

Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership

Master of Arts in Jewish Professional Studies

Frequently Asked Questions— and Answers

What is the MAJPS Program?

The Master of Arts in Jewish Professional Studies (MAJPS) program is a model of learning and skill development specifically for professionals who work for and with the Jewish community. It offers core courses in the areas of classical and contemporary Jewish knowledge that are most relevant to Jewish communal life today, combined with essential professional training from one of two concentration areas: Nonprofit Management and Jewish Studies.

Where do classes take place?

Most Chicago cohorts meet at the award-winning Spertus Institute building at 610 S. Michigan Avenue (approximately four blocks south of the Art Institute and two blocks from the Harrison Red Line stop). Discount parking is available nearby. Off-site cohorts take place in select cities across the US, and in Canada and Israel.

Is Spertus Institute accredited?

Yes. Spertus Institute is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

What type of student is enrolled in the MAJPS program at Spertus Institute?

Students are professionals from a broad range of agencies and organizations that serve the Jewish community, as well as individuals currently working in other areas but looking to switch careers. Most students begin the program with 3–5 years of professional experience under their belt, although the program has been useful and important for participants with considerably more work experience as well.

How long is the program?

Students can complete the program in two years and three months.

What are the hours and days that students attend class?

Students attend class one night per week, always on the same evening of the week, from 6–9 pm. In addition, there are two intensive seminar courses per year.

Who teaches in the MAJPS program?

Our highly credentialed faculty members have extensive experience in their fields and many have taught in this innovative program since its start in 2008. The Spertus MAJPS program also has a strong mentoring component that fosters professional development and the integration of coursework and professional work. MAJPS mentors are experienced Jewish communal professionals working in the upper echelons of their fields.

What is the class size?

The MAJPS program is run on a cohort basis, offering the opportunity for students from a range of institutional and professional backgrounds to network, learn from one another, and create a vibrant community of practice. Cohorts generally consist of 10-18 students.

How much is the tuition?

For US students, the cost of the two-year program is \$18,000. Through a combination of fellowship and scholarship funds, students who work for Jewish organizations are eligible for a tuition reduction of approximately 65%. Additional scholarship support may also be available, including up to \$1,000 for students who reside in the City of Chicago. For Canadian students, the full cost of the program is \$25,425. Through a combination of scholarship funds in partnership with JFC-UJA, Canadian applicants receive a tuition reduction of approximately 45%, reducing the student cost to \$14,000.

How much for textbooks, materials, and other fees?

The cost for textbooks and materials averages \$200 per year. Students will also be responsible for a graduation fee.

Is there financial aid available?

Yes. Financial aid is available in the form of subsidized and unsubsidized federal loans.

What if I have young professionals who work at my organization whom I think might benefit from this program or something similar?

Thank you for thinking about staff members who deserve an opportunity to grow as Jewish professionals! We can provide organization-specific cohorts (as we have done for the Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago) or your staff members can apply for a cohort with students from other area organizations. The individualized portion of the curriculum (including the mentorship and applied final project) can be geared to specific needs or goals in your organization. Payment plans can be arranged for organizations paying all or part of students' tuition.

How long is each course?

Each course lasts eight weeks.

What are the academic requirements?

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 (on a 4.0 scale). No GMAT or GRE required.

What is the application process?

Prospective students need to (1) Submit a completed application, (2) Submit an admissions essay of 500 words, (3) Provide official transcripts from all colleges attended, and (4) Participate in an interview with the admissions committee.

How long does the application process take?

Once the application is completed, the student should receive a reply from the MAJPS office within two to three weeks.

What about parking downtown?

Discount parking is available for \$8 at Grant Park Garage South at 325 S. Michigan Avenue. The discount is good for up to 12 hours with Spertus validation (available in our lobby). Beyond 12 hours regular rates apply. Spertus is also easily accessible by public transportation.

How can I get more information?

Contact **Center for Jewish Leadership Director of Enrollment Anita Silvert**, to discuss your goals and learn how the Spertus MAJPS program can accelerate your career or empower your staff. Reach her at asilvert@spertus.edu or **312.322.1707**.

