

# Binghamton is #12 on the Top 60 Public Schools Jews Choose.

(Hillel College Guide, 2015)

## Gap-year experiences

Binghamton has a uniquely generous and supportive view of “gap-year experiences” in which students decide to defer their admission for a year in order to study in Israel. Most programs in Israel are granted deferrals, including study at yeshivas and seminaries; typically college credits earned there are accepted. Offers to participate in scholars programs and most scholarships extended to the student will be honored when they return to Binghamton.

## Observance of holidays

**The University suspends classes on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the first two days of Passover.** Religious services are offered for every Jewish religious holiday through Hillel or at Chabad. Local synagogues also welcome students to attend services.

## Media

Hillel at Binghamton produces an online newsletter and the Chabad Center publishes *HaKeshet* magazine. *The Reporter*, a weekly newspaper covering local and national news of interest to the Jewish community, is distributed at the University for free and available online at [thereporter.org](http://thereporter.org).

## Kosher dining

In addition to a full range of menu offerings in the dining halls, the campus offers the Kosher Korner and Kosher Kiosks, overseen by a mashgiach. Located in the Chenango Champlain Collegiate Center, the Kosher Korner honors resident plans. Complete details, including hours of operation, may be found at [budining.com](http://budining.com).

## Jewish Community Center

The nearby Jewish Community Center is a cultural, recreational center for area residents, and provides programs and services for all ages. In addition, the JCC collaborates with the University’s Judaic Studies department, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and local synagogues to offer non-credit courses on religion, language and culture through the College of Jewish Studies.

## Synagogues/temples in the Binghamton area

Temple Concord (Reform/Liberal)  
Temple Israel (Conservative)  
Beth David Synagogue (Orthodox)

## Eruv (ritual enclosure)

Binghamton’s eruv encloses the Binghamton campus as well as off-campus housing communities.

## CONTACTS

### Office of Undergraduate Admissions

[admit@binghamton.edu](mailto:admit@binghamton.edu)

### The Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Web: [JewishBU.com](http://JewishBU.com)

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Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors  
Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Programming and Development  
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### Hillel at Binghamton

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Orthodox Union — Jewish Learning Initiative On Campus

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### Judaic Studies department

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# Jewish Life

## at Binghamton University





**B**inghamton University has a long tradition of welcoming its considerable Jewish population and accommodating the needs of observant students through a rich and supportive academic and cultural environment. We are committed to creating a campus climate where all members are respected and encouraged to contribute to the life of the University. Students come from a wide range of socioeconomic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and bring a wealth of traditions that they are encouraged to share with friends and classmates.

### Judaic Studies

The Judaic Studies department offers students the opportunity to explore millennia of the wider Jewish experience. Students completing a Judaic Studies major (a minor is also available) will have a versatile liberal arts degree that prepares them well for a variety of paths, among them graduate study and careers in Jewish communal service. The department's faculty includes scholars from the humanities and the social sciences, and the undergraduate curriculum covers a wide array of courses including Jewish history, philosophy, literature and languages, Holocaust studies and biblical and classical Jewish literature.

Students can also fast-track their career by enrolling in the BA-Master of Public Administration (MPA) program; earn a bachelor's and master's degree in five years instead of the typical six.

### Center for Israel Studies

The Center for Israel Studies offers undergraduate students courses, lectures, programs, grants and fellowships to examine the history, literature and culture of modern Israel. Courses include Modern Israel, State and Society, Israel-Palestinian Conflict and more. Students may minor in Israel Studies.

### Study-abroad programs

Students who wish to study in Israel can take advantage of numerous trips and programs. Judaic Studies courses at Israeli universities that participate in the SUNY study-abroad programs can be applied to the Judaic Studies major or minor. Tel Aviv University, Ben-Gurion University and Hebrew University are a few of the top ones students choose.



### The Chabad Center for Jewish Life

At the Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Life at Binghamton, connecting “Jewishly” is not just effortless, but fabulous and life transforming!

The Chabad Center is there for you with its famously huge, warm and delicious Shabbat dinners, cutting-edge programming, social service and leadership opportunities, and a wide array of educational offerings.

Chabad is famous for spearheading Shabbat 1,500 — a mega joint-campus event with Hillel at Binghamton that draws more than 1,500 guests for a Shabbat dinner. Pioneered in 1996 as Shabbat 1000, the name was changed when it surpassed the 1,000 mark several years ago.

Jewish holidays take on a whole new dimension with Chabad-run extravaganzas for Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim and Lag B’omer. Then there are the social and recreational trips and activities such as Girls Nights Out, Talent Nights and so much more. Chabad also assists with finding a Jewish roommate through its online interactive housing board.

Located a few minutes from campus, Chabad offers lounge and study areas, a fitness center, a fully-stocked library, a game room, a kosher café, deli and endless coffee. The doors of Chabad are always open and its staff is there for you for casual conversation, problem solving and referrals or crisis intervention. This is also where you can find minyanim three times a day. Once you come, you will understand why generations of students refer to Chabad as their “home away from home.”



### Hillel at Binghamton — The Jewish Student Union

Hillel at Binghamton is one of the largest and most active student organizations on campus. As an open and pluralistic organization, Hillel is renowned for encouraging and fostering partnerships with other student organizations and has received University awards and recognition for its signature multi-cultural events.

With more than 19 independent student-led groups and over 80 student leaders, Hillel ensures that a vibrant Jewish community thrives through high-quality programming, leadership opportunities and professional support to thousands of Jewish students. Only at Hillel can you find religious communities and services offered year round, including holidays, for all three major Jewish denominations. Hillel is where Reform, Conservative and Orthodox students come together to interact, learn from each other and ultimately find a home.

Hillel partners with the Orthodox Union's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (OU-JLIC). Led by Rabbi Akiva Weiss, the mission of the initiative is to strengthen Orthodox communities on campus in a manner that also encourages openness and mutual respect for all Jews on campus.



Free weekly Shabbat dinners are a wonderful and casual opportunity for students to celebrate the highlight of the week.

All of our programs are designed and led by students, including our annual, campus-wide Israel Independence Day celebration, which draws over 2,000 people each year. Student groups include Bearcats for Israel, the largest Zionist pro-Israel student group on campus, and Kaskeset, an award-winning Jewish a cappella group.

Hillel hosts a number of educational and social events each year, including a learning forum, donation thrift shop and Yom HaShoah. Subgroups such as Challah for Hunger raise thousands of dollars for charity, while First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH) teach leadership skills to incoming students. Hillel provides opportunities to discover Israel with two Birthright Israel trips each year.

New Jewish freshmen and transfer students can meet more than 100 new friends before classes even start by participating in FreshFest, an off-campus retreat.