Judaic Studies

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. The Frankel Center for Judaic Studies offers students an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Jewish civilization and thought, drawing on the expertise of faculty in multiple related disciplines. As a student of Judaic Studies, you will learn to engage multiple worlds, speak several languages, obtain a broad-based liberal arts education, and develop excellent critical thinking and communication skills.


SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Language Skills
Reading for understanding
Interpreting complex languages
Translating ideas/language
Evaluating translations against original text
Perceiving word patterns and structures
Communicating cross-culturally

Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills
Developing appreciation for other cultural perspectives
Examining the relationship of historical, economic, religious, and political forces
Understanding the dynamics of culture in society
Working with competing notions and ideas

Research/Analytical/Project Skills
Identifying research topics
Generating and developing ideas
Incorporating interdisciplinary approaches
Comparing/contrasting ideas and concepts
Crafting hypotheses
Critically analyzing results
Working with original sources
Applying methodologies from many disciplines

Communication Skills
Writing clearly
Presenting to an audience
Editing/proofreading materials
Listening critically
Evaluating ideas
Reading for context and tone
Synthesizing information
Explaining complex concepts

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Most concentrations sponsor specific student groups like an undergraduate organization or an honor society. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Other options include off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Study abroad experiences are particularly helpful to improve language proficiency and gain intercultural skills. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.
FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Judaic Studies concentrators develop both general and specific skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, cross-cultural communication skills may be equally useful whether working as a foreign-service officer, a consultant, or a freelance journalist.

Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Judaic Studies graduates.

**Language Skills**
- Interpreter
- Foreign correspondent
- Language teacher
- Manager, language school
- Jewish communal administrator/educator
- Special collections librarian  

**Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills**
- Immigration officer
- Student exchange program coordinator
- Public relations specialist
- Consultant, cross-cultural relations
- Foreign service officer
- Social services assistant
- Physician
- Psychologist/Psychiatrist

**Research/Analytical/Project Skills**
- Lawyer
- Special events coordinator
- Museum/Gallery curator
- Market researcher
- Research assistant
- Legislative staff person
- Director of development
- Arts Center director

**Communication Skills**
- Editor
- College instructor
- Foreign affairs journalist
- Corporate communications director
- Import/Export trade negotiator
- Lobbyist

For more career information, see O*Net at [http://online.onetcenter.org/](http://online.onetcenter.org/)

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites: Judaic 205 (Intro to Jewish Civilizations and Cultures) and second semester proficiency in Modern Hebrew (HJCS 102) or Yiddish (Judaic 102), achieved through coursework or placement exam.

In addition, Judaic Studies concentrators are required to complete a minimum of 24 credits in approved courses, including two courses each in Classical and Modern Judaism, Jewish Literature and Culture, and Jewish History and Social Science. At least two of the courses must include materials from before 1750.

The Center offers an honors concentration to qualified students, as well as a 15 credit minor. Prospective concentrators and minors should consult with the Center’s concentration advisors and refer to the Center’s website for more information.

The Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies
2111 Thayer Building
734-763-9047
[www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic)

Newnan Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
[www.lsa.umich.edu/advising](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/advising)

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: [www.careercenter.umich.edu/students/networking/linkedin_intro.html](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu/students/networking/linkedin_intro.html)

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: [www.careercenter.umich.edu/c3student/](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu/c3student/)

The Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: [http://studentorgs.umich.edu/maize](http://studentorgs.umich.edu/maize)

To explore opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: [http://lsa.umich.edu/cgis/](http://lsa.umich.edu/cgis/) or [http://globalportal.umich.edu/study.php](http://globalportal.umich.edu/study.php)

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: [https://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx](https://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx)

Volunteer Connection lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: [http://volunteer-connection.umich.edu/](http://volunteer-connection.umich.edu/)

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
[www.careercenter.umich.edu](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu)
[www.facebook.com/careercenter.umich](http://www.facebook.com/careercenter.umich)
[http://twitter.com/careercenter](http://twitter.com/careercenter)