

# Princeton University

The JLIC educators at Princeton University are Rabbi David and Sara Wolkenfeld.

## **Demographics:**

Princeton University has about 500 Jewish undergraduates, which is approximately 10-12% of the entire undergraduate population. There are about 250 Jewish graduate students. Among the undergraduates, about 35 are Orthodox, and a small handful of students spend a year of study in Israel before enrolling at Princeton. The size of the Orthodox community has remained fairly constant over the years, yet in the past two years the number of Orthodox undergraduates has grown.

## **Kosher Food:**

There is a kosher dining hall at the Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) under the supervision of the OU. Any student on a university meal plan can eat three meals a day, seven days a week, at the kosher dining hall, including Shabbat and holiday meals for no additional cost while school is in session. The CJL currently offers free Shabbat dinner to graduate students and upper classmen who might not be on a meal plan.

## **Programming and Shiurim:**

Jewish learning opportunities include two levels of Gemara Shiurim, and Parshanut (Torah commentary). Students may also learn one-on-one with the JLIC educators on any topic. Additionally, several scholars in residence come to Princeton each year.

Yavneh, the Orthodox student organization at Princeton runs a “Mishmar” open Beit Midrash each Thursday evening, where several dozen students learn individually or in pairs and eat pizza together. In addition to Shiurim, Yavneh also organizes social events and other programming.

## **Orthodox Community:**

The Orthodox student group is called Yavneh, which is affiliated with the Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) but is an independent organization run by its own student board.

The Center for Jewish Life – Hillel at Princeton houses the kosher dining hall, and Beit Midrash, where all Orthodox prayer services take place.

There is a Mikveh at a nearby Chabad. A local Shoprite contains a kosher butcher and an extensive kosher section.

The closest large Orthodox community is Highland Park, NJ, which is a 30-minute drive from Princeton. New York City and Philadelphia are easily accessible by train.

Several Princeton community members and graduate students host undergraduate students for meals on Shabbat and holidays. All undergraduate students live in campus residence halls during all four years at Princeton.

Minyanim are available three times a day throughout the year.

**Shabbat:**

Between 100 and 150 students attend Friday night dinner each week at the Center for Jewish Life. Following dinner, students usually remain in the building well into the evening. There are occasional Tisches on Friday nights, and there is usually an informal Oneg hosted in a student's residence hall.

The campus Chabad is a very popular option for Shabbat meals for both the Orthodox and non-Orthodox communities.

There is no Eruv in Princeton.

**Additional Resources:**

There are several Jewish Studies and Hebrew language courses offered each semester. A Jewish Studies minor is available.

“I chose to attend Princeton because of the unique Orthodox Jewish community. It is a small, and therefore warm and close-knit, community of individuals. My friends and I support each other, religiously, personally, and academically, to develop into thinking and active Jewish leaders. My relationship with the other Jewish students and the constant encouragement and positivity of the Wolkenfelds are my major supports here in Princeton to not only maintain my values, but to grow in Avodat Hashem even on a college campus.”

-Miriam Rosenbaum, class of 2011