

JEWISH STUDIES, BA

From history to political science, sociology to music and the arts, Jewish Studies is a vibrant, interdisciplinary program that allows you to explore Jewish civilization from a variety of perspectives. We encourage all students to consider a Jewish Studies major (<https://cjs.wisc.edu/major-in-jewish-studies/>) or certificate (<https://cjs.wisc.edu/certificate-in-jewish-studies/>), regardless of your background or previous study.

As a student in Jewish Studies, you will study the intellectual and cultural values of Jews, their religious beliefs and practices, languages, literary creativity, and participation in the larger societies in which they live. You will sharpen your ability to think critically, read closely, and write effectively. And while learning how Jews have lived, survived, and sometimes flourished, you will gain a deeper comprehension of their rich, varied culture and the world they inhabit.

Since Jewish Studies is an interdisciplinary field, many students simultaneously pursue majors or certificates in other departments, including Art, Education, Geography, History, Music, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Sociology. Given the broad history and geography of the Jewish experience, Jewish Studies also pairs well with programs like African Studies, Classical and Near Eastern Studies, European Studies, German/Nordic/Slavic Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies. For the same reason, many of Jewish Studies courses fulfill General Education requirements, including Humanities and Literature, Ethnic Studies, Foreign Language, and Communications Part B. To sample the variety of Jewish Studies offerings, check out our current and recent courses (<https://cjs.wisc.edu/courses/>).

Building on a strong foundation in the humanities and social sciences, you may go on to pursue a variety of career paths, such as education, library and information sciences, finance and international trade, journalism and mass media, social work, and the nonprofit sector. Our graduates are also well prepared to apply for law school, graduate school, or rabbinical studies.

Questions? Contact the undergraduate advisor (<https://cjs.wisc.edu/advising/>).

HOW TO GET IN

HOW TO GET IN DECLARING THE MAJOR

Prospective majors in Jewish Studies should make an appointment with the undergraduate advisor (undergrad-adviser@cjs.wisc.edu) to discuss requirements and courses.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating

aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) section of the *Guide*.

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| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B * |
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR • Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.
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L&S Breadth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and • 12 credits of Social Science; and • 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.
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Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
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Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
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Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
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Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
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UW–Madison Experience • 30 credits in residence, overall; and
• 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.

Quality of Work • 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
• 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The Jewish Studies major requires 10 courses, totaling at least 30 credits, in 5 areas: 1) one Gateway Course; 2) two courses in Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts; 3) two courses in History and Social Science; 4) four courses in Modern Hebrew at an appropriate level; and 5) the Core Seminar. Each course may count toward only one required area.

GATEWAY COURSE

Complete one Gateway Course.

Code	Title	Credits
Gateway Course (complete one):		
JEWISH/ LEGAL ST/ RELIG ST 203	Jewish Law, Business, and Ethics	
JEWISH/ RELIG ST 211	Introduction to Judaism	
JEWISH/ RELIG ST 322	The Sabbath	

LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY, AND THE ARTS

Complete two courses in Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, at least one of which must fulfill the Jewish Diaspora requirement,

Code	Title	Credits
Jewish Diaspora (complete at least one course):		
JEWISH/ GERMAN/ LITTRANS 269	Yiddish Literature and Culture in Europe	
JEWISH/ RELIG ST 278	Food in Rabbinic Judaism	
JEWISH/ GERMAN/ LITTRANS 279	Yiddish Literature and Culture in America	
JEWISH/ LITTRANS 318	Modern Jewish Literature	
JEWISH/ RELIG ST 340	The American Jewish Life of DNA	
JEWISH/ ENGL 370	Jewish Humor	
JEWISH/PHILOS/ RELIG ST 435	Jewish Philosophy from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century	

JEWISH/
AFRICAN/
MEDIEVAL/
RELIG ST 462

Muslims and Jews

JEWISH/
GERMAN 510

German–Jewish Culture Since the 18th Century

JEWISH/
ENGL 539

Jewish Literatures in Diaspora

JEWISH/
ENGL 593

Literature of Jewish Identity in America

Complete any additional Diaspora course from the list above, or any of the following:

JEWISH/
CLASSICS/
LITTRANS/
RELIG ST 227

Introduction to Biblical Literature (in English)

JEWISH 230

Elementary Topics in Jewish Literature

JEWISH 232

Elementary Topics in Jewish Philosophy and the Arts

JEWISH 236

Bascom Course

JEWISH/HEBR-
MOD 301

Introduction to Hebrew Literature

JEWISH/
CLASSICS/
RELIG ST 323

The Bible and Film: Literature and Media

JEWISH/HEBR-
MOD 302

Introduction to Hebrew Literature

JEWISH/
LITTRANS/
RELIG ST 328

Classical Rabbinic Literature in Translation

JEWISH/
CLASSICS/
HEBR-BIB/
LITTRANS/
RELIG ST 332

Prophets of the Bible

JEWISH/
CLASSICS/
RELIG ST 335

King David in History and Tradition

JEWISH/
CLASSICS/
RELIG ST 346

Jewish Literature of the Greco-Roman Period

JEWISH 356

Jerusalem, Holy City of Conflict and Desire

JEWISH/
LITTRANS 367

Israeli Fiction in Translation

JEWISH/HEBR-
MOD 401

Topics in Modern Hebrew / Israeli Literature and Culture I

JEWISH/HEBR-
MOD 402

Topics in Modern Hebrew / Israeli Literature and Culture II

JEWISH 430

Intermediate Topics in Jewish Literature

JEWISH 432

Intermediate Topics in Jewish Philosophy and the Arts

JEWISH/
PHILOS 442

Moral Philosophy and the Holocaust

JEWISH/HEBR-BIB 513	Biblical Texts, Poetry
JEWISH/HEBR-BIB 514	Biblical Texts, Poetry
JEWISH 630	Advanced Topics in Jewish Literature
JEWISH 632	Advanced Topics in Jewish Philosophy and the Arts

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Complete two courses in History and Social Science, at least one of which must fulfill the Jews in America requirement.

Code	Title	Credits
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Jews in America (complete at least one course):

JEWISH/HISTORY 213	Jews and American Pop. Culture
JEWISH/HISTORY 219	The American Jewish Experience: From Shtetl to Suburb
JEWISH/RELIG ST 340	The American Jewish Life of DNA

Complete any additional Jews in America course from the list above, or any of the following:

JEWISH/HISTORY 220	Introduction to Modern Jewish History
JEWISH 231	Elementary Topics in Jewish History
JEWISH/CLASSICS 241	Introduction to Biblical Archaeology
JEWISH/RELIG ST 278	Food in Rabbinic Judaism
JEWISH/HISTORY 310	The Holocaust
JEWISH/POLI SCI 341	Israeli Politics and Society
JEWISH/ILS/SOC 423	Modern Jewish Thought
JEWISH 431	Intermediate Topics in Jewish History
JEWISH 433	Intermediate Topics in Jewish Studies: Social Sciences
JEWISH/CLASSICS 451	Biblical Archaeology
CURRIC/ED POL/HISTORY/JEWISH 515	Holocaust: History, Memory and Education
JEWISH/HISTORY 518	Anti-Semitism in European Culture, 1700-1945
POLI SCI 529	Arab-Israeli Conflict
JEWISH 631	Advanced Topics in Jewish History

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Complete four courses in Modern Hebrew at an appropriate level.

Code	Title	Credits
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Modern Hebrew (Complete 4 courses):

HEBR-MOD 101	First Semester Hebrew
HEBR-MOD 102	Second Semester Hebrew

HEBR-MOD 201	Third Semester Hebrew
HEBR-MOD 202	Fourth Semester Hebrew
HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 301	Introduction to Hebrew Literature
HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 302	Introduction to Hebrew Literature
HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 401	Topics in Modern Hebrew / Israeli Literature and Culture I
HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 402	Topics in Modern Hebrew / Israeli Literature and Culture II

CORE SEMINAR

Complete the Core Seminar.

Code	Title	Credits
JEWISH 350	What Is Jewish Studies?	

NOTE ON DIRECTED STUDY

With prior consent of the undergraduate advisor in Jewish studies and the relevant instructor, students may use one Directed Study course (JEWISH 699) to satisfy a requirement for the major.

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all JEWISH courses and all courses accepted in the major
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence. Upper-level work includes all Intermediate or Advanced level courses in the Jewish Studies major.
- 15 credits in JEWISH, taken on campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the Jewish Studies undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE JEWISH STUDIES MAJOR: REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major students must satisfy both the requirements for the major and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.500 GPA for all JEWISH courses, and all courses accepted in the major
- Complete at least two courses, taken for Honors, in the major, with grades of B or better in each
- Complete a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis, a piece of original research composition, in JEWISH 681 and JEWISH 682, for a total of 6 credits.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Proficiency in reading, writing, understanding, and conversing in Hebrew or another approved Jewish language, attained through four semesters of study
2. Ability to read Jewish texts closely and to write original, coherent, and compelling arguments that push beyond summary to analysis
3. Knowledge of Jewish civilization, culture, and society in both the past and the present
4. Development, pursuit, and presentation of original research in Jewish studies culminating in a substantive academic paper that utilizes and cites appropriate sources
5. Appreciation for diverse worldviews and value systems, including an understanding of interactions between Jews and non-Jews within the context of minority-majority relationships in Wisconsin, in the United States, and across the globe

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HEBR-MOD 101	4 HEBR-MOD 102	4
JEWISH/LEGAL ST/ RELIG ST 203 or 211	3 Quantitative Reasoning B	3
Communication A	3 Communications B	3
Quantitative Reasoning A	3 Science Breadth	3
Elective (Elementary level)	3 Elective (Elementary level)	3
16	16	

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HEBR-MOD 201	4 HEBR-MOD 202	4
JEWISH/HISTORY 219 (meets Ethnic Studies; Jews in America [History/Social Science])	4 Biological Science Breadth	3
Physical Science Breadth	3-4 JEWISH/PHILOS 442 (meets Literature/ Philosophy/Arts)	3
Elective (Intermediate level)	3 Electives (Intermediate level)	6
14	16	

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
JEWISH/HISTORY 310 (meets History/Social Science)	4 JEWISH 350	3
Science Breadth	3 JEWISH/AFRICAN/ MEDIEVAL/ RELIG ST 462 (meets Literature/Philosophy/ Arts)	3
Social Science Breadth (if needed)	3 Intermediate/Advanced COMP SCI, MATH, or STAT (if BS)	3
Electives (Intermediate or Advanced level)	6 Social Science Breadth (if needed)	3
	Elective (Intermediate or Advanced level)	3
16	15	

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Intermediate/Advanced COMP SCI, MATH, or STAT (if BS)	3 Electives (Intermediate or Advanced level)	12
Electives (Intermediate or Advanced level)	12	
15	12	

Total Credits 120

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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Like other liberal arts majors, a degree in Jewish Studies can prepare one for a variety of career paths. Graduates in Jewish Studies have followed a variety of different career paths, including law, medicine, education, finance, social work, and the nonprofit sector. Jewish Studies students are also well prepared to apply for graduate studies in fields such as law, education, business, and social work, as well as prime candidates for rabbinical or cantorial school, theological studies, and advanced levels of Jewish Studies. For more information, please reach out to academic advising (<https://cjs.wisc.edu/advising/>).

The Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies encourages our majors to begin working on their career exploration and preparation soon after

arriving on campus. We partner with SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science. L&S graduates are in high demand by employers and graduate programs. It is important to us that our students are career ready at the time of graduation, and we are committed to your success.

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Enroll in a Career Course (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/>) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
 - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
 - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
 - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/>)

PEOPLE

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