

JEWISH STUDIES, BS

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 additional majors or certificates including Art (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/art/art-bs/>), Education (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/educational-policy-studies/education-studies-bs/>), Geography (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/geography/geography-ba/>), History (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/history/history-ba/>), Music (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/music/music-ba/>), Political Science (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/political-science/political-science-ba/>), Religious Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/religious-studies/religious-studies-ba/>), and Sociology (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/sociology/sociology-ba/>). Given the broad history and geography of the Jewish experience, Jewish Studies also pairs well with programs like African Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/african-studies-certificate/>); Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/classics-ancient-near-eastern-studies/>); European Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/european-studies-certificate/>); German, Nordic, and Slavic (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/german-nordic-slavic/>); and Middle East Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/middle-east-studies-certificate/>). To sample the variety of Jewish Studies offerings, check out our current courses (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/jewish/>).

HOW TO GET IN

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Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers.
Courses required to get in	None

GPA requirements to get in None

Credits required to get in None

Other None

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 (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	Requirements
	• 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 *

* 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 SCIENCE (BS)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science 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 the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics	Complete two courses of 3+ credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level in MATH, COMP SCI, or STAT subjects. A maximum of one course in each of COMP SCI and STAT subjects counts toward this requirement.
Language	Complete the third unit of a language other than English.

L&S Breadth	Complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 credits of Humanities, which must include at least 6 credits of Literature; and • 12 credits of Social Science; and • 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include 6 credits of Biological Science and 6 credits of Physical Science.
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Liberal Arts and Science Coursework Complete at least 108 credits.

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced Coursework Complete at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level.

Major Declare and complete at least one major.

Total Credits Complete at least 120 credits.

UW-Madison Experience Complete both:

- 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. Each course may count toward only one required area.

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
5. The Core Seminar

GATEWAY COURSE

Complete one Gateway Course.

Code	Title	Credits
JEWISH/ LEGAL ST/ RELIG ST 203	Jewish Law, Business, and Ethics	
JEWISH/ RELIG ST 211	Introduction to Judaism	
JEWISH/ RELIG ST 215	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/ 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/ 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	
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 356	Jerusalem, Holy City of Conflict and Desire	
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
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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
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/ 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	
CURRIC/ED POL/ HISTORY/ JEWISH 515	Holocaust: History, Memory and Education	
JEWISH/ HISTORY/ SOC 518	Antisemitism in European Culture	
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
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

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This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

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/ MEDIÉVAL/ 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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DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS MAJOR

If you are interested in the possibility of declaring a major in Jewish Studies, make an appointment with the undergraduate advisor.

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.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students