



An Open Letter to Perspective Students:

I am currently a student at Bellevue University and I am about to get my Masters Degree(it took a little over 15 months.) I have been so **impressed by this program** that I decided to write a letter or recommendation to any perspective students that is considering this program.

As I reflect back on the time right before deciding whether or not to do the program – I remember having tons of questions and concerns. So I thought I would address them and maybe give a perspective student some insight into Bellevue University and the Young Israel Educational Program.

Q. How can I handle a Masters degree – I am already swamped with my job and being a parent?

A. This program is designed with a very busy person in mind. Most of the students in my cohort – are married – with children, and working at least one (sometimes more) full time job. But the way that the scheduling and assignments are structured – **you will have the time and resources to make it work!**

Q. Who is the professor and what will I learn from this degree?

A. Dr. Stephen Linenberger is your main teacher / mentor and academic advisor in the program – and he is a most amazing person. If you ask anyone on our cohort – we can tell you that he is a true mensch, who has an incredible passion for the field of leadership, for teaching, and for working with the Jewish population. And we all know that **when you learn with a master – the learning is sweet, and smooth and very easy to digest.**

Q. Who are some of the people I will be studying with?

A. I cannot speak about who you will have –specifically in your cohort – but in my cohort I had an incredible group of dedicated Jewish educators. We had Head's of Schools, Principals, Day School Teachers, Rebbes, and Students (full time) in our cohort. They were Black Hat, Young Israel, Lubavitch, Modern, and we all got along incredibly well. This is a testament to both the program and Rabbi Lerner and I have to say that the highlight of the program was getting together in New York to learn with Dr. Linenberger and Rabbi Lerner.

Q. What if something comes up (like a new baby or a new job) and I simply don't have time to keep up with the program.

A. This happens . A lot. And everyone is able (with the incredible support of both Dr. Linenberger and Rabbi Lerner) to make it work out. My father was sick and I had to spend a significant amount of time with him – but everything was fine. I was able to put my course on hold and make it up later. The staff was incredibly supportive and really helped make things go smoothly.

Q. Should I invest all this time and money?

A. In the world we live in – it really helps to have a Masters Degree, and it really does affect salaries. So I believe that this program is a bargain.

Good luck and Hatzlacha to all future students.

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