

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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Hebrew College Launches Two New Certificates in Tefillah Leadership

New graduate programs will prepare prayer leaders to cultivate dynamic, living prayer in Jewish communities

NEWTON, MA — 19 Aug 2026 — Hebrew College today announced the launch of two new graduate certificates in tefillah leadership, designed to prepare a new generation of prayer leaders to cultivate dynamic, living prayer.

The **Certificate in Tefillah Leadership: Foundations** offers students from all musical backgrounds the fundamental skills and spiritual toolkit to approach the *amud* and lead traditional davening with feeling. The **Certificate in Tefillah Leadership: Advanced Practice** is geared to students with extensive prayer leadership experience and a strong musical background who long to deepen their practice and hone their skills. Each certificate consists of two years of study: one year focused on Shabbat, the second on the High Holy Days.

Tefillah leadership, real and vulnerable, is a multi-layered, nuanced art form, one that calls for training in liturgy and song as well as in listening — to the community, to the Divine, to our ancestral musical lineage and to what emerges in this present moment. At a time when Jewish communities are searching for new ways to pray together, we believe that renewal and innovation arise from deep engagement with our inherited musical and liturgical traditions.

Led by Hebrew College Rosh Tefillah and Artist-in-Residence Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer, RS '14, the certificates' course modules will be taught by Hebrew College's renowned faculty in partnership with masters of Jewish prayer traditions in the Boston area and beyond.

This in-person program is housed within our rabbinical school, and open to the Greater Boston Jewish community. We invite rabbinical students, Boston-area alumni, lay leaders, professional clergy, and musicians of Jewish traditions to apply for this two-year graduate certificate, or to join us for individual course modules. If you have questions about which certificate is right for you, please reach out to jmeyer@hebrewcollege.edu.

To learn more about the program or apply, visit our website:
<https://hebrewcollege.edu/prayer-leadership-certificates/>

Please see below for 2026-2027 course offerings:

Foundations Year I: Shabbat

Embodied Theology of Prayer

Instructor: Rabbi Nehemia Polen

Shabbat Nusah I and II

Instructor: Rabbi-Cantor Michael McCloskey

Haftarah Trope

Instructor: Cantor Louise Treitman

Master Class in Tefillah Leadership

Instructor: Jessica Kate Meyer

Vocal Technique for Prayer Leaders

Instructor: TBD

Advanced Practice Year I: Shabbat

Embodied Theology of Prayer

Instructor: Nehemia Polen

Master Class in Tefillah Leadership

Instructor: Jessica Kate Meyer

Nusah, Nign, Hazones I and II

Instructor: Hankus Netsky

The Kedusha in Liturgy and Song

Instructor: Jessica Kate Meyer

Vocal Technique for Prayer Leaders

Instructor: TBD