

Application for Admission



Please type or print clearly in black ink.

Name: Mr. Ms. _____
first middle last

Current Mailing Address _____
street apt.

city state zip E-mail _____

Day Phone (_____) _____ Evening Phone (_____) _____

Permanent Address (if different) _____

Place of Birth _____ Date of Birth _____ Social Security Number _____ - _____ - _____
month/day/year

Emergency Contact _____
name relationship telephone

Citizenship: US Permanent Resident Other _____

Visa Number _____ Alien Registration Number _____

Current School or Occupation _____

List test dates and scores for the GRE and TOEFL (if applicable) _____

If you have not already taken the test(s), please list expected test date(s). _____ *Note: you must submit an official report of test scores.*

Undergraduate GPA _____ Graduate GPA (if applicable) _____

Applying for: Fall, 20____ (Priority deadline March 1)

M.A.Ed.

Please check here if you wish to be considered for the Program in Jewish Experiential Education.

M.A.T. for Working Professionals

Please check here if you are applying to a joint degree program with the Undergraduate College of Arts and Sciences (B.A./M.A.Ed.).

Please check here if you are applying to a joint degree program with the Graduate School of Nonprofit Management (M.B.A./M.A.Ed.).

Please check here if you are applying to a joint degree program with the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Rabbinic Ordination/M.A.Ed.).

Have you ever applied for admission or been a student at the American Jewish University? If so, when and what program?

To what other graduate schools are you applying? _____

Have you spoken with an American Jewish University representative? Yes No If yes, with whom? _____

How did you hear about American Jewish University? (check as many as apply)

Graduate school fair Workplace Conference/Event, which one? _____

Mailing/E-mail Driving by On-campus event, which one? _____

Word of mouth Web search engine Other _____

Family/Friend Advertisement, which one? _____

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Early applicants will receive priority review for scholarships. To be considered for merit and need-based scholarships, please submit the following with your application:

- Submit an American Jewish University Financial Aid Application to the Office of Financial Aid
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid of American Jewish University at 310-476-9777 x252.

An application for financial aid will not in any way affect your application for admission.

(continued on next page)

Letters of Recommendation: The Graduate Center for Education requires a minimum of two letters of recommendation (*one must be academic and one must be professional*). Please list the names, occupations, addresses and telephone numbers of the people you have asked to write and submit letters on your behalf. The accompanying Letter of Recommendation forms must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions. In some cases, the admissions committee may request one additional reference.

	<i>name</i>	<i>title/occupation</i>	<i>address</i>	<i>telephone</i>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary, to complete the information below.

Post-Secondary Education: Please list chronologically all colleges and universities attended since high school. Include extension and non-degree programs.

	<i>name of institution</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>dates of attendance</i>	<i>major</i>	<i>degree</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Do you consider your academic record an adequate index of your intellectual ability? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Informal Post-secondary Jewish Learning Experiences: Please list chronologically any institutes, Israel programs, study groups, travel-study experiences, summer camps, retreats, etc. attended that are relevant to your plans to study at the Graduate Center for Jewish Education.

	<i>program</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>dates of attendance</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Professional Experience: Please list chronologically from most recent. Include formal and informal teaching experience, including volunteer work.

	<i>date of employment</i>	<i>position</i>	<i>employer</i>	<i>address</i>	<i>telephone</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

List any relevant awards, honors, distinctions and scholarships received: _____

Extracurricular Activities:

	<i>activity</i>	<i>dates of participation</i>	<i>offices/positions held</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Proficiency in Hebrew: Please rate yourself to the best of your ability in the following areas:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Reading (unvocalized text with comprehension): | <input type="radio"/> Beginner | <input type="radio"/> Intermediate | <input type="radio"/> Advanced |
| Writing (with comprehension): | <input type="radio"/> Beginner | <input type="radio"/> Intermediate | <input type="radio"/> Advanced |
| Speaking: | <input type="radio"/> Beginner | <input type="radio"/> Intermediate | <input type="radio"/> Advanced |
| Knowledge of Hebrew grammar: | <input type="radio"/> Beginner | <input type="radio"/> Intermediate | <input type="radio"/> Advanced |

Essay: On separate sheets of paper, please address the essay questions listed in the Instructions for Applicants. Essays should include your name and a page number on each page and should be submitted with this application.

Signature: I certify that I have considered each item on this application carefully and that my statements are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I understand that admission to or enrollment in American Jewish University may be denied if any information is found to be incomplete or inaccurate. I authorize the use of my transcripts and recommendations by the appropriate University personnel in evaluating my application to American Jewish University.

_____	_____
<i>signature of applicant (required to be considered for admission)</i>	<i>date</i>

Send completed application with non-refundable application fee of \$50.00 (payable to American Jewish University) to the address listed below.

Selection of Candidates

The Admissions Committee bases its decisions on careful review of a candidate's credentials, application, supporting documents and appropriateness for the field. All applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) from an accredited college or university, with a competitive grade point average. Admission is open to qualified students without regard to gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, or physical disability.

Since the Fingerhut School prepares Jewish educators, the Admissions Committee must be satisfied that the candidate demonstrates behavioral and professional attributes which make him/her well-suited for fieldwork placements during the M.A.Ed. and M.A.T. programs and work in the field of Jewish Education after graduation. At the discretion of the committee, these attributes may include, but are not limited to: hirability by a Jewish congregation or institution, openness to a range of opinions and practices of Jewish observance and thought, and the ability to be a Jewish role model to one's students.

Application Submission

Completed applications and all supporting materials should be sent by the March 1 priority deadline, to the Graduate Center for Jewish Education Office of Admissions. Applications for the fall semester will be considered on a rolling basis until all spaces are filled. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all application materials are received by the Office of Admissions. We welcome calls or e-mails from students inquiring about the status of application files.

Applicants must submit the following materials:

1. A completed, signed Application for Admission. You may type in the online form and "save as" a PDF. Finally, email the completed packet with 2 essays as one PDF to: educationadmissions@aju.edu
2. Two word processed essays (see Essay Questions).
3. Official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate studies from accredited institutions. Transcripts in any language other than English must be accompanied by an official translation and evaluation. Transcripts must be sent from the institution directly to the Office of Admissions.
4. Students applying to the M.A.Ed Program must submit an official score report from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test.*
5. An official score report from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)* for all international students whose native language is not English and who have not received a degree from an accredited institution of higher education where the primary language of instruction is English.
6. Two letters of recommendation (one must be academic and one must be professional) submitted to the Office of Admissions directly from the person writing the recommendation. Alternatively, a letter of recommendation can be submitted by the applicant if it is contained in a sealed envelope with the recommender's signature across the flap.
7. A non-refundable application fee of \$50.00. Please make checks payable to American Jewish University.
8. OPTIONAL: Submit a recent photograph to help us associate your face with your name.

Interviews

The Graduate Center for Jewish Education School requires all applicants being considered for admission to participate in an in-person or (for applicants that are out of town,) a Skype interview.

Joint Program Applicants

Applicants who are applying to a joint degree program with the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (M.A.Ed./Rabbinic Ordination) should submit the Fingerhut School Application for Admission, a response to Essay Question #1, following, and the Ziegler application in its entirety. Applicants who are applying to a joint degree program with the Graduate School of Nonprofit Management (M.A.Ed./M.B.A.) should submit the Graduate Center for Education Application for Admission, a response to Essay Questions #1 and #2, following, and responses to the Graduate School of Nonprofit Management Essay Questions #2 and #3.

*Test Code #4876

Essay Questions

The Admissions Committee would like to know more about you than is revealed in grade point averages and standardized test scores. On separate sheets of paper, please answer both of the essay questions listed below. Please submit 2-3 typed, double-spaced pages for each essay question.

1. Please respond to ONE of the following three texts. In your response, please display your understanding, interpretation, critique, and application of the text to Jewish education. We are less concerned with your previous knowledge of the text than with thoughtful, reflective, articulate writing. Please indicate in your response to which text you are responding.
 - A. Good teachers possess a capacity for connectedness. They are able to weave a complex web of connections among themselves, their subjects, and their students so that students can learn to weave a world for themselves. The methods used by these weavers vary widely: lectures, Socratic dialogues, laboratory experiments, collaborative problem solving, creative chaos. The connections made by good teachers are held not in their methods but in their hearts – meaning heart in its ancient sense, as the place where the intellect and emotion and spirit and will converge in the human self. . . . The courage to teach is the courage to keep one’s heart open in those very moments when the heart is asked to hold more than it is able so that teacher and students and subject can be woven into the fabric of community that learning, and living, require.
Parker Palmer, *The Courage to Teach* (Jossey-Bass, 1998), p. 11.
 - B. If you begin a new project with serious ideas and lofty ideals, some people will criticize you for being too grandiose or for “too much thinking.” And it is true that in the normal course of events you will invariably fall short of your carefully thought-out vision. That is the way of the world: If you start with cognac, you’ll be lucky to end up with grape juice. But that’s not a bad result when you consider the alternative—if you start with grape juice, you’ll probably end up with Kool-Aid! Let me put it another way. Education that is essentially pareve—that’s neutral and doesn’t take a strong stand—has little chance of succeeding. In my experience, all effective education has at its foundation a distinct and well-considered vision.
Seymour Fox, *Vision at the Heart: Lessons from Camp Ramah on the Power of Ideas in Shaping Educational Institutions* (The Mandel Institute, 1997), p. 3.
 - C. The education of each and every child must . . . be different, depending on his nature, mind, character, and all his other unique qualities. The educator must become aware of these qualities; it will not suffice for him to know himself and his own mind alone, since everything depends on the student being educated. It is not enough to utilize his own mind and his own strength in activating, commanding, and instructing his students; he must grasp the student’s mind and the student’s strength, working and acting within the parameters of each child’s abilities. What he commands and instructs one child should be different from what he commands and instructs the next child, whose nature, will, and personality are completely different from the first. And this is what King Solomon is hinting to us – “educate the child according to his path” – according to the particular path of each and every child.
Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira, *A Student’s Obligation: Advice from the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto* (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1991), p. 6.

לא בכל הנערים שוה הוא החנוך, תלוי הוא בכל נער ונער כפי טבעו, דעתו, מדותיו וכו', ואותם על המחנך להכיר. ולא די לו למחנך אם רק את עצמו ודעתו בלבד יכיר, כי גם במתחנך הדבר תלוי, לא בדעתו וכוחות עצמו בלבד ישמש ויפעל, יצוה ויורה, רק גם בדעת וכחות התלמיד יאחז, ישמש ויפעל, ולא מה שיצוה ויחנך לזה, יצוה ויחנך לתלמיד אחר השונה ממנו בטבע, רצון, מדות וכו'. זה רמז לנו שלמה המלך: "חנך לנער על פי דרכו" - על פי דרכו של כל אחד ואחד.

ספר חובת התלמידים להאדמו"ר מפיסצ'נה, הקדמת המחבר

2. Please tell us something about you that is not covered elsewhere in your application. You may, but are certainly not required to, write about any of the following:
 - Issues you consider important to the future of Jewish education and how you hope to address these issues as a Jewish educator.
 - Special strengths you bring to Jewish education.
 - A teacher or mentor who has influenced you.
 - Influences and events in your life that have led to consider a career in the field of Jewish Education.
 - How graduation from the Graduate Center for Education will help you achieve your career goals.

Please type or print clearly in black ink.

To the Applicant

This letter of recommendation should be sent by the recommender directly to the Office of Admissions. Alternatively, it may be submitted with your application in a sealed envelope with the recommender's signature across the flap.

Under the federal law entitled the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, students are given the right to inspect their records, including letters of recommendation. Please select one of the following:

I expressly waive any rights I might have of access to this letter of recommendation under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 or any other law, regulation or policy.

Date _____ Signature _____

or

I do not agree to the above waiver.

Date _____ Signature _____

Print name of applicant _____

Applying for: Fall, 20____ (Priority deadline March 1)

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M.A.T. for Working Professionals

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To the Recommender

The student whose name appears above is applying for admission to the American Jewish University. Your candid estimate of his/her academic performance, intellectual promise, personal and professional qualities will help our committee in making final selections for admission. Please attach a letter of recommendation indicating how long and in what capacity you have known the applicant, and assessing the applicant's capacities and potential in the following areas:

- Professionalism, especially in relation to employers, co-workers, students and parents
- Capacity to receive feedback
- Potential to succeed in graduate school
- Commitment to the field of (Jewish) education and capacity to succeed in an educational role

Please complete this form and return it directly to: American Jewish University, Graduate Center for Jewish Education Office of Admissions, 15600 Mulholland Drive, Bel Air, California 90077. Please note the deadline listed above. Applications received after the priority application deadline will be reviewed on a space available basis.

(continued on next page)

	Cannot Assess	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Top 10% I've encountered in my career
Native intellectual ability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Breadth of general knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Verbal communication skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Written communication skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emotional maturity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Professionalism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to work with others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to connect with students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capacity for personal and professional reflection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Recommendation

- Strongly recommend with no reservation
- Strongly recommend with minor reservation
- Strongly recommend with substantial reservation
- Do not recommend

Name _____ Date _____

Title/Occupation _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Scholarships from American Jewish University

American Jewish University offers generous merit and need-based scholarships up to 100% of the cost of tuition to qualified MAEd applicants. Candidates who submit their application by March 1 will be given priority consideration for these awards. When determining merit-based awards, the Scholarship Awards Committee will consider each applicant's demonstrated academic achievement, relevant professional experience, leadership qualities, and potential to make a notable contribution to the field of Jewish education.

Day school teachers who apply to the MAT program will automatically be considered for a generous tuition grant subsidized by the Lowy Foundation.

All students who wish to be considered for scholarships, whether need or merit or a combination, must submit an American Jewish University Financial Aid Application and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you have questions about filing the financial aid forms, please contact the Office of Financial Aid of American Jewish University at (310) 476-9777 ext 252. An application for financial aid will not in any way impact a candidate's application for admission.

Additional Scholarship Opportunities

Applicants are encouraged to pursue additional sources of scholarship support, some of which carry the added benefit of prestige. They might consider:

The Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars

The JVS Scholarship Fund

Student Loans

Applicants may qualify for federally funded student loans and may also apply for interest-free loans of up to \$6,000 per year from the Jewish Free Loan Association – Ziering Family Student Loan Fund.