Almost one hundred forty years ago, Isaac Mayer Wise dreamed of a seminary, in Cincinnati, to train rabbis for a new world. Since 1875, the Cincinnati campus of HUC-JIR has played a vital role in the Cincinnati Jewish community, and its dynamic faculty and student body have helped to shape Progressive Judaism throughout the world. Situated among the “seven hills” of Cincinnati and across the street from the University of Cincinnati, you will find the 18-acre campus of the College-Institute.

Within the ivy-covered brick walls of our learning centers, the Cincinnati campus of the College-Institute provides a demanding, yet fulfilling academically rigorous course of study. The academic and practical rabbinical training you receive at the Cincinnati campus will enable you to be a rabbi who is a scholar, a pastoral care giver, a counselor, an organizational leader, an educator, and an orator. During your four years here, you will have the time and opportunity to take advantage of the tremendous resources, facilities, and personalities that exist for one purpose--to make you the best rabbi you can be--and to do all of this in the historic place where generations of women and men have acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to lead and serve the Jewish people.

Cincinnati, known as the “Queen City of the West,” has often been called one of the most livable and beautiful cities in the United States. The Greater Cincinnati metropolitan area embraces three states, and nearly two million people call this tri-state region home.
Cincinnati is a place with big-city advantages – fine cultural venues and good restaurants, beautiful parks and museums are coupled with a small-town feel, inexpensive housing, short commutes, close community feeling, which makes Cincinnati an extremely comfortable and friendly place to live as a student.

The following is a brief response to some of the questions about what goes on here in Cincinnati: on campus, in the Jewish community, and in the community at large.

1) What is the curriculum?

Like all three stateside campuses, we have implemented the Three-Year Core Curriculum for rabbinical students. It maximizes the academic, professional, and spiritual/religious growth of our students and helps students better integrate all aspects of their learning, while bringing greater uniformity to the educational experience across our four international campuses.

To this end, the Core Curriculum has several key components:

- Raising Admissions requirements in both Hebrew and basic Jewish knowledge.
- Integrating the Year-in-Israel Program fully into the three-year core curriculum.
- Enhancing the interrelationship of the academic, professional, and spiritual components of rabbinical education, which will enable students to create a vibrant vision of Jewish life.
- Including mentored, in-field experiences with trained mentors, as part of all aspects of clinical education. Implementing a holistic approach to assessment that is focused in the main on helping students grow throughout their tenure at the College-Institute.
- Continuing to build on Hebrew and text skills throughout the curriculum.

If you would like to see a sampling of the current course offerings at each center, please view the website at www.huc.edu.

Each campus offers a variety of additional opportunities for its rabbinical students. Details are listed below.

The curriculum of the Cincinnati campus rabbinical school comprises a dynamic and comprehensive four-year curriculum. There are numerous electives offered within the framework of this program designed to create learned and skilled rabbis. Your faculty advisor and Rabbi Ken Kanter, Associate Dean and Director of the Rabbinical School will work with you to help you successfully navigate the core-curriculum and to plan your electives.
The curriculum allows for and, in fact, encourages flexibility to suit the learning needs of each individual student. Proficiency in a particular area may allow for advanced standing or replacement credit. Students may also, after consultation with the Dean, Director and the faculty, protract their course of study, beyond the usual four-year tenure, to allow for family needs, tutorial assistance or for other reasons.

Classes are scheduled Monday through Thursday, between 8:00 am-4:25 pm, with a daily time for worship. Typically, a class meets Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday for one hour and 15 minutes. Depending on the courses you take, you may or may not have a full load of courses on any given day. Some professors choose to offer elective courses in the evening at their homes. Students may choose to complete some of their elective courses as independent classes they design with a faculty member.

Summer Opportunities

Summer programs are optional. In addition to opportunities to work at URJ camps, with NFTY in Israel, as a summer intern at a congregation, or as a part of the CPE program, your summers may also include individualized readings courses or for personal study. The Cincinnati campus offers formal summer courses, which students have the opportunity to use as elective courses. For many students, this offers the opportunity to take summer classes for personal growth and development, while others utilize these course offerings to create more flexible academic schedules during the regular academic year.

2) Who are the faculty and administration of the Rabbinical Program?

Cincinnati Rabbinical School Administration:

Jonathan Cohen, Ph.D. L.L.B., Dean and Associate Professor of Talmud and Halachic Literature
Kenneth A. Kanter, Rabbi, Associate Dean and Director of the Rabbinical School
Julie Schwartz, Rabbi, Stein Director of Human Relations
Yvon F. Shore, Cantor, Director of Liturgical Arts and Music

Cincinnati Ranked Rabbinical School Faculty:

David Aaron, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor of Bible and the History of Interpretation
Jonathan Cohen, Ph.D., L.L.B., Associate Professor of Talmud and Halachic Literature
Michael J. Cook, Rabbi, Ph.D., Sol and Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judaeo-Christian Studies; Professor of Intertestamental and Early Christian Literatures
Susan L. Einbinder, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor of Hebrew Literature
Nil Fox, Ph.D. Professor of Bible and Director of the School of Graduate Studies

Edward A. Goldman, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Israel and Ida G. Bettan Chair in Midrash and Homiletics

Samuel Greengus, Ph.D., Julian Morgenstern Professor Emeritus of Bible and Near Eastern Literature and Professor of Semitic Languages

Isaac Jerusalmi, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Bible and Semitic Languages

Samuel K. Joseph, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor of Jewish Education and Leadership Development

Jason Kalman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Classical Hebrew Texts and Interpretation

Adam Kamesar, D.Lett. D.Phil., Professor of Judaeo-Hellenistic Literature

Stephen A. Kaufman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Bible and Cognate Literature

Barry S. Kogan, Rabbi, Ph.D., Clarence and Robert Efroymson Professor of Jewish Thought: Professor of Jewish Philosophy

Lowell G. McCoy, M.A., Professor Emeritus of Speech

Michael A. Meyer, Ph.D., Adolph S. Ochs Professor Emeritus of Jewish History

Haim Rechnitzer, Rabbi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Modern Jewish Thought

Richard S. Sarason, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor of Rabbinical Literature and Thought

Ezra Spicehandler, Rabbi, Ph.D., Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Hebrew Literature

Mark Washofsky, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor of Rabbinics

Gary P. Zola, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor of the American Jewish Experience

Faculty-Administration:

Julie Schwartz, Rabbi, Lecturer on Human Relations and Clinical Pastoral Education

Kenneth A. Kanter, Rabbi, Lecturer on Homiletics

Between 18 and 20 congregational rabbis across the North, Midwest, and South serve as Mayerson Mentors. Rabbinical students serving their first year of a bi-weekly student pulpit participate in this program. Students work closely with their mentor throughout their experience. The mentor will spend one Shabbat with the student at the student pulpit and the student will spend one Shabbat at the mentor’s congregation.

Local rabbis serve as Sermon Advisors.

During the Fourth and Fifth year, rabbinical students lead services including a D’var Torah and sermon in the Scheuer Chapel. Students request sermon advisors from among the College- Institute’s faculty and administration and from among the local rabbis.
Additional Educational Opportunities

The Cincinnati campus has formed partnerships with universities and agencies throughout the area to incorporate additional learning opportunities into the rabbinical school curriculum.

The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Fellows Program (Service-Learning)

At HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, we consciously integrate classroom learning, field work practice and personal reflection in order to best prepare our students for the sacred work they will do as religious leaders. We call this sacred service-learning.

The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Fellows Program is an advanced sacred service-learning curriculum that trains rabbinical students in sacred service-learning through classroom study and field work internships at Jewish institutions. The program is directed by Rabbi Jan D. Katzew, Ph.D..
jkatzew@huc.edu.

Clinical Pastoral Education

Each student on the Cincinnati campus is required to complete a Human Relations’ practicum in Clinical Pastoral Education. The CPE program includes on-site training at the Jewish or Children’s Hospitals of Cincinnati. There are also opportunities for advanced CPE training beyond the basic one-unit requirement.

The Cincinnati campus is accredited as a certified Association for Clinical Pastoral Education center. The Cincinnati campus is the only rabbinical school in the world to have earned ACPE accreditation.

Master’s Degree in Education

Cincinnati students have two opportunities to enhance their rabbinical school education by earning a Master's degree in Education:

One is the HUC-JIR Rabbinical/Education program funded through the support of the Jim Joseph Foundation, and is an added year to the traditional rabbinic program. This course culminates in a Master’s Degree in Religious Education.

The second program is offered through Xavier University, a short distance from the HUC-JIR campus. This course of study is designed to be completed within the four year, stateside, rabbinical program. The Master of Education in Educational Administration with a specialization in Jewish education degree is designed for students who wish to develop knowledge
and skills that will enhance their perception and understanding of the operation of a Jewish school or school system.

Ordination-Ph.D. Program

The Ordination-Ph.D. program is designed to encourage academically talented rabbinical students to pursue doctoral degrees at the College-Institute. The program enables students to matriculate into the Ph.D. program of the School of Graduate Studies prior to ordination. The first year of doctoral study is concurrent with the fifth year of the rabbinical program. Students who are admitted to the Ordination-Ph.D. program should be able to reach dissertation status at the end of two years of full-time work following ordination.

Jewish Law and Ethics

The School of Graduate Studies offers Ph.D. and M.A. programs in Jewish Law and Ethics, which include the participation of the University of Cincinnati College of Law. The program features four main areas of study: philosophy and ethics; law; Jewish legal texts; and comparative law and ethics. Students take approximately one quarter of their program at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. At HUC-JIR, they take courses in Talmud, Post-Talmudic Halachic literature, and Jewish ethics. They may enroll in additional courses in ethics and Canon law at Xavier University and at the Athenaeum Catholic Seminary. Beyond the academic focus of the program, students are offered the opportunity to take part in a variety of social service and educational projects.

3) What is community life like at the school?

The community life on the Cincinnati campus is exactly that, a community. Students join together during the day for classes, worship, lunch, and chevruta study. This community continues, even when the school day ends, as many work together in local congregations and continue their course work in evening chevruta groups, attend theatre and other cultural events and share many social events and Shabbatot.

Many students live within walking distance of the campus (almost all are within fifteen-twenty minutes by automobile), and thus, may choose to remain on campus long after classes in order to study and socialize. The renovated Klau Library and the beautifully restored Reading Room of the American Jewish Archives provide open atmospheres for research and study during school hours and on the evenings and weekends.

The community gathers on Monday through Thursday, for morning t’fillah, as well as on Shabbat morning. The Scheuer Chapel, the College’s synagogue, serves as both a prayer space and laboratory for students. Throughout the year, the daily and Shabbat morning t’fillah is led by students, thus, one can find a variety
of different prayer styles. The recently restored Chapel offers comfortable moveable seating that adds to the opportunity for creativity in worship.

Students in the fourth and fifth years deliver sermons on Shabbat mornings. The Beit K’nesset Coordinators, who are elected by their peers and the campus Ritual Committee coordinate the daily t’fillah calendar and holiday celebrations with the support and supervision of Cantor Yvon Shore. In each semester there are community picnics and lunches for students, faculty, staff and their families, and students and faculty members frequently gather in each other’s homes for Shabbatot and festival meals.

Besides holiday celebrations, the community also comes together for various social gatherings and social action opportunities. The RSA, Rabbinical Student Association, comprised of twelve elected students, contributes greatly to the campus community. The RSA is made up of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Class Representatives, Rabbinical Executive Committee representatives (faculty committee), Student Representatives to the Admissions Committee, and one or two Chairs for each of the following committees: ARZA/Israel, Beit K’nesset, Extra-Curricular Affairs, Chen-Chavurat Nashim, Nurture, and Social Action. Extra-Curricular Affairs activities include annual events like “The Big Event,” Super Bowl and Oscar’s parties, and other barbecues, picnics and lunches in and around the community.

4) What are the employment/internship opportunities and requirements?

Second year rabbinical students are generally assigned to monthly or tri-weekly pulpits (congregations) in the Northern, Midwestern, or Southern States. You may request to have a “High Holy Day Only” pulpit. You will also be assigned to teach in a local Reform religious school or at the Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School, under the supervision of our faculty and the congregation’s educator. Before ordination, all rabbinical students are required to serve bi-weekly pulpits or its equivalent (e.g., a supervised internship). Students participate in the Mayerson Mentoring Program, where they are matched with rabbis in the field for mentoring, supervision, and guidance. The Director of the Rabbinical School also acts as a link between the students and the congregation. The Student Ministries Committee (SMC), made up of two representatives of each class, coordinates the annual Pulpit Selection Process. If a student chooses, he or she may have a student pulpit each year of school. All students are paid an honorarium and the congregation covers all travel expenses. Students in their Fourth and Fifth years are eligible to apply for rabbinical internships at local and regional congregations.

There are also employment opportunities on campus (e.g. tutoring, outreach and special programs, Dean’s internships, Youth Programs, etc.) and in the community (teaching Religious school, Hebrew school, and at the Reform Jewish High School, tutoring, adult education, youth group advising --local and regional,
A few select students may also serve as Teaching Assistants or Research Assistants for the faculty of this campus. Because Cincinnati is so reasonably priced, you need not spend most of your time working in order to make ends meet.

5) What are the campus/local resources?

The Campus

The Cincinnati campus was designed to resemble the small, private colleges on the East Coast. On our eighteen acres we have several buildings, including the recently enhanced American Jewish Archives, which includes a state-of-the-art electronic classroom allowing students to learn with thinkers around the world. The beautifully renovated Klau Library provides a perfect setting for study and research, worthy of such an esteemed collection. Additionally the Cincinnati campus provides plenty of places for independent and chevruta study. The Wi-Fi equipped “Bumming Room” and newly renovated and enlarged Teller Student Lounge are favorite student hang outs for meetings, meals, studying and shmoozing. The campus also has quite a bit of green space, in which one can find students, staff, and faculty sitting, eating, tossing a Frisbee and enjoying the outdoors, even practicing martial arts!

Research Facilities on Campus

The Cincinnati campus is home to the following treasures: the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the Klau Library containing over 400,000 volumes (second largest collection of Judaica in the world, as well as home to the David Ellenson Rare Book Collection), the HUC-UC Center for the Study of Ethics, the Skirball Museum, and the Archaeology Center.

The Cincinnati Jewish Community

Cincinnati is one of the oldest Jewish communities in the United States. Within the Greater Cincinnati area the Jewish population numbers 25,000. Besides the rich Jewish history that Cincinnati has to offer, we also have the full complement of Jewish and general agencies. There are five Reform, four Conservative, one Humanistic, and a number of Orthodox congregations. An interesting fact: HUC-JIR graduates serve as senior rabbis of two of Cincinnati’s Conservative congregations and the Humanist congregation. All of the congregations offer a variety of Shabbat and Holiday t’fillot, and some offer daily t’fillot. These congregations are open and welcoming, especially to the HUC-JIR community.

Cincinnati is also home to two Jewish day schools, a newly built Jewish Community Center, two mikvaot, two Hillel foundations, two supermarkets with full-service Kosher departments, a Kosher butcher, a handful of Kosher restaurants, caterers and bakeries. Cincinnati students also have the ability to
explore the Jewish communities of Columbus and Dayton, Ohio; Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky; and Indianapolis, Indiana, as all are within an hour and a half drive of HUC-JIR.

HUC-JIR Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Jewish community have shared a history and partnership over the last one hundred and thirty-seven years. Because of this unique partnership, the Cincinnati Jewish community considers HUC-JIR students as integral members of the community and their primary choices for teachers, b’nai mitzvah tutors, youth group advisors, and adult educators. Consequently, you have the opportunity to become an essential part of the history of the Jewish community in Cincinnati; in doing so you insure its future.

**Culture**

Greater Cincinnati’s vast cultural resources are outstanding - we have a renowned symphony, ballet, and opera. We boast hundreds of historic landmarks, art galleries, and world-class museums. We also have such venues as touring Broadway productions, a Shakespeare festival, local theater productions, chamber music, etc. Students enjoy Cincinnati’s cultural life at a discounted rate through the “Enjoy the Arts” program which allows younger adults access to a wide range of tickets at a significant discount.

Cincinnati is also home to one of the nation’s top zoos, the Freedom Center Museum of the Underground Railroad, the Krohn Conservatory, and King’s Island amusement park. The Tri-state area is home to hundreds of festivals, and fantastic sports venues, from football (in Paul Brown Stadium) to golf, hockey to NASCAR and tennis. Cincinnati is the birthplace of the nation’s first professional baseball team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, today known as the Reds. And don’t forget UC and Xavier basketball!!

If part of your “culture” is shopping... Greater Cincinnati boasts plenty of malls, specialty stores, shopping strips, and boutiques to satisfy even the most discriminating of shoppers. HUC-JIR is also close to two regional outlet malls and the world’s largest International wine-beer and grocery store!

**Shared Facilities**

We are located across the street from the University of Cincinnati (as well as the UC Medical School and Law School), and are close to Xavier University. Their libraries (and Academic courses) are available to our students. However, more often, their students can be found using the vast resources of our library. Students may take courses at these and ten other universities through the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities (GCCCU).

6) **What about the cost of living?**
The Greater Cincinnati area has often been considered one of the country’s most livable and most beautiful regions. Cincinnati is very reasonable in terms of cost of living. Apartments of all sizes and styles can be found near campus and in more suburban settings as well. For those who would prefer to get away from the “roommate style” of life, Cincinnati provides great opportunities to live like royalty – one can spend as little as $400 a month for a one bedroom apartment in a nice area like Clifton. Two bedroom apartments in the “chic” neighborhoods like Hyde Park and Mount Lookout will cost around $800-$1,000 a month. A few students choose to rent or purchase a home or condominium for the years that they will be here. Food and entertainment are also very reasonable.

The Director of the Rabbinical School will provide all Cincinnati bound students with more detailed information on housing, health insurance, job opportunities, pulpits, schooling for children, etc. during January or February of the Year-in-Israel.

7) What if I have a family? What is available for my significant other and/or children?

The Board of Overseers actively assists our students’ families in finding meaningful employment in the area. Cincinnati is home to several Fortune 500 companies (including Procter & Gamble), several major universities and a number of local school districts.

Two Jewish Days Schools: The Rockwern Academy and the Cincinnati Hebrew Day School are available as alternatives to the public school system for children. Yet, the Greater Cincinnati area boasts some outstanding public schools (complete with Hebrew offered as a Modern Language). There are also excellent private schools in the area, including those for students with special learning or physical needs.

What if I am Single?

Cincinnati is a great place to live if you are single, whether or not you are looking for a life partner. More than a few men and women have come to Cincinnati and found their soul mate. You will find that our rabbinical school and its students are points of great pride for this city, and community members are eager to make you feel welcome.

The Jewish community of Cincinnati boasts an active Jewish singles community in conjunction with the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati and the Mayerson Foundation. There is an active Jewish GLBTQ association also sponsored by the Jewish Federation with several Cincinnati HUC-JIR students playing active parts. There are community-wide 20-30’s social events every month, as well as congregational singles and young adult activities. The Cincinnati Jewish and non-
Jewish community hosts numerous sports activities, such as softball and intramural sports leagues.

Please feel free to contact any of these Cincinnati students for their perspectives and information:

**Dana Benson:** Rising-Fifth Year Student, 248-408-0246 or bensond7@gmail.com

Here are some thoughts from current Cincinnati Students:

*It was clear after visiting all the campuses that I needed to go to Cincinnati. First, it was important to me to have unfettered access to incredible institutions on the Cincinnati campus: the Klau Library, the Rare Book Room, and the American Jewish Archives. Having these world class resources available to me as a student has enhanced my study in countless ways.*

*Second, studying on a campus was important to me. Being able to have BBQ’s on the lawn, toss a frisbee, or have a snowball fight in between classes creates a different feeling of community on campus that appealed to me. This community has been a vital part of my experience. Students, faculty, and administration get together to celebrate the Jewish holidays, watch the Super Bowl, go to the theatre, watch the Oscars, and picnic outside.*

*Third, being in Cincinnati allows me to live comfortably and affordably. I can enjoy the burgeoning food scene, the symphony, the theatre companies, the many farmers markets, the Reds, and afford it all while minimizing my student loans.*

*Fourth, as a student in Cincinnati I have the opportunity to learn from and study with Christian and Jewish graduate students. This has been a great gift.*

*Fifth, studying at the Cincinnati campus allowed me extensive opportunities to work with congregations during the year and during the summer. Moreover, I have spent the last few years organizing youth retreats for College and High School students from across North America on the Cincinnati campus. It has been a great opportunity to work with congregations all over the country, the RAC, NFTY National, and Hillels.*

*Finally, Cincinnati is a place that has the benefits of a big city with the feel of a small town. There are phenomenal museums, a very active Jewish young professional scene, a good music scene, some exceptional theatre, a lot of sports opportunities, and an up and coming food scene. Cincinnati is a place that quickly endears itself as a home. There is a lot to explore, exceptional academics, and a great sense of community. I would love to answer any questions you have! **Ari Lorge, Class of 2013**
I chose to come to the Cincinnati campus for a number of important factors, both pertaining to my academic career and my personal life. I initially chose Cincinnati because the cost of living is drastically lower than I found in New York and Los Angeles. As a result, I have been able to afford a higher quality of life than I would have, had I needed to spend more on everyday living expenses. Because living costs are lower on my list of concerns, I have had the luxury of choosing various training programs and non-paying learning opportunities that I may not have chosen otherwise. While the financial advantages of the Cincinnati campus accounted for my initial attraction to the city, once I arrived on campus, I found many more reasons to choose to come to HUC-Cincinnati.

Cincinnati is a true community. Many members of the second, third, fourth and fifth year classes sit and eat lunch together on a daily basis, discuss important issues and bond as a cohesive campus. We have formed a mutually supportive group of Rabbinical students that are socially conscious, engaged in current issues and committed to our campus. This is truly one of the great perks of attending school on the Cincinnati campus. Add to the above list a group of brilliant faculty (many of whom literally wrote the book on the subjects they are teaching) and to me, this leaves no other logical choice but the Cincinnati campus. Matt Zerwekh, Class of 2014

Although I am from New York, I decided that the Cincinnati campus was for me. Having completing my undergraduate education at a small liberal arts school, I really liked the idea of a multi-building campus with green areas and a community feel. Additionally, the ability to live on my own in a nice apartment that would not break the bank was motivation to choose Cincinnati. From the Cincinnati campus, there are some really unique pulpit opportunities that I was excited about and I definitely ended up with one of those pulpits (in Louisiana). As it turns out, there are also tons of opportunities for fun and exciting activities across the area. Even as an east-coaster, I am really happy to be in Cincinnati! Leah Citrin, Class of 2015

Want to hear more from our students? Check out blogHUC! www.huc.edu/blogHUC