

Teaching Preparation Program For Conservative Synagogues Pittsburgh

Have you thought about earning money in college teaching religious school? Do you want to learn the skills to get a teaching position in most Conservative synagogues throughout the United States? Do you want to do all this plus earn college credit for it? Join the Teaching Preparation Program!

The Teaching Preparation Program consists of:

- Four courses over two years
 - History of Conservative Judaism
 - Hebrew
 - Teaching
 - Bible
- Earn **college credit** for “Year Two” (Bible and Teaching)
- Serve as a teaching assistant during religious school hours (either Sunday or during the week)

Students must be teaching assistants in the classroom as well as attend class on Monday evenings at Beth El Congregation from 6:30-8:30pm.

For more information, or to sign up for the 2011-2012 school year, please contact Beth Goldstein at bgoldstein@ajlpittsburgh.org or 412-521-1101 ext 3203.

Teaching Preparation Program; For Conservative Synagogues

2011-2012 Courses

CTC 305 Hebrew

This course will focus on basic skills of reading and writing Hebrew as well as understanding how to translate select key words and phrases. Additionally, students will learn some key skills in teaching or tutoring Hebrew students. Finally, students will gain an understanding of why certain prayers are selected and/or edited in the Conservative Liturgy and how that selection is a reflection of the Conservative movement's theology.

CTC 300 Conservative Judaism

A year-long study of Conservative Movement's development, including its American origins, its philosophy, principles and institutions. The year will be broken into three units; The History of the Conservative Movement, A look at the Conservative Movement's Theology and An Understanding of the Conservative Movement Today (including the struggles that the movement faces today.)

CTC400 Student Teaching

A required, supervised program of student teaching is provided in cooperation with the student's congregation. Students are assigned to work with teachers one day a week.

2012-2013 Courses

CTC 310: Bible

Survey of the Bible includes a review of the three main sections of the Bible with special attention given to the unique contribution each section makes to the enrichment of modern-day life. Analysis of representative chapters and verses.

CTC 315: Education

The objective of this course is to prepare the student to function as a beginning teacher in Jewish supplementary schools. This course is an in-depth study of the practical areas of lesson planning and classroom management. Approaches to teaching and content areas of theology, Bible Israel, History, Ethics and prayer are explored.

CTC 405: Student Teaching

A required, supervised program of student teaching is provided in cooperation with the student's congregation. Students are assigned to work with teachers one day a week.

FAQ About the Teaching Preparation Program For Conservative Synagogues:

What is the Teaching Preparation Program; For Conservative Synagogues?

The Teaching Preparation Program For Conservative Synagogues is a partnership between AJL/ J-SITE and Gratz College in collaboration with Beth El Congregation. This two year program is designed for 11th and 12th grade teens who are both taking two hours of courses as well as serving as teaching assistants (Madrachim) in the school. At the end of the two year program teens will receive a certificate from Gratz in addition to college credit for two of the four courses.

What is the curriculum?

In the 2011-2012 academic year, the teens will be enrolled in “Hebrew” and “The History of the Conservative Movement”. In the 2012-2013 academic year, the teens will be enrolled in “Bible” and “Teaching”. Both of these courses will be offered for college credit.

Can a teen participate in only one year and still receive the college credit and certificate?

Juniors who enroll this year are committing to two full years of the program for both the courses and as madrichim in order to receive the certificate. Seniors who enroll can participate in the courses as well as the serving as madrichim but will not receive College Credit or a certificate from Gratz.

I also heard there are two different certificates within this program, is this true? What is the difference between the two certificates?

This new program is based on the Reform movement version of this program which stipulates that teens must have been enrolled in Jewish educational programs through 10th grade to be eligible to participate. Gratz College, has agreed to allow teens to participate in this new program under the following terms:

- Teens who have participated in J-SITE or another approved Jewish educational program through 10th grade, a teen can earn a “Teaching Certificate for Supplementary Schools.” This certificate is an existing certificate from Gratz College for teens who have been enrolled in their Hebrew high school from 8-12th grade, have taken courses parallel to what is offered in this program and are Madrichim in the classroom.
- Teens who have not been enrolled in a Jewish educational program through 10th grade may work towards a “Certificate in Teacher Preparation”. Gratz will be launching this new certificate for this pilot program with the Pittsburgh group.

What will Gratz's role be in this program?

J-SITE is in continual contact with the staff from Gratz College. Over the course of the year, staff from Gratz College will visit Pittsburgh to observe classes and speak with teachers and teens. In addition, student's final papers/projects for the college credit courses will be sent to Gratz for final approval. Lastly, all teachers hired to teach in the new Teaching Preparation Program For Conservative Synagogues must be approved by Gratz college.

What is the attendance policy?

In order to complete the certificate and receive college credit students must be present 80% of the time. The 80% includes both their in class time as well as their time as madrichim.

Who will be teaching the courses?

Teachers for the Teaching Preparation Program For Conservative Synagogues will be hired and supervised by J-SITE with oversight and approval from Gratz College.