

Frequently Asked Question and Answers

MA in Jewish Professional Studies | North American Cohort

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 in nonprofit management and leadership development.

Where do classes take place?

Most courses take place during seminars at the award-winning Spertus Institute building, at 610 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago (approximately four blocks south of the Art Institute and two blocks from the Harrison Red Line stop). Web conferencing and online study cover the remaining coursework.

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 three to five years of professional experience, although the program has been useful and important for participants with considerably more work experience as well. For those with 12+ years of senior management experience, we suggest looking at our accelerated Executive MAJPS. See spertus.edu/executive

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?

The MAJPS-North America program consists of five weeklong seminars (two per year) at Spertus Institute in Chicago. Each seminar runs Sunday –Thursday. The remaining coursework is delivered through web conferencing.

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 and consultants 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 12–20 students.

How much is the tuition?

The full cost of the two-year program is \$21,000. Through a combination of fellowship and scholarship funds, students who work for Jewish organizations may be eligible for a tuition reduction of approximately 60%. Contact Director of Enrollment Anita Silvert at asilvert@spertus.edu or 312.322.1707 for details.

How much are textbooks, materials, and other fees?

The cost for textbooks and materials averages \$200 per year. Students are responsible for travel, accommodations, and a graduation fee.

Is there financial aid available?

Yes. Financial aid is available in the form of Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Loans. For Questions about financial aid please contact Judith Wood at jwood@spertus.edu or 312.322.1780.

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) if you have enough students to fill a cohort. Or, your staff members can apply for a cohort (such as the North American cohort) with students from other organizations. We are glad to discuss details about customization, financing, needs, and goals.

What are the academic requirements?

We require 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, (4) Submit a current resume, and (5) Participate in an interview with the admissions committee.

How long does the application process take?

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

How can I get more information?

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

Center for
**Jewish
Leadership**

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