

# University of Maryland

The JLIC educators at the University of Maryland are Rabbi Eli and Naomi Kohl.

## Demographics:

There are approximately 5,500 Jewish undergraduates at the University of Maryland. About 200 students spent a year of study in Israel prior to enrolling at UMD. The Orthodox community at Maryland is one of the fastest growing collegiate communities in America. Currently, there are approximately 425 Orthodox undergraduate students at Maryland.

## Kosher Food:

There is a full kosher meal plan available for students who live in the residence halls (students in residence halls are required to be on a full meal plan if the residence does not have a kitchen). Hillel serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Shabbat meals are included in the full meal plan. Students who do not wish to be on the full meal plan can purchase a smaller meal plan or may pay with cash. Hillel also has a café/coffee shop in the lobby that serves hot and cold drinks, smoothies, soup, pizza, and salad and is open all day. In order to sign up for the Kosher meal plan, students should visit the Hillel website at [www.marylandhillel.org](http://www.marylandhillel.org), and click on dining. They should then call the University of Maryland dining services to cancel the university meal plan. Students living in residence halls without kitchens must sign up for the kosher meal plan prior to canceling the University meal plan.

There is a Kosher Israeli style meat restaurant, Pita Plus, in College Park as well.

## Programming and Shiurim:

Past programs include: Shabbat Across Maryland that attracted over 1,000 students, the Iron-Latke bakeoff, open-mic night, and Manicure For The Cure, a manicure event in which the proceeds were sent to Sharsheret to benefit Jewish women with Breast Cancer. There are many Jewish social action groups that run Tzedek/Chessed events. There are also four Jewish a cappella music groups, and an acting troupe that does not perform on Shabbat.

Shomer Shabbat Alternative break trips are available (Hillel offers six trips, three domestic and three international).

Jewish learning opportunities include Shiurim that are offered every night of the week by various members of the College Park and surrounding communities. Mini-shiurim are offered daily following services. The JLIC couple offers one-on-one learning, Shiurim, personal guidance, and Shabbat meals and Onegs to benefit the Orthodox community.

Shiurim include: Practical Halacha, Talmud, Sefer HaChinuch, Pizza and Parsha (attracts 100 people a week in Chavrutah style), The Jewish Woman, Tanach of Nechama Leibowitz, Philosophy of Rav Kook, Mishmar on Thursday nights, Women's Parsha, and Men's Parsha. There is also The Hebrew Table, where students gather weekly to speak in Hebrew with members of the Kolllel Torah MiTzion of Silver Spring, Maryland. Yomei Iyun are also held, and past topics have included Women and Judaism, Medical Ethics, and Kashrut.

JLIC and Hillel recently started a student Kollel, which has been very successful. The JLIC Kollel is a program where students commit to learning either 5 or 10 hours a week, including several Chavrutot and attendance at Mishmar or one Shiur a week, and in return are given a gift certificate to use towards the purchase of Seforim (Jewish books). There are three tracks in the Kollel: Gemara, Halakha, and Tanakh. Currently, about 25 students participate in this program.

### **Orthodox Community:**

Kedma is the official Orthodox Student group on Maryland's campus. Students elect the Kedma student board every spring for a one-year term. Kedma works with the Gabbaim to coordinate Minyanim during the week and on Shabbat and holidays. Kedma also works to create various programs throughout the semester that meet the social, religious and educational needs of the Orthodox community on campus.

The University of Maryland has a Beit Midrash filled with Seforim in the Hillel building. Many students take advantage of the Beit Midrash, and there is also a large Jewish Studies section in the main university library.

Most freshmen are placed in North Campus residence halls, but freshmen on the kosher meal plan may request to be placed in the freshmen residence halls on South Campus, which is closer to the kosher dining. While most students live on campus for their freshmen and sophomore years, most move into off-campus apartments for their junior and senior years. The South Campus Commons is a popular place for upperclassmen to live. Other popular off-campus apartments include the Knox Towers, Hartwick Towers, and the "Knox Box" apartments. All of these residential areas are approximately a five-minute walk to Hillel.

The College Park Orthodox student community is extremely active, with daily Minyanim, numerous Shiurim and a beautiful Shabbat atmosphere. College Park is a fifteen-minute drive from Silver Spring, MD, and is a large Orthodox community with many kosher dining opportunities. Many students also visit the Silver Spring community for Shabbat.

There is an Orthodox Minyan that meets three times daily and attracts about 65 students. There is a women's Tefillah group on Rosh Chodesh and some holidays.

### **Shabbat at UMD:**

There are two Orthodox Minyanim for Friday night services. About 300 students attend the Friday night Orthodox Carlebach Minyan and an additional 40 students attend a traditional Orthodox Minyan. Chabad does not host a separate Minyan but joins with Hillel in a collaborative effort. After Minyan, underclassmen eat meals either at the Hillel or at Chabad. Following dinner, many students attend various Shabbat Onegs around campus. Most upperclassmen who live in apartments host their own Shabbat meals, offering a more intimate Shabbat atmosphere. Shabbat morning Minyan draws about 150 students. Following services there is a Kiddush, Shiur and lunch at Hillel, though many students host their own lunches as well. In the late afternoon there is Seudah Shlishit and a lively community Havdalah. There is an Eruv at the University of Maryland.

**Additional Resources:**

The Jewish community at Maryland has significantly increased over the past five years, and the number of Orthodox students on the kosher meal plan has more than doubled.

There is both a Jewish Studies major and minor available.

"Maryland, with its various educational and social programming, has something to offer everyone at all ends of the religious spectrum. The community has a welcoming environment, making everyone, no matter how religious they may be, feel at home."-Ari Rosner, Class of 2010

“University of Maryland Hillel is the ‘it’ place to be. I came not knowing much about the Jewish life here, expecting to leave every weekend to go away for Shabbat. After the first week, which I stayed on campus for, I was hooked. I was overwhelmed with the sheer number of people that were actively involved. It’s just amazing!” –Beverly Kramer, Class of 2010