RABBINICAL SEMINARY INTERNATIONAL

Training Modern Rabbis

A program of Divine Wisdom and Spiritual Guidance for men and women who wish to receive Semicha so they can serve the Jewish community and others as spiritual leaders.

Incorporated 2005

RABBINICAL SEMINARY INTERNATIONAL
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Today’s Rabbi Program

The Rabbinical Studies program of the Rabbinical Seminary International offers a unique individualized program for the training of the Modern Rabbi. This program helps the student cultivate practical skills and knowledge that can enable him or her to serve as a congregational and pastoral rabbi, teacher, counselor, worship facilitator, spiritual healer and teacher of faith.

The program includes instruction in the practical aspects of rabbinical service as well as extensive education in the Bible, Jewish History, Philosophy, theology and varieties of Jewish Spiritual experience. Students work privately with experienced Rabbis and tutors providing as many opportunities as possible to practice their skills in actual situations.

The most important qualification of today’s rabbi is his or her own spiritual and ethical value system. Candidates for Rabbinical Studies should be committed to a life of spiritual development and service to God and Humanity. An ongoing spiritual practice is seen as an integral part of the program of study.

A Rabbi For All Ages

Historically, Jewish communities have offered persons who were called to spiritual service myriad opportunities to serve. The Modern Rabbi Program of the Rabbinical Seminary International is in keeping with a tradition that has been alive in the Jewish community for thousands of years.

The Modern Rabbi is distinguished from the traditional Rabbi in two important ways. First, the main emphasis of the learning experience of the Modern Rabbi is on a personal and practical spiritual ministry. The curriculum of the RSI does not call for intricate technical studies of Jewish law, though as our graduates continue learning, understanding Talmud and the law will become part of their daily life.

Second, the traditional Rabbi has the authority to act as a judge in matters of Jewish ritual and civil law. Today’s Rabbi may judge or interpret the law to the extent of their learning and understanding. More appropriately, he or she serves as a spiritual guide for people searching for a greater spiritual consciousness and understanding of the traditions and the codes of behavior in Judaism.

Along with traditionally ordained Rabbis, Cantors and educators, there is a need and place for today’s Rabbi to offer his or her own contribution toward the spiritual renewal of the human community.
Entrance Requirements (Subject to change)

Students must demonstrate and fulfill the following requirements:

- The ability to conduct religious services in Hebrew and in English, (or other local languages) including Shabbat and holiday services
- Familiarity with the Tanakh, including main themes of the Torah, the basic teachings of each of the Prophets, and knowledge of the Writings
- Familiarity with Jewish perspectives on Biblical interpretation
- General knowledge of Jewish history
- Understanding of the customs and rituals of the holidays and their spiritual meaning for our time
- Regular attendance at synagogue services
- General knowledge of aspects of Talmud
- Knowledge of the principles of pastoral care in hospital visitations, death and bereavement counseling, pre-marital counseling and the issues pertaining to traditional as well as Interfaith marriages and life-cycle ceremonies
- Knowledge of Jewish ethics and philosophy with emphasis on Martin Buber and Abraham Joshua Heschel

Completion requirements (subject to change)

- Preparation of twelve D’Vrei Torah, twelve sermons based on Biblical verses and eight book reviews or papers describing the books you’ve read and what you have learned from them.
- A complete Shabbat service in writing as well as recorded on audio MP3 file CD and/or tape.
- In addition, the student must write a final 10 to 12 page essay on his or her goals and plans as a modern rabbi, and complete a three day intensive and answer all questions of the final exam.
- A certificate-Semicha-is granted to the students of the Jewish faith upon successful completion of all requirements, and graduates may then register as official clergy with the Clerk of the City of New York and are recognized nationwide and worldwide as properly ordained rabbis.
Fees (which may change at any time without notice):
Non-refundable Registration: $200.00
Current Tuition: $5,000.00 (Refund policy below)

Rabbinical Seminary International Application Form
Please type or print clearly. Complete all information and return to:

Rabbinical Seminary International
Office of Registration and Information
13 Fairmont Street
Elmsford, NY 10523
Phone: (212) 864-0261 · Fax: (914) 345-2044
Email: rabbinicalseminaryintl @ gmail . com

Name: ______________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________  State: __________  Zip: ________________
Home Phone: __________________________________________________________________
Work Phone: __________________________________________________________________
E-Mail address: __________________________________________________________________
Occupation: __________________________________________________________________

Please enroll me as a student in the Modern Rabbi Program.

I have enclosed or will forward letters of recommendation from the following people:

(1) _________________________________________________________________
(2) _________________________________________________________________
(3) _________________________________________________________________

Signature: __________________________________________________________

List Your Educational Background/Work History (or Attach Resume).
Please include a statement of your reasons for wanting to participate in the Seminary and a brief personal spiritual background (use additional paper if necessary). The Rabbinical Seminary International is committed to paths of traditional Judaism, and, therefore, does not admit Messianic Jews or Jews for Jesus.

Additionally, please include a recent picture of yourself.

If you are enclosing a tuition payment in addition to the registration fee of $200.00, please indicate the amount here: ___________________________
REFUND POLICY:

Registration fee is non-refundable

Tuition payment refunds:

Within three months of registration, 90%
Within three to six months of registration, 50%
After six months of registration, 0%