

HEBREW LANGUAGE: INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

At Hebrew College, we seek the wisdom that emerges when we deeply engage sacred Jewish text. Your authentic interaction with the text demands significant study of the Hebrew language to enable you to reveal the divine wisdom within.

OUR APPROACH

Hebrew language instruction at Hebrew College enables students to read and interpret sacred Jewish texts of all eras of Jewish tradition. The curriculum focuses on teaching the grammatical building blocks of the language to enable text study.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

To enter rabbinical school, you must demonstrate knowledge at either the *Mekorot* or *Shanah Aleph* level.

Mekorot: Applicants must have completed the equivalent of two years of college level Hebrew to enter *Mekorot*, our preparatory year immersion program. They should be familiar with basic Hebrew grammar, including the conjugation of regular verbs in the major *binyanim*.

Shanah Aleph: To enter Year I of the program, applicants must be able to read accurately and to comprehend, with the use of appropriate reference materials, basic classical Jewish texts. Applicants must have:

- substantial Hebrew vocabulary,
- knowledge of Hebrew grammar, especially the verb system (all *binyanim* and major verb-root classes), and
- the ability to read and comprehend unvocalized Hebrew texts.

To be at this level, applicants generally must have taken a minimum of three years of Hebrew and have had some experience working with biblical and rabbinic texts.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

All applicants take a series of Hebrew placement exams to assess their Hebrew knowledge. These tests help our faculty work with you to strengthen your Hebrew to prepare for rabbinical school and to tailor instruction to your needs once you are here.

1. All applicants must submit a completed general Hebrew placement test with their application materials. Our Hebrew language staff will analyze the test and provide feedback and guidance for continued growth.
2. It is common for accepted students to need to do additional work to be ready to start in our program. Accepted students in that situation work closely with our Director of Admissions to meet the Hebrew knowledge requirements to be ready by the start of school.

PREPARATION RECOMMENDATIONS

If you need to grow in your Hebrew knowledge to enter rabbinical school, we encourage you to take Hebrew classes at Hebrew College. Our Hebrew courses are designed to give you the foundation you need to thrive in rabbinical school.

We recognize that you may not be able to do so. One option we highly recommend is to do individual online tutoring with [Ulpan Or](#), which is familiar with our program and our learning expectations. To help you find other appropriate courses of study, we offer this learning guide. Thorough and successful study of these resources or their equivalent, with the support of a knowledgeable teacher, should adequately prepare you for the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College.

To enter *Mekorot*:

- [Ivrit Min HaHatchalah](#) (*Hebrew from Scratch*), volumes 1 and 2 in their entirety; and

To enter *Shanah Aleph*:

- [Kriat Beinayim](#)
- Classical-Text Reading Skills:
 - Practice fluently reading vocalized biblical and mishnaic texts
 - Practice comprehending narrative biblical texts (for example, in the book of Genesis)
 - Practice comprehending and accurately reading unvocalized rabbinic texts. Mishnah and Rashi's commentary on the Torah are good texts to work with.