

# **Undergraduate Torah Studies Programs**

The guiding vision of Yeshiva University—that the best of the heritage of contemporary civilization and knowledge is compatible with the ancient traditions of Jewish law and life—is embodied in the University's dual curriculum of general and Torah studies. In original Hebrew and Aramaic.

Intended to deepen ethical and philosophical insight and values, and to broaden textual skills and analysis, these programs also offer valuable training in research methods and opportunities for independent work. Students often forge life-long relationships with *Rebbeim* (faculty), *Mashgichim* (spiritual guidance counselors), and fellow students. To achieve this end, each student must be enrolled in a full course of study in any one of the University's four Undergraduate Torah Studies (UTS) programs: the Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies (IBC), James Striar School of General Jewish Studies (JSS), Irving I. Stone Beit Midrash Program (SBMP), or Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies (MYP).

The UTS programs offer robust programatic opportunities both on and off-campus, which provide many opportunities for students to learn from their teachers and friends in a relaxed and com ` R Mvide an opportunity to orah studies and to discuss the student's ishing to enter a UTS program must a respect for Yeshiva University's distinctive y to learn Jewish texts.

#### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

#### Associate of Arts (AA)

- A. **Course and credit requirements**: See the specific course and credit requirements as noted by each program.
- B. **Residence requirement**: Full-time residency in the Undergraduate Torah Studies programs for at least four semesters.
- C. Grade requirement: A minimum cumulative average of 2.000 (C grade).
- D. Administrative requirements: The prior or simultaneous receipt of a Bachelor's degree. Each student must have filed an Application for Degree during the registration period of the semester in which he completes all requirements.



### SCHOOL REGULATIONS

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all their scheduled class sessions and to be present promptly at the beginning of the session unless prevented from doing so by illness or other compelling cause. The instructor keeps a record of each student's class attendance.

A student's attendance record is taken into account when determining his continuing status in the program. Continued unexcused absences of more than 50% of the scheduled sessions will result in the student receiving a grade of a G for the course, which may lead to probation or academic dismissal from the school.

Permission to register late in a course does not in itself excuse the student's absence from classes already held.

**Probation**: Students who do not maintain a GPA of at least 2.000 will be placed on probation for the next academic semester. Students on academic probation are limited to 13 credits in Yeshiva College or Sy Syms, including a mandatory transfer of UTS credit that appears on the Bachelor's transcript as HES credit. Other restrictions follow those of the undergraduate schools as noted in the catalog.

Students with two consecutive semesters or three semesters overall of work below a 2.000 are subject to dismissal from the school. Students must show positive progression through the program and cannot graduate if in their final semester they receive less than a 2.000 GPA.

#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY), representing the UTS student body, meets regularly with the administration on matters of mutual concern. SOY coordinates and sponsors activities such as Shabbatonim, holiday celebrations, guest speakers, charity drives, periodic sales of *seforim* (texts) and lectures.

#### ETHICS AND SCHOLARSHIP

Faculty and students alike seek to create an atmosphere that provides and promotes the highest standards of ethical conduct and scholarship in the achievement of personal and professional goals. All rules and procedures delineated in the University's academic integrity policy on cheating and plagiarism apply to students in Undergraduate Torah Studies courses.

## ISAAC BREUER COLLEGE OF HEBRAIC STUDIES



The James Striar School is a comprehensive program for students seeking to improve and expand their skills and knowledge of Jewish studies on either the beginning or intermediate level. JSS is the only introductory Jewish studies program for college age students in the country designed to be taken simultaneously with a prestigious college program on the same campus. No matter what background they may have, all JSS students demonstrate an eagerness to grow in their commitment to "Jewish Living, Jewish Learning, and Jewish Leadership."

The program teaches the fundamentals of Jewish scholarship and heritage through a unique curriculum and exciting out-of-classroom experiences. It offers courses in Hebrew language, Bible, Mishnah & Talmud, and Jewish History, Philosophy, Laws, & Customs. Rabbi Moshe Besdin zt"l, the founding director, sought to create an atmosphere dedicated to teaching "It, and not just about It" – i.e. to learn about Judaism in text and context, in thought and practice.

The program sponsors regular weekend retreats/Shabbatonim as well as field trips to enhance the academic and Jewish experiences of its members. In addition to formal classes, the program fosters close relationships between teachers and students through continuing individual guidance.



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## YESHIVA PROGRAM/MAZER SCHOOL OF TALMUDIC STUDIES

The Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies (MYP) offers an undergraduate course of study in which Talmudic texts and commentaries are studied intensively in the original Aramaic and Hebrew in a classical yeshiva setting.

MYP was named through a major gift in 1979 by the Joseph and Ceil Mazer Foundation. It has been in existence as a separate entity since 1970, but is a continuation of the institution's oldest component, the yeshiva from which the university developed. Students in MYP have varied professional and academic interests but are united in their desire to develop in Talmudic scholarship and knowledge of *Halakhah* (Jewish law).

The heart of the curriculum is the intensive study of Talmud and its commentaries, designed not only to give the student a firm foundation in traditional learning skills and in the handling of original texts, but also direction, in both learning and character, and to develop an appreciation of the Jewish tradition. Students prepare for their lectures by studying with chavrusa partners in the *Beit Midrash* – which has always been the academic heart of the great centers of Jewish learning through the ages.

In addition to Talmud, there are elective classes in related texts and lectures in Mussar, which emphasize ethics, character improvement and an emphasis on the continuity of Jewish tradition from Sinai to the present. The faculty includes graduates of the foremost yeshivot, both here and abroad, who are internationally recognized scholars.

An integral part of the program is the highly successful voluntary night *seder* (study period) in the *Beit Midrash*, overseen by night *seder* Rebbeim and *shoalim u'maishivim*. Students also have the opportunity to attend *bekiut shiurim* (classes in additional Talmudic texts).

A strong complement of mashgichim/shoalim u'maishivim (spiritual guidance counselors/teaching mentors) who staff the various Batei Midrash for regular morning and night sedarim helps students in their learning and spiritual growth. Additionally each shiur has an assistant to help students in their learning and ensure newcomers a smooth transition to MYP from either high school or Israel Yeshiva experience.

Students may transfer up to three credits per semester toward completion of their bachelor's degrees at Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School of Business.

**Class Assignments**: Students are assigned to classes by the Dean, *bochein*, or a Mashgiach based on level and progress of learning as well as on student s hi - us Mt !

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Students must remain in the program three years and are encouraged to allow four years for college, beyond their studies in *Eretz Yisrael*.

Additional Program Benefits: Scholarships ranging from partial to full tuition