HEBREW AND TEXT PREPARATION: INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

At Hebrew College, we enable our students to cultivate a personal relationship with Torah as a member of the community of people contributing to the ongoing emergence of Torah in the world. To do so, students must gain significant knowledge of Hebrew language and familiarity with decoding sacred Jewish texts in their original language.

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 PROCESS

As part of the admissions process, applicants must complete a text skills assessment to help determine placement level. It is common for applicants to need additional learning to be ready to start in either Mekorot or Shanah Aleph. Our faculty provide feedback about placement and guidance for how to continue to grow to be ready to start in our program. Please be in touch with our Director of Admissions for copies of these tests and to develop preparation plans.

MEKOROT REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have completed the equivalent of two years of college level Hebrew to enter Mekorot, our preparatory year immersion program.

When given a text ahead of time, entering Mekorot students must be able to:

1) Read the Hebrew out loud with comfort
2) Be able to identify a three letter shoresh of a *regular verb* (eg, identify דבר in אדבר)
3) Understand the syntax: identify what the verb, subject, and object or indirect object is in a sentence

Entering Mekorot students are expected to be familiar with the basic structures of the major Binyanim (*qal*, *niph'al*, *pi'el, hiph'il* and *hitpa'el).*

Preparation:

If you have access to in-person courses at a local university or as part of an intensive ulpan, such as at Middlebury College, we highly recommend that. If you are able to spend time studying in Israel, we highly recommend spending time learning at Pardes or the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. If you are looking to prepare virtually, Hebrew College offers a variety of Hebrew courses online specifically geared towards individuals preparing for rabbinical school. Please be in touch with our Director of Admissions to discuss your preparatory plans.

SHANAH ALEPH REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have completed the equivalent of three years of college level Hebrew to enter Shanah Aleph, the first year of our five-year program.

Shanah Aleph students are expected to have previous experience studying *tanakh* and *mishna* in the original language. When given a text ahead of time with approximately 2 hours to prepare, entering Shanah Aleph students must be able to:

1) Read the Hebrew of unvocalized texts with comfort
2) Be familiar with reference tools such as the BDB and Jastrow
3) Identify a three letter shoresh of *regular* and the most common *irregular* verbs (eg, identify דבר in אדבר; and eg. ראה in ויראו)
4) Understand the syntax of a sentence and identify verb, subject, and object or indirect object
5) Identify binyanim in Biblical Hebrew
6) Translate 10 verses of *tanakh*
7) Translate 2-3 *mishnayot* (ie, move through an unseen *mishna,* with the use of dictionaries, in about 10 minutes)