

Description

The Jewish Studies Program at UW-Milwaukee seeks permission to launch and market a fully-online undergraduate major (B.A.) and minor in Jewish Studies. UWM already has a B.A. and a minor in Jewish Studies, with two tracks: Hebrew Studies, which requires study of Hebrew language, and Jewish Cultural Studies, in which students can pursue a language other than Hebrew.

With this new program, UWM has the opportunity to address a niche market that is not being served. While there are a handful of online graduate programs in Jewish Studies, we have found only one other online undergraduate program, at Gratz College. The cost of completing the 40 credit major at Gratz College is nearly \$100,000 for the major alone, making UWM's program highly competitive.

Future of Program

Students will continue to be able to take courses via face-to-face delivery and can still earn their degree in residence, with face-to-face courses, at UWM.

Rationale

Offering Jewish Studies online will allow us to reach new students, particularly as many universities do not offer courses in Jewish Studies. The major and minor will be attractive to people who want to learn more about their own heritage, who seek employment in Jewish communal services, who have a religious interest in the subject, and/or who want to showcase their cultural knowledge to future employees. We expect that the program will be of particular interest to students living in the Midwest Exchange states whose local universities do not offer Jewish Studies. The program may also attract working adults and those seeking a second B.A. for personal or professional reasons.

Impact on Students

The impact on students will be positive, as we will continue to teach courses in much the same online/face-to-face percentage as we currently do, but distance learners will now be able to complete a major or minor online.

Students enrolling in this major will be able to fulfill their language requirement fully online. We are beginning to offer Hebrew online in 2017 – 2018, with first and second semester, with third and fourth year to follow in 2018-2019.

Impact on Faculty & Staff

As we already offer enough online courses to mount an online major, the impact on faculty and staff will be minimal. There are no additional costs to the program.

Approval

The major is overseen by both the Chair of Foreign Languages and Literature, Prof. Michael Mikos, and the Director of the Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, Prof. Joel Berkowitz. Both have approved this request.

Desired Effective Date

We would like to begin marketing the program on July 25 2017.