

Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (ZSRS)

Mission, Program Goals & Learning Outcomes

Missions Statement

The Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies fosters an unprecedented blend of academic rigor, emotional warmth and openness, traditional and innovative spirit in the service of God, Torah, and Israel. The School fuses the methods and findings of the academic study

Program Goals

The Ziegler Rabbi:

- (1) Masters the *Masorah* – synthetically and technically,
- (2) Connects with lay people and is skilled in outreach,
- (3) Distills the Tradition in ways useful to people’s lives,
- (4) Is motivated by God and shares that faith,
- (5) Loves Jews as well as Judaism,
- (6) Pursues a socially-conscious rabbinate,
- (7) Elicits the theological underpinnings of sacred texts,
- (8) Teaches and observes mitzvot passionately.

Program Learning Outcomes (by Goal Area)

Masters the Masorah — synthetically and technically

- Students will be able to articulate traditional sources, academically and traditionally, into broad ideas and values.
- Students will be able to competently render Hebrew and Aramaic primary sources into accessible English.

Connect With Lay People and Skilled in Outreach

- Students will be able to counsel, teach, and inspire in ways accessible to the broader community.
- Students will see lay people as allies and partners in their shared work.
- Students will be skilled practitioners in providing access to Jewish life and thought to people with minimal exposure.
- Students will be familiar with current trends in adult education, technology resources, and community organizing.

Distills the Tradition in ways useful to people’s lives

- Students will be capable of taking complex primary sources, both ancient and modern, and utilizing them in offering practical wisdom for daily life.

Is Motivated by God and Shares that Faith

- Students will be able to articulate their personal theological convictions in ways that are useful, expansive, and integrated

- Students develop and present an informed voice that mobilizes theological concerns on behalf of elevating and encourages members of the community to engage in that same endeavor.

- Students practice and ethical deportment will reflect their core theological convictions and will manifest Jewish values and worldview.

Loves Jews as Well as Judaism

- Students will appreciate and celebrate the diversity of Jewish communities across geographic and chronological expanses.

- Students relationship to Jewish community will be not merely structural, but personally motivated.

Pursues a Socially Conscious Rabbinate

- Students will be familiar with the critical communal concerns and challenges of the place in which they live, and link them to the prophetic and rabbinic emphasis on justice and community organizing.

- Students will be able to discern and implement appropriate ways of advancing those values and mobilizing their communities.

Elicits the Theological Underpinning of Sacred Texts

- Students will perceive the conceptual coherence and significance of the vast details of Jewish textual tradition.

- Students will utilize that understanding for the sake of contemporary human thriving and integration.

- Students will be able to competently elicit the contemporary relevance of ancient and medieval text.

Teaches and Observes Mitzvot (commandments) Passionately

- Student utilize dispassionately mastery for the sake of significant Jewish life.

- Students will be able to articulate and exemplify the discipline of Jewish observance in their lives and in their teachings.