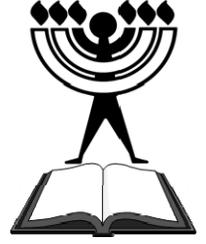




# INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SECULAR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM



## RABBINIC PROGRAM

**ROLES:** A Secular Humanistic rabbi fills many roles, including:

- Ceremonialist
- Communicator
- Educator
- Philosophic Counselor
- Congregational Manager
- Representative of the Secular Humanistic Jewish Movement

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Applicants are to be evaluated according to the following criteria, recognizing that any given applicant may excel in some areas while being less competent in others and can, nevertheless, be a successful rabbi:

1. an affinity for the ideas and practices of Secular Humanistic Judaism
2. willingness and passion to promote those ideas and practices and to participate in their continuing development or enhancement
3. the potential/capacity to develop the knowledge and skills to perform the rabbinic roles based on the standards set out below
4. leadership qualities including communication and organization skills
5. people skills
6. exhibiting qualities of maturity, respectfulness, and practicality
7. ethical integrity and commitment to the equality and dignity of every human being
8. emotional stability

**GRADUATION COMPETENCIES:** It is expected upon admission that graduates of the program will likely show the following competencies in the roles noted:

### **Ceremonialist**

1. Demonstrates an understanding of and a special sensitivity to the diverse population we serve
2. Demonstrates an interest in and an understanding of the Jewish holidays and life cycles and their history and development
3. Demonstrates writing ability
4. Demonstrates a commitment to professional presentation of materials
5. Understands that the liturgy of Secular Humanistic Judaism is human centered and non-theistic and is committed to applying this standard in ceremonies, even when serving those outside of Secular Humanistic Judaism

### **Communicator**

1. Demonstrates a commitment to developing the skills to become an effective pulpit communicator
2. Demonstrates an understanding of proper preparation for presentation
3. Demonstrates a passion for articulating and sharing the philosophy of Secular Humanistic Judaism
4. Shows an interest in the ideas and concerns of the audience
5. Presents as being physically and emotionally confident

**Educator**

1. Demonstrates a commitment to pursuing life-long education
2. Demonstrates an interest in scholarly pursuits
3. Demonstrates the enthusiasm to nurture minds, young and old
4. Demonstrates interest in and talent for developing curriculum and lesson plans
5. Demonstrates a willingness to establish serious expectations of the learners, thereby showing the importance of Jewish and Secular Humanistic Jewish knowledge
6. Demonstrates the willingness to serve as a role model for appropriate behavior in the school and class environments, including respect for all individuals, commitment to intellectual excellence, and punctuality
7. Demonstrates the ability to establish boundaries and create a safe environment of mutual dignity

**Philosophic Counselor**

1. Understands that philosophic counseling cannot go beyond the limit of one's expertise or take a form that requires a legal license one does not possess
2. Demonstrates pastoral leadership by creating an environment of mutual dignity and modeling self-understanding, taking responsibility for one's actions, thinking rationally and being good humored
3. Shows a willingness to listen carefully and empathically and provide compassionate support
4. Demonstrates the ability to draw boundaries between professional and personal relationships when serving in a professional capacity
5. Demonstrates the understanding of the seriousness of creating a safe environment for vulnerable sharing with the promise of confidentiality
6. Demonstrates the ability to provide a confident, calm, organized, competent presence
7. Demonstrates the willingness to work in situations that may be difficult or unpleasant, including hospital visits or supporting terminally ill individuals and their families
8. Behaves with dignity even when under attack or in conflict situations

**Congregational Manager**

1. Shows an interest in the professional presentation of materials including brochures, emails, ceremonial and holiday materials
2. Shows an ability to plan, problem solve and execute projects and events capably
3. Indicates a willingness to assist in securing the financial stability and future security of the community
4. Understands the role of the rabbi as leader and model for staff as well as congregants
5. Demonstrates the willingness to be a team player to reach the goals of the community or the project, understanding the democratic nature of our congregations and the expectation that the rabbi lead with sensitivity to the desires of the group, with authority but without being authoritarian
6. Demonstrates the ability to multi-task, with good humor
7. Demonstrates the ability to handle stress, conflict and disappointment, while maintaining personal dignity and preserving the dignity of all those involved

**Representative of Secular Humanistic Judaism**

1. Is a member in good standing of a movement organization
2. Shows an understanding of the Secular Humanistic Judaism Movement
3. Shows a commitment to the growth, success and future of the movement by publicly promoting one's connection to the movement, attending and speaking at conferences, writing articles and financially supporting its institutions
4. Willing to represent the movement locally and nationally in Jewish and Humanist organizations and publications
5. Articulates and models Secular Humanistic Jewish philosophy, principles and values