



Joint Religious Education Program

An official program of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q: Why is the U.S. Army offering Jewish education courses?

A: In many areas where active-duty Army personnel are stationed or deployed, there are limited opportunities for Jewish education. JWB, through the Army's Department of Religious Education, is offering high-quality, no-cost courses so individuals in uniform and their families can expand their personal knowledge of Judaism and its history, customs, practices, traditions, and beliefs. They also can enrich their quality of life by connecting to other Jews, especially if they are not able to participate in a local Jewish community in their own area.

Q: What courses of study are available?

A: Three broad curricula are available:

- For families with children entering pre-K through first grade, PJ Library's Jewish education and Hebrew language instruction program will involve the entire family in Jewish values-based education and guide them to live a more meaningful Jewish life.
- The curriculum for second grade through high school students uses accredited and award-winning courses from Lookstein Virtual Jewish Academy that offer students a chance to ask "big questions" about Judaism, as well as study Bible, Jewish history and thought, and more—all with the guidance and support of expert teachers.
- For adults, the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) offers accessible Jewish education on such topics as Jewish ethics, Jewish history and culture, and Jewish mysticism and philosophy, among others. No matter your age, it's never too late to learn!

Q: How were these resources chosen?

A: The resources provided through JWB's Joint Religious Education Program are among the most highly regarded and widely used Jewish education curricula in the civilian world, and we are proud to make these materials available to individuals and families in our military Jewish community.

Q: Are the courses taught online or in person?

A: Courses are held online (with one exception, available only in Europe). Courses will be live, in real time, and accessible from students' home computers.

Q: What are the registration deadlines for each curriculum?

A: Registration is required to participate in all courses. Registration will open in June, and classes will begin in September. Youth classes will have limited capacity, and registration will close when the classes reach full capacity. Therefore, we recommend you register as soon as possible.

Q: Can I begin classes after the program starts?

A: If space in classes is available, students can join at any time. However, we encourage enrollment at the beginning of the course.

Q: Are there any costs for the classes?

A: No. This initiative is entirely funded by the U.S. Army.

Q: Are classes open only to active-duty service members and their families?

A: First priority will be given to individuals and family members of active-duty military personnel. If space allows anyone within the community may register.

Q: How much time per week will be required for class?

A: Instructors will set their own pace for class meetings. Plan for 60 to 90 minutes of class time per week for each class.

Q: How much homework and independent study will be required?

A: As with anything, the more time and effort you invest, the more you will benefit. Although there will be no assignments outside of class time, each program will offer opportunities for further study on your own.

Q: What tools and materials will be required?

A: You will need a working computer with an internet connection, as well as paper and pen as desired for additional notetaking.

Q: Is this religious study?

A: That is the million-dollar question of Jewish studies. Is Judaism a religion, a culture, an ethnicity, or all of the above? The curricula will cover prayer, *mitzvot* (ethical or obligatory practices), Jewish history, the Bible, and more.

Q: Can I receive educational credits toward a degree or continuing education requirements?

A: The Lookstein Virtual Jewish Academy program is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and courses can be taken for credit. However, the course requirements will be different than those of JREP, and students will have to pay to take courses for credit.

Q: Can I attend via my mobile phone?

A: Although it may be possible to attend classes on your phone, it is not recommended.



To register and for more information visit:
jcca.org/jwb/jrep



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