

Religious Holidays: 2020–2021 Academic Year

This is a list of religious and cultural holidays that students may need academic accommodations for. The calendar can be used by instructors developing class syllabi and for planning or by supervisors of student employees. Although many of these days are not university holidays, the information can be used by instructors or supervisors at their discretion when responding to student requests for accommodations for religious purposes. Making accommodations does not excuse a student of any course requirements, but rather supports adjustments to honor their religious observances. Reference the [Accommodation of Religious Creed policy here](#).

This list is limited to religious holidays that affect a student's ability to participate in usual course activities and is not intended to be inclusive of all religious observances. Please take special note of those holidays that have been designated non-work days by the religions that celebrate them.

To request accommodations, please go to the [Request for Religious Accommodation form](#).

PLEASE NOTE:

- # - These holidays have been designated non-work days by the religions that celebrate them.
- ** - Some of these dates are not fixed to a calendar but based on the actual sighting of the moon and therefore there may be some variance by a day.
- Jewish and Islamic holy days begin and end at sundown on the first and last days listed.
- Every Friday from sundown until Saturday at sundown is the Jewish Sabbath.

<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<u>FAITH</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>
Eid al-Adha** Festival of Sacrifice. The day of Arafat, marks the end of Hajj.	Islam	Jul. 30-31
Krishna Janmashtami Commemoration of the birth of Krishna, the eighth incarnation of god Vishnu	Hindu	Aug. 12
10th of Muharram** The date of the Emigration of Muhammad and his followers to Medina in 622 CE Islamic New Year	Islam	Aug. 21
Ashura There is an optional fast this day. The Shi'a observance is based on the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Husayn, martyred on this day in 683/684 CE after the battle of Karbala. Sunni observance is related to numerous Biblical and Qur'anic events.	Islam	Aug. 28-29

Rosh Hashanah #	Jewish	Sept. 19-20
Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence, prayer, and penitence.		
Fast of Gedaliah	Jewish	Sept. 21
The Fast of Gedaliah is a fast day to commemorate the assassination of Gedaliah, the official charged with overseeing the Jewish population in Judah.		
Yom Kippur (Fast Day) #	Jewish	Sept. 27-28
The most solemn and holy day of the year in which Jews spend a day in penitence and prayer.		
Sukkot #	Jewish	Oct. 2-9
Feast of Tabernacles which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents.		
Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah #	Jewish	Oct. 10-11
Completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah.		
Birthday of the Bab #	Bahá'í	Oct. 19
Baha'i observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, "the Bab," the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith, in Shiraz, Persia.		
Birth of the Prophet Muhammad**	Islam	Oct. 28-29
Commemoration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam, about 570 CE. Not universally observed.		
Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh #	Bahá'í	Nov. 12
Anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Baha'u'llah, prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, in Nur, Persia.		
Diwali**	Hindu	Nov. 14-18
Festival of lights symbolizing the human urges to move toward the light.		
Bandi Chhor Diwas	Sikh	Nov. 14
Observed as a "Day of Liberation" commemorating the release from prison of Guru Hargobind circa 1612		
Ascension of Abdul Baha	Baha'i	Nov. 28
The Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha' commemorates the death on Nov. 28, 1921—and, retrospectively, the life—of 'Abdu'l-Baha'		
Birth of Guru Nanak	Sikh	Nov. 30
Celebrates the birth of Guru Nanak, the founder of <u>Sikhism</u> , circa 1469, observed on the full moon day of November		

Christmas	Christian	Dec. 25
Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts and family parties (per Gregorian Calendar).		
Kwanzaa	Interfaith/African-American	Dec. 26–Jan. 1
Weeklong celebration honoring African heritage in African-American culture.		
Feast of the Epiphany	Christian	Jan. 6
Celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ.		
East Orthodox Christmas	Orthodox Christian	Jan. 7
Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts, and family parties (per Julian Calendar).		
Lunar New Year & Tet	Confucianism/Taoism/Buddhism	Feb. 12
Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions. Family reunions with thanksgiving and remembrance of departed relatives take place. Traditionally a religious ceremony honors Heaven and Earth.		
Ash Wednesday	Christian	Feb. 17
Lent begins in Western Christianity.		
Fast of Esther	Jewish	Feb. 25
Commemorates the three-day fast observed by the Jewish people in the story of Purim.		
East Orthodox Beginning of Lent	Orthodox Christian	Mar. 15
First day of the forty days of the Great Lent period, beginning on Clean Monday followed by distinct periods of fasting, Lazarus Saturday, and Palm Sunday, culminating in Holy Week.		
Nowruz #	Bahá'í / Zoroastrianism	March 21
Celebrating the first day of the new year, this is one of the nine Bahá'í holy days on which work is to be suspended. It is generally observed with a meeting for prayer and celebration.		
Fast of Bechorot	Jewish	March 25
Commemorates the miracle which spared the firstborn Jewish sons from plague.		
Passover (Pesach) #	Jewish	Mar. 27-Apr. 4
Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery to freedom.		
Good Friday	Christian	Apr. 2
Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.		
Easter	Christian	Apr. 4
The most holy of Christian Sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.		

Ramadan	Islam	Apr. 12-May 11
Ninth month of Islamic calendar, devoted fasting from first light to sunset. The holiest period of the Islamic Year commemorating the Prophet Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation the Qur'an.		
Laylat Al-Qadr		Odd nights of last ten days
This is the Night of Destiny or Night of Power. It marks the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.		
Baisakhi (Vaisakhi)	Sikh	Apr. 14
Birth of Khalsa brotherhood, the Sikh New Year festival commemorating the year Sikhism was born as a collective faith.		
Ridvan #	Bahá'í	Apr. 20
Commemorate the twelve days when Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder, resided in a garden called Ridvan (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. The first (4/21), ninth (4/29), and twelfth (5/2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'is suspend work.		
9th Day of Ridvan #	Bahá'í	Apr. 28
Eastern Orthodox Good Friday	Orthodox Christian	Apr. 30
Christian remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus and related events.		
12th Day of Ridvan	Bahá'í	May 1
Eastern Orthodox Easter	Orthodox Christian	May 2
The most holy of Christian Sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.		
Eid al-Fitr (date can vary by a day)	Islam	May 12-13
Marks the end of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to God.		
Ascension Day	Christian	May 13
The fortieth day of Easter commemorating Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven.		
Shavuot	Jewish	May 16-18
One of the three pilgrimage holidays commemorating the giving of the Torah (5 Books of Moses).		
Declaration of the Báb**	Bahá'í	May 22-23
Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Bab, the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith, announced he was the herald of a new messenger of God.		
Pentecost	Christianity (RC, P, O)	May 23
Christian observation of the day when the God the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the		

forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind. It is a traditional day for baptism and confirmation of new Christians.

Vesak (Visakha Puja) - Buddha Day # **Buddhism

May 26

Marking of the birth, enlightenment, and death (attainment of Nirvana) of Lord Buddha.

Ascension of Baha'u'lláh**

Bahá'í

May 28–29

Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith.