

NOT ON MY CAMPUS: Questions for Jewish Students to Ask When Considering a College or University

There's been a disturbing increase in antisemitic incidents on college campuses across the country in the wake of the October 7, 2023 massacre in Israel. Since then through Feb. 20, 2024 ADL tracked at least 746 incidents of harassment, assault and vandalism on campus, compared to 87 during the same time period last year. In addition, according to an ADL survey a plurality of students report feeling physically unsafe on campus, with even less feeling emotionally safe.



To address the rise of antisemitism on campus, ADL has developed the Not On My Campus campaign and is calling for no tolerance for antisemitism. As students and their families are making decisions about where to commit for college, ADL is rolling out some tools to help.

There is more than one right school for everyone, and what that right place is depends on many factors. ADL aims to empower Jewish students to ask questions about a university's commitment to no tolerance for antisemitism and what it has done to further that commitment. We offer a set of suggested questions below. In addition, we recommend that students and their families talk to professionals and students at Chabad, Hillel, Olami and Greek life organizations to learn about their experiences on campus.

Later this spring, we will be publishing a Campus Report Card, assessing the state of antisemitism on campuses across the country and how they are addressing it. This, plus [Hillel's guide to Jewish life](#), are tools you can use when making your decision.

[Join our campaign for #NoTolerance at NoToleranceForAntisemitism.ADL.org](#)

NOT ON MY CAMPUS

Questions About College/University Policies and Procedures

1. How has school leadership responded to antisemitic incidents on campus? The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism calls upon colleges to “issue clear and unwavering statements condemning all forms of hate, including antisemitism, especially in the wake of antisemitic incidents” and to “treat antisemitism with the same seriousness as other forms of hate.” Has the university you are looking at issued strong public statements? Look on the website for statements after October 7th and in the wake of protests or incidents on campus.

2. Has the school defined antisemitism? If so, what definition is being used and how is it being used? ADL considers the [IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism](#) to be the preeminent and most widely accepted definitional tool used around the world when it comes to understanding manifestations of antisemitism today.

3. Does the school have clear student codes of conduct, faculty disciplinary rules, and non-discrimination and anti-harassment policies that define prohibited conduct and the consequences for violations? Can you easily find these policies on the school’s website? Are students you talk to aware of them? At a time when we are seeing harassment, intimidation, threats of violence, and physical assaults on college campuses, as well as disruptive protests that are violating university policies and interfering with students’ exams, coursework and access to campus facilities, there must be consequences.

4. Is the school making students aware of their legal rights and how to seek recourse? Can you find this information on the website? Do students you talk to

know what to do or where to turn if they want to file a complaint about an antisemitic incident on campus?

5. Is the school committed to transparency about the outcomes of complaints filed under the policies referenced above? Does the school’s website offer any information about the steps the college or university is taking in response to policy violations?

6. Does the school have a taskforce or advisory group to address campus antisemitism? If not, have they announced plans to create such a taskforce or advisory group? If so, is its mission/charge and membership publicly available? What has the taskforce or advisory group accomplished so far?

7. How does/has campus security handled protests and demonstrations? Are permitting processes clear and applied across the board? Have any other time, place and manner restrictions been imposed and if so, have they been enforced across the board? Have any special security plans or measures been put in place since October 7th?

8. Is antisemitism awareness incorporated into any existing Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) trainings and/or other programming? For students? For faculty and staff? Is it part of new student orientation?

9. Are policies about exemptions/extensions/accommodations for religious observance clear and applied across the board? Are these policies easily accessible and understood by students, faculty and staff? Where can I find these policies?

10. Has the school taken a stance regarding the [Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions \(BDS\) movement](#)? If so, what has the school said? Have BDS resolutions been passed by the student legislative body?

11. Are there active anti-Zionist student groups on campus, such as Students for Justice in Palestine? If so, are these organizations official student group organizations on campus? Have they violated university policies? If so, have there been consequences?



NOT ON MY CAMPUS

Questions About Jewish Life on Campus

1. What percentage of students on campus are Jewish?

What is the Jewish undergraduate student enrollment?
What is the Jewish grad student enrollment?

2. What Jewish groups are present on campus? Do they have their own facilities?

3. Will you be able to find religious services to match your religious observance? Are classes or exams scheduled on major Jewish holidays?

4. Are Kosher food options provided?

Where and how often?

5. Is there an Israel Fellow/Jewish Agency Envoy on campus?

How do they feel about the campus climate?

6. Does the school offer Jewish Studies as a major or minor? Are current students happy with the programming?

7. Is there a Rabbi/Jewish Educator on campus?

What is this individual's relationship like with students?

8. Are there study abroad opportunities in Israel?

Is the school supportive of these opportunities?

9. Have Jewish communal institutions like Hillel and Chabad received additional security funding from the university? Have there been antisemitic incidents targeting these centers on campus?

10. Are there Jewish Greek organizations active on campus? Do students generally feel safe and supported?

11. Are anti-Zionist groups like Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) active on campus? Are these groups sanctioned by the school? What kind of activity and rhetoric have they been engaged in on campus? Have there been allegations or complaints about violations of student codes of conduct? If so, what have the outcomes been?

Questions to Ask Students and Jewish Life Professionals

1. Do you feel safe on campus?

2. Have you had to change your behavior on campus at all? Do you still go to Hillel or Chabad? Will you wear a Kippah or Star of David necklace? Will you willingly tell others you are Jewish?

3. Have you changed your conduct in class at all? Are there classes in which or professors around whom you have self-censored how you talk about Israel or Judaism?

4. Have you experienced antisemitism on campus? Did you feel comfortable reporting it to the university? If you did, what was their response?

5. Would you choose this campus again?

6. Have you felt supported by your school's administration?

7. Have there been a lot of anti-Israel protests on campus? Have protesters followed school policies?

