

Accommodating Religious Observance Academic Years 20-21 and 21-22

As a secular unaffiliated institution, Butler University is proud to welcome people of all faith and philosophical orientations to our campus communities. We hope there can be flexibility and understanding for religious practice in both curricular and co-curricular planning.

Religious Holiday Accommodation Policy

Butler University passed a Religious Holiday Accommodation policy through the Faculty Senate on November 6, 2012. The policy states:

Butler University respects all students' right to religious observance and will reasonably accommodate students' religious practice with regard to class attendance, examinations, and assignments when requests are made in a timely manner.

Butler University recommends that each class should have a syllabus that provides a schedule of activities for the class. It is the student's responsibility to inform instructors of course conflicts resulting from religious observations at least two weeks in advance of the observance, so that accommodations can be made. Requests must be made in writing, and the student should include a proposed alternative due date, examination date, or make-up outline.

The professor should review the request and if the student's proposed suggestion is acceptable, he/she should notify the student of the agreement. Any solution that is mutually agreeable to both student and faculty member is acceptable.

If accommodations cannot be agreed upon, the instructor and students should seek the advice of the associate dean in the appropriate college. No adverse or prejudicial effects will result to students because they have made use of these provisions.

We encourage faculty to provide this policy within their syllabi so students are made aware that it is their responsibility to arrange accommodations for missing class for religious observance with faculty in advance.

Syllabi Content: If faculty do not wish to print the entire policy in their syllabi, below is a succinct way to provide the same basic content and point people to the full policy online:

Students have the ability to get academic accommodations if observation of religious practices poses a conflict. It is the student's responsibility to be in communication with the faculty member at least two weeks prior to the need for the accommodation. For the full policy, please refer to <https://www.butler.edu/registrar/religious-holidays>.

Holy Days

We also encourage faculty and staff to avoid scheduling exams, field trips, or other activities that would be hard to make up on the major holy days observed and celebrated by our campus communities provided below. These dates are also important to avoid for campus-wide events.

There are many other important holy dates and observances than provided below. The list below reflects the most significant holidays for the faith communities present on Butler's campus. For a much more comprehensive list of religious holidays, the CFV website has linked to an interfaith calendar [here](#).

*Indicates the holiday begins at sundown

† Indicates the holiday date may vary by a day or two; dates are finalized leading up to the holiday. For this reason, sometimes it may be difficult for students to utilize the above policy a full 2-weeks in advance as final observance decisions are made by faith leaders sometimes within 10 days of the holiday.

AY 2020-2021

| Dates | Holy Day Description | Dietary Observances |
|--|---|--|
| May 23-24, 2020*† | Eid al-Fitr (Celebration at the end of Ramadan within Islam) | Ramadan lasts from April 23-May 24 and Muslims will fast daily from food or drink from sunrise to sunset. |
| July 30-31, 2020*† | Eid al-Adha, the second of the two major holidays celebrated around the world in Islam, a great feast that marks the end of the Hajj. | |
| September 18-20, 2020* | Rosh Hashanah, the New Year in the Jewish calendar | |
| September 27-28, 2020* | Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement for Jewish Communities | Jews observing Yom Kippur traditionally will be fasting |
| November 14, 2020 | Diwali, a festival of lights celebrated within South Asia and world-wide, connected to Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism | |
| December 25, 2020 | Christmas, celebration of the birth of Jesus | |
| February 17, 2021 | Ash Wednesday, Christian first day of Lent | Christians may fast from meat on Fridays or engage in other forms of fasting between Feb. 17 and April 4. |
| March 27-April 4, 2021* (Avoid exams and other programs on the evenings of 3/26, 3/27.) | Passover, Jewish week-long observance of Exodus from Egypt, begins at sundown. | Jews observing Passover will eat no leavened bread and may observe other dietary restrictions from March 27-April 4. |
| March 29, 2021† | Holi, Hindu festival of colors | |

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| April 2, 2021 | Good Friday, Christian observance of Jesus' death and burial | |
| April 4, 2021 | Easter, Christian celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection | |
| April 12 - May 11, 2021*† (dates may vary) | Ramadan, Holy month of fasting within Islam, most Muslims will continue daily activity, but will be fasting during the day | Muslims fast daily from food or drink before sunrise until after sunset. |
| April 13 or 14, 2021 | Vaisakhi, Founding of the Sikh religion and the harvest festival of the Punjabi region of India | |
| April 30, 2021 | Holy Friday, Eastern Orthodox Christians | |
| May 2, 2021 | Easter, Eastern Orthodox Christians | |
| May 12-13, 2021*† | Eid al-Fitr (Celebration at the end of Ramadan within Islam) | |

AY 2021-2022

| Dates | Holy Day Description | Dietary Observances |
|--|---|--|
| May 12-13, 2021*† | Eid al-Fitr (Celebration at the end of Ramadan within Islam) | Ramadan lasts from April 12-May 11 and Muslims will fast daily from food or drink from sunrise to sunset. |
| July 19-20, 2021*† | Eid al-Adha, the second of the two major holidays celebrated around the world in Islam, a great feast that marks the end of the Hajj. | |
| September 6-8, 2021 | Rosh Hashanah, the New Year in the Jewish calendar | |
| September 15-16, 2021 | Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement for Jewish Communities | Jews observing Yom Kippur traditionally will be fasting |
| November 4, 2021 | Diwali, a festival of lights celebrated within South Asia and world-wide, connected to Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism | |
| December 25, 2021 | Christmas, celebration of the birth of Jesus | |
| March 2, 2022 | Ash Wednesday, Christian first day of Lent | Christians may fast from meat on Fridays or engage in other forms of fasting between March 2 and April 17. |
| March 18, 2022† | Holi, Hindu festival of colors | |
| April 2-May 1, 2022*† (dates may vary) | Ramadan, Holy month of fasting within Islam, most Muslims will continue daily activity, but will be fasting during the day | Muslims fast daily from food or drink before sunrise until after sunset. |
| April 14, 2022 | Vaisakhi, Founding of the Sikh religion and the harvest festival of the Punjabi region of India | |

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|---|--|---|
| April 15-23, 2022* (Avoid exams and other programs on the evenings of 4/18, 4/19.) | Passover, Jewish week-long observance of Exodus from Egypt, begins at sundown. | Jews observing Passover will eat no leavened bread and may observe other dietary restrictions from April 15-23. |
| April 15, 2022 | Good Friday, Christian observance of Jesus' death and burial | |
| April 17, 2022 | Easter, Christian celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection | |
| April 22, 2022 | Holy Friday, Eastern Orthodox Christians | |
| April 24, 2022 | Easter, Eastern Orthodox Christians | |
| May 2-3, 2022*† | Eid al-Fitr (Celebration at the end of Ramadan within Islam) | |

Questions or Suggestions

Please contact the Center for Faith and Vocation for additional information or with suggestions about how we can continue to celebrate and welcome the religious diversity on our campus. Daniel Meyers, CFV Director, can be reached at dgmeyers@butler.edu.

