

Lox-A-Options: The Search for Jewish Life on Campus

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As students and families embark (or continue) on their college search, several resources and questions 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 the meantime, these resources have proven to be among the most valuable on this aspect of the college search.



Resources

Books and Magazines

- ❖ *Hillel's College Guide* magazine

Hillel's semi-annual College Guide magazine features highlighted colleges, student voices, campus profiles, admissions advice, and financial information. 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 for both parents and students organizes schools by academic selectivity. Readers can easily identify colleges within academic reach that also provide a welcoming Jewish environment.

- ❖ *Jewish U: A Contemporary Guide for the Jewish College Student* by Scott Aaron

This hands-on guide helps answer some of students' most pressing questions about college and the role Judaism can play in this next chapter. It empowers students to make informed, thoughtful decisions when faced with the challenges presented to incoming and new college students.

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

This guide profiles 23 North American campuses, detailing their programs, services, food and campus life. It begins with a short article on choosing the right campus Jewish community. To download a digital copy, visit <https://oujlic.org>, and click on “College Campus Profiles.”

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Websites

- ❖ 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.

- ❖ Jewish Learning Initiative On Campus (JLIC): <http://jliconline.org>

The Heshe and Harriet Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (JLIC), a program that helps Orthodox students navigate the college environment and balance their Jewish commitments with their desire to engage in the secular world, exists on 21 campuses. Find out more about the JLIC experience and the colleges where this initiative exists.

❖ 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. Questions with which the guide may help:

- Is the college supported by an affiliated Hillel?
- Does the college offer Kosher food, and, if so, what does this mean (frequency, location, etc.)?
- Does the college offer religious services, and, if so, what type and when?
- What is the college's Jewish population?
- Does the school offer any Jewish studies courses?

❖ 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."

❖ 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.

Suggested Questions

❖ 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?