Position Statement for Reform Rabbi & Educator

Begins: July 1, 2015

Introduction

The American Hebrew Academy is the only international Jewish college preparatory boarding school for grades 9-12 in the world. Located in Greensboro, North Carolina, on a 100 acre wooded campus, the Academy offers our academically motivated students, who come from 26 states and 31 countries, the opportunity to receive a rigorous college preparatory education while exploring and strengthening their Jewish identity. Approximately ninety percent of our students live on campus, while the other ten percent are day students.

With an average class size of twelve, Academy students are taught by an esteemed faculty most of whom have advanced degrees in their field (67% hold Masters Degrees/31% hold Doctorates or Rabbinic Ordination). Technology is central to every student's experience at the Academy. Each classroom is equipped with Smart Boards and each student receives a business-quality tablet computer. The Academy’s customized classroom design is unique and facilitates the Socratic teaching pedagogy.

The Academy is committed to providing an outstanding Jewish education to all our students, from beginners to experienced learners. Jewish Studies and Hebrew language instruction comprise 20% of our students’ academic schedule. Students take foundational courses in traditional texts (Tanakh, Mishnah, etc.), Jewish history and Jewish thought, taught by our consortium of scholars and rabbis representing many streams of Judaism. Advanced topics are introduced as students progress and choose among courses and perspectives they find most engaging.

Our residential campus includes 16 dormitories, each with a 2,400 square foot Houseparent apartment and a one bedroom efficiency apartment for a House Fellow. Each residence dormitory houses 18-22 students including a senior honor student prefect (Madrich/Madricha). An Associate Houseparent also assists in the management of each student house.

The Academy is anticipating continued growth in our student population. We are seeking a vibrant, engaging and qualified Reform rabbi with a passion for high school teaching and community leadership in a pluralistic setting. The Reform rabbi will be expected to live on campus and take a substantial leadership role in our unique Jewish community. Depending on qualifications and staffing needs, candidates may also serve as a House Parent or House Associate. House Parents’ greater time commitment in campus life activities is compensated by a reduced teaching load. The rabbi is also expected to teach courses in areas in which they hold expertise as a faculty member of the Jewish Studies Department. The Reform rabbi must serve as a positive adult role model who our students will seek to emulate.
Academy History

The American Hebrew Academy was founded in 1996 by Maurice “Chico” Sabbah, z”l and his wife Zmira who dreamed of developing a first of its kind Jewish community in which Jewish teenagers from around the world and from all Jewish denominations and backgrounds could come together and live in a serene environment to enrich their knowledge of Jewish culture, history and religious practice, both traditional and modern while preparing for admission to college and university and future positions of leadership in the community.

In 1999 the first foundational steps were made with the purchase of 100 wooded acres and lake frontage in Greensboro, North Carolina. By early spring 1999, Frank Lloyd Wright’s associate architect, Aaron Green was commissioned to create the master plan for the campus and building designs for every building the Academy would eventually need for the immediate future and for years to come.

On September 10, 2001, the Academy opened its gates to 77 pioneering (“Chalutzim”) students. Today, the Academy is a thriving Jewish educational institution whose graduates have all gone on to continue their education at the finest colleges and universities in the United States, Israel and around the world.

Religious and Spiritual Life on Campus

The American Hebrew Academy seeks to create a community rich with Jewish tradition, culture, and lifestyle. Pluralism at the Academy supports different paths to a fully Jewish life. Each student should share in an active effort to engage in Jewish tradition – intellectually, emotionally, behaviorally, and spiritually – so as to find ever developing and expanding ways to integrate his/her Jewish heritage into their lives. Our goal at the Academy is to provide academic enrichment and Jewish Life programming that allows students to explore and find the Jewish path that is most fulfilling to them. The mission of the Academy is to graduate Global Jewish leaders who are proud of their heritage and who seek to strengthen the future of the Jewish people around the world.

Residential Life on Campus

Residential students live on campus in a house that has a Houseparent, a Fellow, a House Associate, and a Madrich/Madricha (honored student of the senior class). Students usually live two per room and 18 to 22 per house. Laundry facilities, lounge area and bistro are available in each house.

During non-school hours students are provided with a rich array of athletic, theatrical, club, youth group and Tikkun Olam activities. Each weekday evening Z’man Limud (Study Time) is observed between 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM, after which students have free time before “in-house” time and house meetings are called.

The Academy operates as a community 24/7, ten months out of the year including Shabbat and most Jewish holidays (excluding Pesach). As a boarding school our students’ learning extends well beyond the classroom. It is why we say, “At the American Hebrew Academy - High School Can Mean So Much More!” An Academy education encompasses formal classroom work in general and Jewish studies, informal student life, engaging Jewish life programs - communal and religious, sports, theater and a wide range of leadership, Tikkun Olam and community activities.
Campus facilities include a 22-acre lake with boathouse, dock, kayaks and sailboats, an 88,000 square foot athletic center with exercise room, racquetball court, rock-climbing wall, eight-lane competition indoor swimming pool, basketball arena, and snack bar. The campus has eight tennis courts, three soccer fields, a baseball field, a softball field, a soccer stadium, and composite rubberized 400 meter track.

Position within the Organization

This is a full time ten-month position reporting to the Dean of Jewish Life for matters concerning minyan leadership and other rabbinic responsibilities on campus. With respect to classroom matters, Jewish Studies faculty will report to the Dean of Jewish Studies, and for residential responsibilities, to the Dean of Student Life. The academic year is approximately 10 months including interim holidays and a two-month summer recess.

Major Responsibilities

- Teach Jewish Studies courses appropriate to the background of the candidate. The Jewish Studies Department offers studies in areas that include: Bible, Rabbinics, Jewish History, Modern Jewish Thought, Hebrew Language, Leadership, Israel Advocacy, Limudei Kodesh, Tanakh, Synagogue Skills and a varied number of elective topics. The curriculum is dynamic and allows for teachers to share their specific areas of expertise.
- Regardless of their denominational background, teachers in the Talmud and Rabbinics courses work with a common source book which includes interpretative texts from traditional and modern sources, and customize their class materials according to the age, expertise, and interests of their students.
- The Academy is a pluralistic school accepting and respectful of the full range of views expressed by traditional denominational and post-denominational fields of thought.
- Work closely with the Jewish Studies Faculty to coordinate and assist with curricular improvement and projects as a full faculty member.
- Lead engaging and meaningful Reform Shabbat and weekday morning T’fillot (one or two days a week) services with the assistance of students and other lay faculty members.
- Musical talent, both instrumental and vocal is highly desired, but not required.
- Create an atmosphere that is welcoming to students of all backgrounds, and represents the ideals and vision of Reform Judaism.
- Teach in the Jewish Life Skills Program (t’fillah and advanced topics) as part of regular teaching assignments.
- Work under the direction of the Deans of Jewish Life and with other campus rabbis and minyan leaders to bring creative Jewish programming to campus that expands the extracurricular Judaic offerings within the community and beyond the classroom.
- Create a warm and inviting atmosphere for students on Shabbat and Hagim.
Qualifications

- Rabbinic ordination.
- Demonstrable aptitude for teaching at the high school level, ideally in a Jewish Day School or synagogue setting.
- Extensive experience in residential camp or youth group settings (or equivalent) with Jewish teens is highly desirable.
- Ability to energize teens to engage in the vitality of Jewish life on campus and elsewhere.
- Understanding of Jewish values, religious and educational practices among various movements and communities, and ability to appreciate and respect the many views voiced by all denominations of Judaism.

Salary and Benefits

The Academy offers competitive salaries and benefits commensurate with the candidates’ qualifications, credentials and level of experience. A one month paid vacation period is provided together with other paid holidays and personal leave throughout the academic year. The Reform rabbi is expected to be present on campus for all Jewish Life programs including weekly Shabbatot and Jewish holidays when school is in session and students are in residence. The Academy is closed to students for Thanksgiving break, Winter break, Pesach break and summer recess.

The Academy provides a health insurance plan, life insurance plan, dental insurance plan and TIAA-CREF retirement plan. Additional optional insurance plans for extended coverages are also available at additional costs.

Private campus housing is provided to the Reform rabbi who shall reside on campus with family as a condition of employment. Housing and dining benefits for the rabbi and their family are provided at no additional cost and are not considered a taxable benefit. Each residential house has a beautifully appointed four bedroom/three bath attached 2,400 square foot apartment. The first floor includes a master bedroom with private bath, and three additional bedrooms, a second bath and private laundry. The second floor includes a spacious living room, dining room, kitchen space with granite counters and stainless appliances, a foyer, a guest bathroom, and a large personal study. The personal study connects to the living space in the residence hall, and provides privacy for the house parent family. All house parent apartments have a private entrance at ground level.

A two car garage is provided near the entrance to campus for senior house parents. An electric vehicle is provided for convenient transportation on this pedestrian campus. The Academy’s dining service is kosher and operates in accordance with O.U. standards.
Statement of Employment Policy

Discrimination based on an individual’s sex (including gender or pregnancy), race, color, national origin, veteran status, age, disability, sexual orientation or other legally protected status is strictly prohibited at the American Hebrew Academy.

The Academy provides equal employment opportunities for individuals regardless of religion in most positions with the Academy. However, the Academy is committed to the growth and teaching of Jewish values, traditions and practices of the Jewish faith to the students enrolled. Thus, while the Academy employs many who are not Jewish, even persons who are not Jewish will be expected to demonstrate and promote Jewish values, traditions and beliefs where necessary to meet the requirements of their positions. There are certain positions at the Academy that require the individual employed to be Jewish in accordance with Jewish law. The Academy reserves the right to determine which positions will be held exclusively by Jewish employees to best meet the mission of the school.

The above position statement is intended to describe the general content of and requirements for the performance of this job. It is not to be construed as an exhaustive statement of duties, responsibilities, or requirements.

Direct resumes and inquiries to:
Human Resources
American Hebrew Academy
4334 Hobbs Road
Greensboro, NC 27410
FAX: 336-217-7011
cetinnin@americanhebrewacademy.org