

NAJC Membership Categories and Criteria

1. A Regular Member

- is a duly ordained Rabbi, duly ordained/invested Cantor, or Jewish lay professional
- serves as a chaplain in an institutional or agency setting
- has advanced Jewish education
- has chaplaincy training (in a recognized program or under appropriate supervision)
- has advanced secular education, Bachelors Level or the equivalent.

2. A Certified Member

- meets all the requirements of category 1
- has been at the Regular Member level for at least twelve (12) consecutive months prior to certification
- has fulfilled the NAJC certification requirements as approved by the NAJC Certification Commission (*basic requirements follow*)
- has been issued a certification number
- meets all annual education requirements as determined by the Continuing Education Committee.

3. A Retired Member

- was a member of NAJC, in good standing for at least one (1) year
- is currently retired

4. An Affiliate

- supports the aims of NAJC, but is not eligible to be a member.

5. A Student Affiliate

- is a full-time or part-time Rabbinic or Cantorial student
- or is a Jewish lay student in a full-time chaplaincy program

NAJC Certification Requirements - Basic Overview

The National Association of Jewish Chaplains certifies qualified individuals as Jewish Chaplains. This certification is analogous to the professional recognition by other national pastoral care organizations. Some Jewish Chaplains will seek certification by more than one association depending upon the individual's professional goals.

The individual seeking certification must demonstrate outstanding abilities in the area of Jewish pastoral care. This certification process requires the submission of written materials and an interview with a committee of NAJC Certified Chaplains. The standards for evaluation require advanced training as a Jewish professional and as a pastoral care giver. The full text of these standards can be found in the Certification Handbook, available from certification@najc.org.

Rabbis, Cantors, and other Jewish professionals who meet both the Jewish educational requirements and the clinical training standards are eligible for certification. Candidates are required to be NAJC members in good standing for at least one year prior to the committee interview for certification. The Commission on Certification considers special requests concerning educational equivalencies on a case by case basis.

Members can find a full copy of the Certification Handbook and Application Form in the documents section of the members only section of this web site.

The Chair of the Commission on Certification is available for consultation regarding the certification process at certification@najc.org. As well, a mentor may be assigned to the candidate for assistance. Regular updates on the certification process can also be found in the NAJC newsletter.