

The Faculty Senate has set guidelines pertaining to the observation of religious holidays. These have become university policy and are as follows:

1. that students notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance.
2. that faculty continue to extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations.
3. that faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday arrange at the beginning of the semester to re-schedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities.
4. that, prior to each semester, the administration circulate to faculty a schedule of religious holidays most frequently observed by GW students.
5. that student members of other religious groups are also entitled to the same courtesies and accommodations.
6. that the administration conveys this policy to students by including it in the Schedule of Classes and other places deemed appropriate.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY CALENDAR*			
HOLIDAY	AY 2020-2021	DAY	RELIGION
Eid al Adha	July 30 - 31, 2020	Thursday - Friday	Islamic
Krishna Janmashtami	August 11, 2020	Tuesday	Hindu
Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year)	August 19 - 20, 2020	Wednesday - Thursday	Islamic
Rosh Hashanah	September 18 - 20, 2020	Friday - Sunday	Jewish
Yom Kippur	September 27 - 28, 2020	Sunday - Monday	Jewish
Sukkot	October 2 - 9, 2020	Friday - Friday	Jewish
Shemini Atzeret	October 9 - 11, 2020	Friday - Sunday	Jewish
Simchat Torah	October 10 - 11, 2020	Saturday - Sunday	Jewish
Dussehra (Dassera)	October 25, 2020	Sunday	Hindu
Mawlid-an-Nabi	October 28 - 29, 2020	Wednesday - Thursday	Islamic
All Saints' Day	November 1, 2020	Sunday	Christian
Deepavali (Diwali)	November 14, 2020	Saturday	Hindu
Guru Nanak's Birthday	November 30, 2020	Monday	Sikh
Immaculate Conception	December 8, 2020	Tuesday	Christian
Hanukkah/Chanukah	December 10 - 18, 2020	Thursday - Friday	Jewish
Russian Orthodox Christmas	January 7, 2021	Thursday	Christian
Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday	January 20, 2021	Wednesday	Sikh
Bodhi Day	January 20, 2021	Wednesday	Buddhist
Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese New Year	February 12, 2021	Saturday	n/a
Ash Wednesday	February 17, 2021	Wednesday	Christian
Purim	February 25 - 26, 2021	Thursday - Friday	Jewish
Nowruz -- Persian New Year	March 21 - 22, 2021	Sunday - Monday	n/a
Pesach (Passover) - first two days	March 27 - 28, 2021	Saturday - Sunday	Jewish
Palm Sunday	March 28, 2021	Sunday	Christian
Holy Thursday	April 1, 2021	Thursday	Christian
Good Friday	April 2, 2021	Friday	Christian
Pesach (Passover) - last two days	April 2 - 3, 2020	Friday - Saturday	Jewish
Easter (Western)	April 4, 2021	Sunday	Christian
Vaisakhi	April 14, 2021	Wednesday	Sikh
Ram Navami	April 21, 2021	Wednesday	Hindu
Easter (Eastern Orthodox)	May 2, 2021	Sunday	Christian
Birth of Buddha (Vesak)	**PLEASE SEE NOTE BELOW		Buddhist

***PLEASE NOTE: Although these dates were taken from sources that we feel are reliable, dates often vary by source.**

** The Birth of Buddha is observed on different days in different countries. The various dates are due to the numerous calendars used throughout the world. Some dates confirmed by religious leaders are April 8, May 19, and May 26.

According to several schools of Islamic law, which are followed by many of our Muslim students, attendance at the Friday congregational prayers is a required religious duty. Although the precise time of observance varies from year-to-year, it always remains within the time period of 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Jewish holidays begin at sunset of the previous evening.