

Oy Vey! The Jewish Student's College Search

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As Jewish students and families embark (or continue) on their college search, there are many resources that can help guide this process and provide more information about Jewish life on campus. The best way to know about whether Jewish life on campus is a good fit for a particular student is for this student to visit and explore (see “Suggested Questions” below!). In addition, as students prepare to transition to campus, they may want to consult resources to educate themselves on the controversial issues they may encounter.

Resources

College Search

❖ *Hillel's College Guide* magazine

Hillel's semi-annual College Guide magazine features highlighted colleges, student voices, campus profiles, and admissions advice. Visit <http://www.hillel.org/magazine> to request a copy.

❖ *The Jewish Parents' Guide to Colleges: Helping Your Child Find and Get Into the Right College*
by Jerome Ostrov

This historic and cultural guide to the Jewish campus experience organizes schools by academic selectivity. Readers can identify colleges that provide a welcoming Jewish environment.

❖ *Finding the Right School in the Era of BDS and Intersectionality: A Jewish Parents' Guide to Colleges: 2018-2019 Academic Year*

Also by Jerome Ostrov, this recent work examines anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses and helps students identify schools where they will feel comfortable.

❖ *The Forward College Guide*

The August 2018 edition of this guide provides over 20,000 points of information about Jewish life at 215 universities across the United States. <https://forward.com/series/jewish-college-guide/>

❖ *The OU JLIC Guide 2018-2019: Jewish Life on the College Campus*

This guide profiles 23 North American campuses, detailing their programs, services, food and campus life. It also includes articles on college fit and religious and student life on campus.

❖ Heart to Heart's Map of Kosher Food On Campus: <http://theheart2heartproject.org/koshermap>

Search colleges by kosher food availability, meal plan types, hechshers, and location.

❖ Hillel's College Guide: <http://www.hillel.org/college-guide>

Visit the College Guide records for schools of interest to find details on each, along with ways to connect directly to the Hillel professionals and current students on campus.

❖ Naviance: <https://www.naviance.com>

Students' Naviance accounts provide advanced college search options for colleges with “Kosher Dining,” “Kosher Meal Plan,” and “Large Orthodox Jewish Population.”

Preparing for College

- ❖ AMCHA Initiative: <https://amchainitiative.org/>

AMCHA Initiative is a non-profit organization dedicated to investigating, documenting, educating about, and combating antisemitism at institutions of higher education in America.

- ❖ *Answering Tough Questions about Israel* by Stand with Us

35-page booklet can be found at <https://www.standwithus.com/tough-questions-about-israel>

- ❖ *Fighting Back: A Handbook for Responding to Anti-Israel Campaigns on College and University Campuses* by the Anti-Defamation League

<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/education-outreach/fighting-back-final.pdf>

- ❖ *New Voices - News and Views of Campus Jews*: <http://newvoices.org>

This magazine, written and published by and for Jewish college students, shares information about many topics, including “campus and community.” Check it out to learn more about the climate and trending topics related to Jewish Life on various college campuses.

- ❖ The David Project: www.davidproject.org

The David Project increases pro-Israel sentiment on campus by educating, training, and empowering Jewish and non-Jewish student leaders to be thoughtful, strategic, and persuasive advocates.

Suggested Questions Regarding Jewish Life on Campus

- ❖ Facilities:
 - What type of facilities exist for students who are Jewish? (i.e., Hillel, Chabad, etc.)
- ❖ Student body:
 - What percent of the student body is Jewish? How does this break down across the various sects of Judaism (i.e., Reform, Conservative, Orthodox)?
- ❖ Residence halls (Orthodox students):
 - What are accommodations in the residence halls for students during Shabbat?
 - Is there a place on campus where (Orthodox) students choose to live?
- ❖ Dining (for students observing dietary customs):
 - Where can students find Kosher and/or vegetarian options?
 - Does Kosher dining (traditionally housed in the campus dining hall) or a Kosher meal plan (traditionally housed in Hillel) exist?
- ❖ Services:
 - (Orthodox students) Are there daily minyanim and weekly Orthodox Shabbat services on-campus?
 - (All students) Which types of services are offered on-campus on a weekly basis? Describe the High Holiday services and experience.
- ❖ Academics (for students observing the High Holidays):
 - How accommodating are professors when students are out in observance of the holidays?
- ❖ Social Activities:
 - Are there non-religious opportunities to be involved in the Jewish community through social activities and/or community service?
- ❖ Anti-Semitism and/or BDS or other anti-Israel activity:
 - Have there been any recent incidents on campus? How did the administration respond?