

NAJC Beis Midrash/Metivta/ Yeshiva/Kollel Equivalency



Application

Educational Pre-Requisite for NAJC Certification

Have completed an undergraduate degree from a college, university, or theological school accredited by a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (www.chea.org); and a graduate-level theological degree from a college, university or theological school accredited by a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The official Standards of Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains require:

- Bachelor's Degree from an institution of higher education whose accreditation is recognized by the Council of Higher Education [CHEA];
- Graduate Theological Education Degree, through participation in a program of ordination or investiture through a seminary whose accreditation is recognized by the Council of Higher Education [CHEA] totaling a minimum of 72 semester hours;

As it is common for Jewish graduate learning to take place outside of the context of the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree, NAJC also recognizes graduate degrees in Jewish Studies, Rabbinics, Talmudic Studies, Jewish Education, Jewish Communal Service, Masters of Hebrew Letters, Jewish Sacred Music, and Hebrew Bible as meeting the requirement for a graduate degree in a Jewish subject matter, when granted by an academic institution whose accreditation is recognized by CHEA.

Graduate degrees from CHEA recognized institutions of higher education that are in a related subject not specified herein may be approved at the discretion of the NAJC Certification Commission or their appointed representative.

Recognition of graduate education from a non-CHEA recognized institution of higher education may be recognized through applying for an Education Equivalency.

The candidate must demonstrate proficiency in the following core Jewish subject matter areas: liturgy, Hebrew calendar/lifecycle rituals, halakha, Jewish bioethics, Hebrew, and Jewish theology/philosophy especially as they relate to existential issues of illness, death, dying, and bereavement.

Equivalencies for Learning Completed in an Orthodox Yeshiva/Mesivta/Metivta/Kollel

NAJC recognizes the yeshiva/mesivta/metivta/kollel model as a historical model of Jewish education that predates the college/university model of education. Candidates for Board Certified Chaplain seeking equivalencies for a bachelor's and/or a master's degree using learning completed in an Orthodox yeshiva/mesivta/metivta/kollel can complete this form. Completed forms will be evaluated by evaluators familiar with the Orthodox yeshiva/mesivta/metivta/kollel learning paradigm. The Orthodox Yeshiva/Mesivta/Metivta/Kollel Form can be completed for a Bachelor's Degree, Graduate Theological Education Degree, or both degrees.



Instructions

- Step 1** Fill out the NAJC Orthodox Yeshiva/Mesivta/Metivta/Kollel Form.
1. Complete each section according to the instructions, including all requested information.
 2. Any section that does not apply or that you do not use should be marked as N/A (Not Applicable).
 3. Supporting documentation is may be required to grant an equivalency. In each section, indicate the corresponding document you are submitting.
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- Step 2** Submit the documentation indicated in the sections below to apply for an equivalency.
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- Step 3** Upload NAJC Orthodox Yeshiva/Mesivta/Metivta/Kollel Form and all supporting documentation to your equivalency portal in member365.



Candidate Planning Rubric for Requesting Equivalencies for Learning in Orthodox Yeshiva/Mesivta/Metivta/Kollel

Item	Criteria	Yes	No	?	#
1	Requesting Bachelor's Degree Equivalency Using Equivalency by Transcript	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Total Semester Hours Requested Using Transcript			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Requesting Master's Degree Equivalency Using Equivalency by Transcript	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Total Semester Hours Requested Using Transcript			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	I have Yoreh Yoreh semicha in Issur V'heter, occasionally referred to as Issur V'heter or Heter Hora'ah semicha. NAJC determined that Yoreh Yoreh semicha in Issur V'heter meets or exceeds the Bachelor's Degree and Graduate Theological Education pre-requisites for a Board Certified Chaplain. If you meet this requirement, check 'Yes' and submit a completed form with a copy of the teudat semicha of your Yoreh Yoreh semicha in Issur V'heter or the klaf of your Yoreh Yoreh semicha in Issur V'heter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	I graduated from the Rabbinical College of America (RCA-Chabad). The RCA is an accredited institution for higher education in the United States. No equivalency is required. Please indicate that you graduated from an RCA-Chabad bachelor's and/or master's program on your application.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	I am a Regular Member of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA). NAJC has determined that the requirements for Regular Membership of the RCA meet or exceed the Bachelor's Degree and Graduate Theological Education pre-requisites for a Board Certified Chaplain. If you meet this requirement. Please check this box and submit the completed form and a your documentation of current Regular Member status with the RCA.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	I have Yoreh Deah semicha, and spent at least six years (at least five hours a day) of post-high school learning in a traditional beit midrash/yeshiva/mesivta/metivta/kollel setting. NAJC has determined that Yoreh Deah semicha in conjunction with a minimum of six years (for at least five hours a day) of post-high school learning in a traditional beit midrash/yeshiva/mesivta/metivta/kollel setting meets or exceeds the Bachelor's Degree and Graduate Theological Education pre-requisites for a Board Certified Chaplain. If you meet this requirement, please check this box and submit the completed form with a copy of your Yoreh Deah teudat semicha and a document indicating learning in a traditional beit midrash/ yeshiva/ mesivta/metivta/kollel setting for a minimum of 6-years post-high school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Candidate Planning Rubric for Requesting Equivalencies for Learning in Orthodox Yeshiva/Mesivta/Metivta/Kollel

Item	Criteria	Yes	No	?	#
1	I have Yoreh Deah semicha and did not spend at least six years (for at least five hours a day) of post-high school learning in a traditional beit midrash/yeshiva/mesivta/metivta/kollel setting. You will need to document your learning in requesting a Bachelor's Degree and/or Graduate Theological Education pre-requisites for a Board Certified Chaplain. Below, please complete the Orthodox Yeshiva/Mesivta/Metivta/Kollel Equivalency Worksheet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	I have spent at least seven years (for at least five hours a day) of post-high school learning in a traditional beit midrash/ yeshiva/mesivta/ metivta/kollel setting and I do not have Yoreh Deah, Yoreh Yoreh in Issur V'heter, or Yadin Yadin. You will need to document your learning in requesting a Bachelor's Degree and/or Graduate Theological Education pre-requisites for a Board Certified Chaplain. Below, please complete the Orthodox Yeshiva/Mesivta/Metivta/Kollel Equivalency Worksheet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Orthodox Yeshiva/Mesivta/Metivta/Kollel Equivalency Worksheet



Item	Please Check Any of the Following that Apply	Yes	No	?	#
1	I have Yoreh Deah semicha and can submit my teudat semicha.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	I can lead davening for ma'ariv, shachris, and mincha on chol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	I can lead davening for ma'ariv, shachris, and mincha on Shabbos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	I can lead davening for ma'ariv, shachris, and mincha on Shelosh Regalim	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	I can lead davening for ma'ariv, shachris, and mincha on Yamim Noraim	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	I can lein Torah with ta'amei haMikra (tropes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	I know ta'amei haMikra (tropes) for haftarah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	I know ta'amei haMikra (tropes) for the megilot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	I know ta'amei haMikra (tropes) for the Yamim Noraim	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	I can read and translate Hebrew from the Siddur	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	I can read and translate Hebrew from the Chumash well enough to teach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12	I am a member of the Chevra Kadisha	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13	I have studied the laws of Aveilus, Burial and Bereavement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14	I have attended shiurim (online or in person) on Jewish medical ethics and/or bioethics for at least 18 hours.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15	Using the number associated with each box for which you checked 'yes,' calculate the total number of points and enter it into the grey box on the right.				<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
16	Record the total zmanim that you spent learning a minimum of 5 hours a day in a traditional learning setting post-high school. For example, if you spent 1 year in yeshiva post-high school learning for a minimum of 5 hours a day during Elul, choref, and kayitz zmanim, you will enter "3" in the box.				<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
17	Multiply your answer in the box above by 11 and enter this new number in the grey box on the right. For example, if you entered '3' above, you will now enter '33.' This will enter the total number of zmanim credit hours applied towards your equivalency application.				<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
18	Total the numbers item 15 and 17 and enter it in the box. This is the total hours available for NAJC to use to equivalency a Bachelor's and/or Master's Degree.				<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>