

The College Search, Through a Jewish Lens

*By Laura Hosid, College and Law School Counselor,
Vinik Educational Placement Services, Inc.*

As Jewish students and families embark (or continue) on their college search, there are many resources that 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 to visit and explore (see Suggested Questions section). In addition, as students prepare to transition to campus, they may want to consult resources to educate themselves on the controversial issues they may encounter.

College Search Resources

Tribe Talk

Tribe Talk creates a bridge between high school and college for Jewish students, and equips and empowers them to navigate campuses with confidence, intention, and pride. The Tribe Talk website is resource rich, with an expanding library of podcasts, webinars, campus comparisons, student testimonials, and more. www.tribetalk.org

Hillel's College Guide Magazine

This semi-annual college guide magazine highlights campus profiles, student voices, and admissions advice. Visit www.hillel.org/magazine to request a copy.

Hillel College Guide

This is an online resource to find details on a variety of schools, along with ways to connect directly to Hillel professionals and students on campuses. www.hillel.org/college-guide

The Jewish Parents' Guide to Colleges: Helping Your Child Find and Get Into the Right College (Jerome Ostrov)

This cultural guide to the Jewish campus experience organizes schools by academic selectivity, and identifies colleges with a welcoming Jewish environment.

Finding the Right School in the Era of BDS and Intersectionality (Jerome Ostrov)

This recent work examines anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses and helps students identify schools where they will feel comfortable.

The Forward College Guide

The 2018 edition provides over 20,000 points of information about Jewish life at 215 U.S. universities. www.forward.com/series/jewish-college-guide

The OU JLIC Guide 2018-2019: Jewish Life on the College Campus

This guide, by Orthodox Union's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus, profiles 23 North American campuses, detailing their programs, services, food choices, and campus life. It also includes articles on college fit, and religious and student life on campus. The guide can be ordered at www.oujlic.org/deciding

Naviance

After setting up an account, students may create search filters and explore colleges with a kosher meal plan, a large Orthodox population, etc. www.naviance.com

Virtual College Road Trip

A new website featuring student-led virtual college tours, information sessions with college admissions directors and on-site Hillel reps with insights into Jewish life on campuses, Q&A discussions, workshops, relevant articles, and more. www.roadtriptocollege.org

Preparing for College

AMCHA Initiative

This organization documents anti-Semitic activity on hundreds of U.S. campuses and has a viewable database. AMCHA also investigates, educates about, and works to combat anti-Semitism on campuses. www.amchainitiative.org

StandWithUs

The organization, which advocates for Israel and educates to defeat anti-Semitism, publishes a 35-page booklet useful for Israel advocacy, called *Answering Tough Questions About Israel*.

www.standwithus.com/tough-questions-about-israel

Anti-Defamation League

The national organization publishes a resource for students, *Fighting Back, A Handbook for Responding to Anti-Israel Campaigns on College and University Campuses*. It is available as a PDF download at

<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/education-outreach/fighting-back-final.pdf>

New Voices

This online magazine is written and published by and for Jewish college students, and is a good place to become informed about the climate and trending topics related to Jewish life on various Jewish campuses.

www.newvoices.org

Center for Community Outreach at Hillel International

The Center was formed after Hillel International absorbed The David Project, and is organizing relationship-building initiatives to build and develop Jewish student leaders.

www.hillel.org/get-involved/center-for-community-outreach

Chabad on Campus

Dedicated to the engagement of students in Jewish life, community, and observance on more than 260 college campuses worldwide.

www.chabadoncampus.org

Jewish Boston Teens

Jewish Boston Teens is Greater Boston's online resource for teens and their families. The organization's website connects teens to the community's vast menu of nationally recognized programming and opportunities. It is an initiative of Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP), in partnership with JewishBoston.com and the Jewish Teen Initiative of Greater Boston.

<http://jewishbostonteens.com/>

Jewish Life on Campus: Some Questions to Ask

- What facilities exist for Jewish students (Hillel, Chabad, etc.)?
- What percent of the student body is Jewish, and what is the breakdown of denominations?
- What accommodations are made in residence halls during Shabbat? Is there a place on campus where Jewish students may elect to live?
- Where can students find Kosher and/or vegetarian options? Does a Kosher dining or Kosher meal plan exist?
- Are there daily *minyanim* and weekly Orthodox Shabbat services on campus? What types of weekly services are offered on campus? What is the High Holiday experience like?
- Are there non-religious opportunities for Jewish students, such as community service projects and social activities?
- Have there been any recent anti-Semitic or anti-Israel incidents on campus, and if so, how did the administration respond?
- How accommodating are professors when students must be out due to holiday observance?