact of modernization upon culture, the role of memory, and the construction of gender.

The faculty of Jewish Studies, as an interdisciplinary program, includes members from the departments of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, History, German, English, and American Studies. Members are also appointed from the School of Music and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The program offers courses in areas ranging from the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and classical Judaism through Holocaust history, contemporary German-Jewish poetry, Diaspora literature, American popular culture, and Women and Judaism.

Study abroad in Israel or Europe is encouraged as a valuable augment to the major; consult the University's Global Campus office for further information. Jewish studies currently offers both an undergraduate major and a minor degree.

What are the major requirements?

Go to www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html and select "Undergraduate majors."

How do I declare an Jewish Studies major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon a Jewish Studies major, meet with the appropriate person from the department to complete a Major Program form and be sure to retain the student copy for your records.
3. The copy for your CLA student file will be forwarded by the department's staff to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your CLA student community to learn about your new major's declaration process.

For more information:

About the Jewish Studies major:

The Center for Jewish Studies
131 Nolte Center
(612) 624-4914
<http://jwst.cla.umn.edu/>

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Society and Culture
Student Community
122 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-2549
<http://sandc.class.umn.edu/>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr.
Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu>

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community
Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu/
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division
20 Nicholson
(612) 624-5522
www.honors.class.umn.edu/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu

What can I do with a major in Jewish Studies?

Skills

Academic Jewish Studies emphasizes the analysis of text, culture, history, and identity. The skills thereby gained provide a strong foundation for both general undergraduate education and for continuing on to graduate or professional school. These skills include:

- Close reading and critical analysis of texts
- Ability to construct arguments and to conduct independent research
- Analysis of material and non-material culture
- Historical perspective on the continuing impact of religion upon culture
- Clear awareness of cultural diversity and of minority perspectives
- Solid foundation to begin rabbinical training or ministerial education

Employment

Academic Jewish studies logically opens to a wide range of graduate and professional opportunities, including:

- Law school—given the importance of the legal tradition in Jewish history
- Business school—given the historical perspective on foreign cultures
- Medical school—given the intellectual training and the focus upon ethics
- Graduate education—in literature, history, religion, or philosophy
- Rabbinical school
- Divinity school
- Government—international relations, public information, diplomatic service
- Non-profit—fundraising, programming, and management
- Media—writing, editing, public relations, and management
- Social work or MSW programs—working with elderly or immigrant groups
- Education—to work in Jewish education in the public or day school programs

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!