



ACADEMY
for JEWISH
RELIGION

ORDAINING
RABBIS
AND CANTORS
AND TRAINING
JEWISH LEADERS
FOR ALL
JEWISH
COMMUNITIES

Master's Program in Jewish Studies Student Application

The Academy for Jewish Religion prepares men and women to serve the Jewish community as congregational spiritual leaders, chaplains, educators, and professionals in Jewish social and communal organizations.

We welcome exceptional students without regard to race, religion, age, sexual orientation or gender identification.



Master's Program in Jewish Studies Application

Applicant

Legal Name: _____ Social Security # : _____ / _____ / _____

Preferred Name (if different): _____ Former Last Name, if any: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Permanent Address (if different): _____

Preferred Phone: Home Cell Home: _____ Cell: _____

Fax: _____ Email(s): _____

Demographics

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Gender: ____ M ____ F ____ I prefer not to answer. Place of Birth: _____

Citizenship: U.S. Permanent Resident Other (Country of Citizenship, if not U.S.) _____

If not a U.S. Citizen, do you have a visa? Yes No

If yes, type and number? _____

When does it expire? ____ / ____ / ____

What institution or person sponsors your visa? _____



Application (cont.)

1. Have you ever been the subject of a disciplinary inquiry or procedure in an academic situation or place of employment? Yes No
2. Have you ever been suspended or dismissed from an academic program? Yes No
3. Have you ever been convicted of a crime in a court of law? Yes No

If you answered yes to any question, please explain in detail on a separate sheet.

References

Please list the names, titles, and phone numbers/email for your references.

Academic Reference: _____

Co-worker/Supervisor: (Optional Reference) _____

I affirm that all of the information given by me on this application is complete and accurate. I understand that any misrepresentation may be cause for refusing or rescinding an application or admission to any programs offered by the Academy for Jewish Religion.

I understand that the Admissions Committee of AJR reserves the right to contact references listed on the application, as well as individuals who are not listed, for the sake of acquiring important information about my candidacy. I also understand that all contacts between AJR and these individuals, whether listed or not, shall remain strictly confidential.

I further affirm that I have read and understand the policies for admission to the Academy for Jewish Religion. I understand that the decisions of the Admissions Committee are final. I further understand that it is the policy of the Academy for Jewish Religion not to discuss details of an acceptance or rejection with anyone, including the applicant or anyone submitting recommendations on behalf of the applicant.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____



Application Materials Checklist

Please submit 4 copies of the following:

- Completed Application
- Completed Background Information Sheet(s) as appropriate
- Essays
- Current Resume: Beginning with college, the resume should include all general education, employment history, Jewish education, volunteer and paid communal experience, publications, honors and special interests.
- Letters of Recommendation: Using the provided forms and envelopes, ***applicants should arrange to have all recommendations sent directly to the Academy for Jewish Religion.*** The waiver on each letter of recommendation should be signed by you ***before*** sending the letters to your Recommenders. These letters must be mailed directly to AJR from the Recommender. These recommendations should not all come from the same institution.

Recommendations should be obtained from:

- An academic who is familiar with your academic ability and performance.
- **Optional:** A co-worker or supervisor with whom you have worked in a professional or organizational capacity (preferably Jewish).

- Transcripts: ***Official, signed and sealed transcripts from each degree program post high school must be mailed directly to AJR from the institution(s) involved.***
- Application Fee - One payment of \$50

Academy for Jewish Religion / 28 Wells Avenue / Yonkers, NY 10701



Letter of Recommendation

Applicant's Name: _____

To the Applicant:

Please complete this section and send this form along with an enclosed envelope to each person from whom you seek a recommendation. ***All letters of reference must be sent from the Recommender directly to the AJR Office of Admissions.***

Optional Waiver of Rights Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974:

I, the undersigned, hereby waive my right to see the text of this recommendation. I understand that the contents are intended for the use of the Academy for Jewish Religion in reviewing my application.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

To the Recommender:

Thank you for your willingness to assist the Admissions Committee of the Academy for Jewish Religion. AJR's programs are academically intensive. AJR students in a program leading to ordination face a variety of responsibilities and pressures that demand a significant amount of training, spiritual development, and academic prowess.

Please be sure to complete all three sections of this recommendation.

All letters of reference, along with this form, must be sent from you directly to the Office of Admissions at the Academy for Jewish Religion / 28 Wells Avenue / Yonkers, NY 10701.

1. In your letter of reference, please let us have your most candid impressions of the applicant. To the extent that you are familiar with these qualities, please comment on:

- 1) Qualities of Leadership
- 2) Emotional Stability and Maturity
- 3) Religious and Spiritual Life
- 4) Communication Skills
- 5) Academic Ability

Name: _____ Position: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____



Background Information

Name: _____ **Social Security # :** _____ / _____ / _____

ACADEMIC HISTORY

| Name of Institution | City and State | Dates of Attendance | Date of Graduation and Degree Earned |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

JEWISH EDUCATION, IF ANY

| Name of Institution | City and State | Dates of Attendance | Type of Program After School, Day School, etc. |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

HEBREW LEVEL: Please indicate your level of proficiency (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)

| | Read | Translate | Grammar | Conversation |
|------------------------|------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| Modern Hebrew | | | | |
| Rabbinic Hebrew | | | | |
| Biblical Hebrew | | | | |

Learning Needs: If you have any special learning needs (dyslexia, ADD, phobias, etc.), what accommodations do you need? Have you been formally evaluated? Please enclose a copy of any testing. *The results will be shared only with members of the senior administration.*

Master's Program Applicant Essays

1. Explain why you would like to study in AJR's Master's Degree Program in Jewish Studies.

How will participating in this program further your personal and/or professional goals?

2. Please respond to one of these two prompts, A or B:

A. "It is customary to blame secular science and anti-religious philosophy for the eclipse of religion in modern society. It would be more honest to blame religion for its own defeats. Religion declined not because it was refuted, but because it became irrelevant, dull, oppressive, insipid. When faith is completely replaced by creed, worship by discipline, love by habit; when the crisis of today is ignored because of the splendor of the past; when faith becomes an heirloom rather than a living fountain; when religion speaks only in the name of authority rather than with the voice of compassion--its message becomes meaningless."

-Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, (1907-1972) *God in Search of Man: A Philosophy of Religion*.

B. "... If statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of stardust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also away out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself, and be excused for it.

The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed; and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?"

-Mark Twain, "Concerning The Jews," *Harper's Magazine*, 1899.