



### Memorandum of Understanding

This MOU has been read and approved by:

Program Director: Jeffrey Blutinger Date: 8/24/2026  
Jeffrey Blutinger

Dean, College of Liberal Arts: Donna J. Nicol Date: 8/24/2026  
Donna J. Nicol

Vice Provost Academic Programs: Pei-Fang Hung Date: 8/24/2026  
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**Program Review Summary  
Memorandum of Understanding**

Jewish Studies Program

College of Liberal Arts

May 2026

This document summarizes the Program Review findings and serves as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the consensus reached by the Jewish Studies Program (JSP), the College of Liberal Arts, and the Division of Academic Affairs. It is based on the recently conducted program review, including the self-study report submitted in June 2025, and the external review completed in November 2025. This report and MOU describe the goals to be achieved and the actions to be undertaken by all parties during the next program review cycle. Progress toward these goals will be documented in an annual report.

The Jewish Studies Program offers a Bachelor of Arts degree and a minor in Modern Jewish Studies. The major consists of a 15-unit core, drawing on courses from History and Religious Studies, and 19 units of electives. The program is housed in the College of Liberal Arts.

Founded in 1999 by Dr. Arlene Lazarowitz, JSP operates as an interdisciplinary program in which most courses are offered through affiliated departments and designated to fulfill program requirements. JSP participated in a CSU consortium to offer the BA degree until 2006, when it became a stand-alone program at CSULB. In 2010, Dr. Blutinger was appointed the Barbara and Ray Alpert Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies and has since served as the sole Director of JSP, overseeing program development and administration

The Program has made limited progress in addressing the recommendations outlined in the 2020 MOU, which included: 1) The JSP Director will work with the Director of Program Review and Assessment to use the newly revised PLOs in developing sustainable and meaningful program-level assessment plan, and report results of assessments annually to the Director and to the Vice Provost for Academic Programs; 2) The JSP will revise the program website to include the program mission and possible also social media links, for more visibility and to attract more students; 3) The JSP will consider a range of strategies to increase enrollments including but not limited to updating and re-classifying lower-division courses, offering appropriate courses online or in hybrid format, and reducing the number of units in the major; 4) The JSP Director will continue revitalization of the Faculty Advisory Board; 5) The JSP will consider converting the Holocaust Teacher Training program into a certificate program; 6) The Dean will work with the Program Director to develop a financial plan for the use of the Alpert Endowment; and, 7) As budget allows, the Dean will support the program in hiring tenure track faculty in the area of Jewish Studies.



Resources reviewed for the report:

- Self-study June 2025
- External review November 2025
- Previous MOU 2020 (for 2018 review)
- Department website

Strengths were identified in the reports

1. **Curriculum Development.** In alignment with prior MOU recommendations, JSP has expanded and diversified its curriculum. New lower-division offerings have been introduced, such as *HEBW 100 Introduction to Jewish Humor* (cross-listed with *HIST 140*). The program has also increased access through online and hybrid course delivery, with courses such as HEBW 101A, HEBW 101B, and HEBW 210 offered in these formats. JSP regularly offers six to eight affiliated courses per semester, including one to two Hebrew language courses. Although the Holocaust Teacher Training Program has not been converted into a certificate program, it continues to be offered as a sustained public-facing educational initiative
2. **Strong Community Engagement and Impact.** A major strength of JSP is its role as a bridge between the university and the broader community. The program maintains active and mutually beneficial partnerships through its Community Advisory Board, speaker series, and outreach programming.
  - Community Engagement. JSP hosts approximately eight guest speakers annually and participates in public forums. It collaborates with organizations, such as the Long Beach Jewish Film Festival, local synagogues, and other cultural and religious institutions.
  - Holocaust Teacher Training Program. JSP offers an annual, endowed summer institute that brings approximately 25-30, K-12 educators to campus for intensive training in Holocaust education. Participants represent a range of disciplines and school districts across Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The program aligns with statewide priorities, including recommendations from the 2024 report of the Governor's Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education. JSP provides financial support to participating teachers, enhancing access and impact.
  - CSU System Engagement. The JSP Director participates in the CSU Jewish Studies Council, a systemwide body of program leaders that meets regularly to discuss academic issues and engage with stakeholders, including the Chancellor's Office and members of the California Jewish Legislative Caucus.
3. **High Impact Practices.**



JSP incorporates high-impact practices that enhance student learning and engagement. The Holocaust study abroad program to Central and Eastern Europe was reinstated in 2024 and expanded in 2025, with student participation increasing from four to nine students. The program has secured external funding to support student travel, and alumni describe the experience as highly impactful and transformative. While the program no longer requires a service-learning component in HIST 304 due to changing circumstances, it continues to provide experiential learning opportunities through study abroad and community-based engagement.

### **Concerns Noted in the Reports**

1. **Enrollment.** The Jewish Studies Program has experienced very low enrollment, with only four majors over the review period and no majors since Fall 2022. Degree conferral falls below the Chancellor's Office threshold of 10 degrees annually, classifying JSP as a low-degree-producing program. In addition, JSP has limited control over course offerings and enrollment data, as only 4 of 27 affiliated courses are directly offered by the program. Some affiliated courses periodically fail to meet minimum enrollment thresholds, requiring financial support from the College.
2. **Faculty Capacity and Leadership Continuity.** The program relies heavily on a single tenured faculty member, who serves as Director and teaches all JSP-designated courses. With the planned retirement of the Director by 2027 and no approved tenure-track replacement, the program faces significant challenges related to leadership continuity, instructional capacity, and long-term sustainability.
3. **Lack of Systematic Assessment Practices.** The program has not yet developed or implemented a sustainable program-level assessment plan, as outlined in the previous MOU. There is limited evidence of consistent assessment of Program Learning Outcomes or use of assessment data to inform program improvement.

### **Opportunities for Development Identified in the Reports**

1. **Website and Program Visibility.** The JSP website and course listings require updates to ensure accuracy and alignment with current offerings. Revising the program mission statement to clearly articulate the value and distinctiveness of Jewish Studies may strengthen visibility and recruitment. Expanding communication through digital platforms (e.g., website, social media) may further enhance outreach.
2. **Curriculum Planning.** Developing a strategic course rotation schedule may help build enrollment by concentrating demand. In addition, expanding the number of courses formally included in the major or minor (particularly those already offered in affiliated departments) may strengthen curricular coherence and student pathways.
3. **Student Recruitment and Pathways.** There is an opportunity to strengthen recruitment by identifying and promoting curricular pathways that combine Jewish Studies with



other majors or minors. Expanding participation in General Education (GE) courses may increase student exposure to JSP and support enrollment growth.

4. **Program Assessment Development.** The program can refine Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and develop a structured assessment plan, including direct and indirect measures, such as student surveys or exit interviews. Establishing consistent assessment practices will support program improvement and alignment with institutional expectations.
5. **Facilities and Communication Infrastructure.** The program currently has limited dedicated physical space (i.e., two program-dedicated bulletin boards in FO2). Expanding communication strategies beyond physical bulletin boards, such as utilizing web-based and digital platforms, may improve program visibility and outreach.
6. **Financial Planning and Resource Allocation.** There is an opportunity to develop a clear financial plan for the use of the Alpert Endowment and to align resource allocation with program priorities, including course support and programming.
7. **Campus Climate and Supportive Environment.** In the 2023-2024 academic year, the JSP bulletin boards were vandalized five separate times, and the flyers were torn down or defaced. The director and the undergraduate Jewish student group were also attacked in separate incidents on campus (e.g., images superimposed on a burning flag). These recent incidents highlight the importance of maintaining a supportive and respectful campus environment. Continued attention to campus climate and support mechanisms may help ensure a safe and inclusive environment for students and faculty.

### **Recommendations**

It is therefore agreed that the Jewish Studies Program will collaborate with the College of Liberal Arts and Academic Affairs to:

1. Develop and implement a sustainable annual assessment plan for Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), using both direct and indirect measures. The program will document and report “closing-the-loop” activities demonstrating how assessment data inform curriculum and programmatic decision-making. The Program will provide an annual progress report (due June 1) to the CLA Dean, the Vice Provost for Academic Programs, and the Coordinator of Assessment. The review cycle will span 2025–2032, with a comprehensive self-study due in June 2032 for the 2032–2033 academic year review. *(Concern #3 and Opportunity #4)*
2. Develop and implement a succession plan to ensure continuity of leadership, teaching, and program administration following the planned retirement of the current Director. This plan should include clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and support structures. Subject to the availability of resources, the plan should also identify pathways to tenure-



track faculty support in Jewish Studies to sustain instruction and program operations  
(*Concern #2*)

3. Formalize the Director's role with the authority and standing necessary to lead the program, including coordinating assessment across affiliated courses and departments; participating in governance and professional development; implementing required plans and strategic initiatives; and serving as the academic leader of an interdisciplinary program within relevant college-level decision-making processes. (*Concern #2; Opportunity #4*)
4. Develop a comprehensive financial and sustainability plan that identifies the use of the Alpert Endowment alongside College and University resources to support course offerings, programming, and administrative functions. (*Opportunity #6*)
5. Develop and implement strategies to address low enrollment and degree production in alignment with University and CSU expectations. (*Concern #1 and Opportunity #2*)
6. Update and maintain the program website to ensure accuracy of course offerings, inclusion of the program mission, and clarity of degree requirements. Expand communication strategies, including digital platforms, to improve program visibility and student outreach. (*Opportunity #1 and #5*)
7. Develop a strategic course rotation schedule and expand the number of courses formally included in the major and minor—particularly from affiliated departments—to improve enrollment, curricular coherence, and student pathways. In support of integration and assessment, implement cross-listing or double-numbering (e.g., HIST XXX / JWST XXX) and revise the course prefix from HEBR to JWST. (*Opportunity #2*)
8. Develop and implement a coordinated recruitment strategy in collaboration with the College and ATLAS. This should include identifying and promoting curricular pathways that integrate JSP with other majors and minors, and exploring opportunities to expand participation in General Education courses. (*Concern #1, Opportunity #2 and #3*)
9. Continue to develop and implement mechanisms to improve campus climate and ensure a safe and inclusive environment for students and faculty, particularly in light of recent incidents affecting the program community. This should include coordination with relevant campus offices and support services. (*Opportunity #7*)
10. Explore opportunities to align JSP programming with statewide initiatives, including efforts to expand Holocaust and genocide education. This may include strengthening partnerships, expanding teacher training efforts, and identifying potential external funding sources. (*Opportunity #6 and #7*)

This MOU has been read and approved by:

Director, Jewish Studies Program: Jeffrey Blutinger

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**LONG BEACH**

Office of Program and Institutional Effectiveness



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\*DocuSign signature page on file.