Core Semikha Application

Writing Prompts & Word Counts

Thank you for your interest in applying to Maharat's Core Semikha program.

All applications are due February 1, 2027, and recommendation letters are due February 10, 2027. There is a non-refundable $54 application fee. The application will also require an updated resume/CV as well as your undergraduate transcripts (and your graduate transcripts, if applicable). Applicants will be notified if they are offered an interview.

The application will also feature the following writing prompts:

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Autobiography: Please reflect upon your Jewish autobiography from childhood until this point. What people, institutions, books, texts, or experiences have had the greatest impact on you? We are aware that all Jewish communities are different and that people do not have the same opportunities in different places; we want to know what inspires you. (up to 500 words)

Kedusha: Please describe an experience of kedusha in your life. (up to 500 words)

Rabbinate: What is your vision for the Jewish community and how do you see yourself actualizing that vision? What are your professional goals in the rabbinate? What strengths and weaknesses do you bring to that leadership? (up to 500 words)

SHORT ANSWER

Leadership: Please describe an experience where you were called on to exercise your leadership skills. (up to 250 words)

Israel: What is your relationship to Israel? (up to 200 words)

Academic Interests: What are your intellectual interests or specialized areas of study (Jewish and/or secular)? (up to 200 words)

Other Interests: Please share any non-academic interests, volunteering, hobbies, and/or talents that may not have fit into the above categories or questions. (up to 200 words)

Please reach out to admissions@yeshivatmaharat.org if you have any questions.