

Ministry Credentials Options Through The UMJC

Do you feel a calling to Messianic Jewish ministry? Maybe you are already fully involved through your local synagogue. One of the vital programs of the UMJC is the Credentials Committee which seeks to equip men and women for the work in Messiah's Kingdom. Whether you are a congregational leader, a zakeyn/elder, a shamash/servant or a committee volunteer in the local synagogue, there is a program that can better prepare you to fulfill your calling. The two main programs that are offered by the UMJC are the Madrikh Program and the Smikha Program.

Option #1: UMJC Madrikh/Madrikha Program (Licensure) Requirements:

The Madrikh - Madrikha program is a post-graduate training and development curriculum designed to increase leadership in Messianic synagogues. It involves a course of study at one of two UMJC approved seminaries for a total of ten courses over a two-year period. The program also includes reading through the Bible twice and passing an oral examination in scriptural proficiency. The end result is licensure in the UMJC as a Madrikh or Madrikha, a position recognized in our synagogues as valuable for teachers, synagogue officers, cantors, counselors, and other positions of support and leadership. A collaborative effort between the UMJC and its approved graduate schools, MJTI and Netzer David, the program provides a core curriculum of ten courses, four of which can be taken as intensive leadership seminars offered at UMJC Conferences and Mid-Year Leaders' Retreats. Some courses from other graduate schools may fulfill some of the course work as well.

The two-year six-course online sequence consists of the following classes:

1. Messianic Jewish Theology
2. Tanakh: The Beginnings of Judaism and the Jewish People
3. Apostolic Writings: The Early Messianic Jewish Community
4. Messianic Jewish Spirituality
5. Jewish Practices in a Messianic Context
6. History of Judaism and the Jewish People

The two-year, four-seminar sequence consists of the following classes:

1. The Personal Life of a Spiritual Leader
2. Congregational Growth and Development
3. Basics of Synagogue Worship
4. Introductory Homiletics

The program also involves a one-year mentoring relationship with a UMJC rabbi, or other approved UMJC leader, and a reading plan that will take students through the entire Bible twice during the two years and lead to an oral exam. Because a Madrikh is a guide in Jewish life and Scripture, he or she will be required to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Hebrew. Applications are available at umjc.org. Completed applications should be sent to the Madrikh Program Coordinator Barney Kasdan. To be eligible for admission to the licensure program, students must possess an undergraduate degree and participate in a UMJC congregation.

Option #2: UMJC Smikha Program (Ordination) Requirements:

A second ministry educational option through the UMJC is our Smikha/Ordination Program. This is the next logical step beyond the Madrikh Program especially for those called to full time messianic rabbinic ministry. All of the Madrikh courses are applicable to the Smikha Program but additional graduate course work is required for UMJC ordination. Courses are offered through both of our approved graduate schools (MJTI or Netzer David) as well as some transferable credits from other graduate schools. The overlapping courses along with the additional course work is listed below: **denotes course applicable to both Madrikh and Smikha Programs*

I. Academic Courses

- A. Taken at a UMJC recognized graduate school
 - 1. Messianic Jewish Theology *
 - 2. Tanakh: The Beginnings of Judaism and the Jewish People *
 - 3. Apostolic Writings: The Early Messianic Jewish Community *
 - 4. Jewish Practices in a Messianic Context *
 - 5. Messianic Jewish Spirituality *
- B. Taken at any graduate school
 - 6. Biblical Hermeneutics
 - 7. Introduction to Rabbinic Literature
 - 8. Talmud
 - 9. Jewish-Christian Relations
- C. Taken at any college (or the equivalent)
 - 10. The History of Judaism and the Jewish People*

II. Professional Development Units

Taken at a UMJC-approved school, mentored by a UMJC rabbi, or certified by a UMJC rabbi.

- 1. The Personal Life of the Spiritual Leader*
- 2. Congregational Growth and Development*
- 3. The Basics of Synagogue Worship*
- 4. Effective Public Speaking/Homeletics*
- 5. The Roles of the Messianic Jewish Rabbi
- 6. Shabbat and Weekday Worship Services
- 7. Services for the High Holy Days and Moedim
- 8. Key Events in the Jewish Life Cycle

III. Internship

Under the direction of a UMJC rabbi covering:

- The Rabbi's Personal and Professional Relationships
- Pastoral Care I – Counseling and Prayer
- Pastoral Care II – Serving Through the Stages of Life

Yeshua said “The harvest is rich, but the workers are few.” The UMJC Ministry Credentials options are a great way to step forward in Messiah’s service. We encourage you to contact the UMJC Credentials Committee at UMJC.org for more details!