

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
CALENDAR OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS AND OBSERVANCES
Center for Religious and Spiritual Life Academic Year 2023-2024

INTRODUCTION

This calendar is published by the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life as a tool to educate our community about the diverse religious traditions observed by our members and to assist students, faculty, and staff in planning academic or work responsibilities. Sources consulted in the process of compiling the calendar include the Anti-Defamation League's Calendar of Observances and other multifaith references. The calendar has also been reviewed by leaders of various faith communities both on-campus and in Nashville. This is not an exhaustive list of holy days or religious observances. Students, faculty, or staff may encounter requests for accommodation related to holy days not listed on this calendar. We strive to make the Holy Days Calendar as accurate as possible and to describe the holy days, their significance, and the nature of observance correctly. If you find a mistake, please let the Center know by emailing religiouslife@vanderbilt.edu.

We encourage students, faculty, and staff to be proactive in requesting religious accommodations for academic or work responsibilities. Should a request require a formal process for accommodation, that process could take two weeks or more to complete.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION*

**For students, from the [Vanderbilt University Student Handbook](#):
*Religious Holy Days and Practices***

It is the policy of Vanderbilt to reasonably accommodate students so that they do not experience an adverse academic consequence when sincerely held religious beliefs or observances conflict with academic requirements. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the semester. It is incumbent on students who miss a class to catch up on any material discussed and assignments given during that class period.

Students who wish to request an academic accommodation for a religious observance should submit their request in writing directly to the instructor of the course well in advance of the absence, preferably at the beginning of the semester. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the [Equal Opportunity and Access Office](#).

For faculty, staff, and post-docs, from the [Equal Opportunity and Access \(EOA\)](#):

It is the policy of Vanderbilt to provide reasonable accommodations for employees and prospective employees based on their sincerely held religious beliefs or observances unless doing so would create an undue hardship for the university.

To request a religious accommodation, employees should complete the [Religious Reasonable Accommodation Request Form](#) available on the EOA website. Upon receipt of this form, EOA will engage in an interactive process with the employee, the employee's supervisor, and other relevant parties, as necessary, to determine whether an accommodation is reasonable. Because this process takes time to complete, employees are encouraged to request accommodations well in advance of any need for accommodation. Reasonable accommodations must be approved in advance and are not retroactive.

**This information is included here for convenience. Please visit the Equal Opportunity and Access Office's website for additional information about religious accommodation policies and practices.*

CALENDAR

*Regional custom, group preference, or lunar sighting may cause a variation in this date.

Italic type indicates Vanderbilt University dates for undergraduate schools. Graduate and professional students should consult their own school or departmental calendars and policies for more specific information. All Vanderbilt University dates are subject to change.

FALL SEMESTER 2023

DATE 2023	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Aug 1	Tuesday	Lughnasadh*	Earth-based Spiritualities, Paganism, Wicca	First of three festivals celebrating harvest; also known as <i>Lammas</i>	
<i>Aug 11</i>		<i>Summer Semester Ends</i>			
Aug 13 Aug 15	Sunday Tuesday	Obon*	Buddhism	Japanese Buddhist observance for the spirits of past ancestors and striving to relieve aching souls from suffering; date varies from region to region; in other regions or practices may also be called <i>Ullambana</i> or observed in July	
Aug 15	Tuesday	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Christianity (C)	Commemorates the bodily taking up of Mary, the mother of Jesus, into heaven at the end of her earthly life	
<i>Aug 23</i>		<i>First Day of Classes for Undergraduates</i>			
Aug 30	Wednesday	Raksha Bandhan	Hinduism	Festival celebrating family relationships; also called <i>Rakhi</i>	
Sep 6	Wednesday	Krishna Janmashtami	Hinduism	Principal festival celebrating the birth of the god Krishna; also known as <i>Jayanti</i>	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this day, since it is likely Hindu students and employees may have had little sleep and may be fasting.

DATE 2023	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Sep 11 Sep 18	Monday Monday	Paryushana*	Jainism	Festival of repentance and forgiveness, removing accumulated karma from the previous year and developing control over accumulating new karma; includes rituals and processions; also known as <i>Das Lakshana</i>	Jain students and employees may be fasting.
Sep 15 Sep 17	sundown Friday sundown Sunday	Rosh Hashanah	Judaism	Beginning of the Jewish new year and the first of the High Holy Days, a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. These are non-work days and Jewish students and employees may request these days off.
Sep 17 Sep 18	sundown Sunday sundown Monday	Fast of Gedaliah	Judaism	Fast that remembers the assassination of Gedaliah, the righteous Babylonian governor of Judah; his death was the end of Jewish autonomy after the destruction of the First Temple	Jewish students and employees may be fasting.
Sep 19	Tuesday	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hinduism	Festival celebrating the god Ganesha	
Sep 21	Thursday	Mabon (Fall Equinox)*	Earth-based Spiritualities, Paganism, Wicca	Time of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth and the need to share them; also known as <i>Harvest Home</i> or the <i>Feast of the Ingathering</i>	
Sep 24 Sep 25	sundown Sunday sundown Monday	Yom Kippur	Judaism	The “Day of Atonement” marking the end of ten days of penitence that began on Rosh Hashanah	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. This is a non-work day and Jewish students and employees may request this day off. Jewish students and employees may be fasting all day.
Sep 27	Wednesday	Mawlid al-Nabi	Islam (Su)	Birthday of the founder of Islam, the Prophet Mohammed; Shi’a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims; also known as <i>Malid al-Nabi</i>	Sunni Muslim employees may request this day off.
Sep 29 Oct 6	sundown Friday sundown Friday	Sukkot	Judaism	The week-long “Festival of Booths” commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelite people on the way to the Promised Land	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on the first two days, which are non-working days.

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Oct 2	Monday	Mawlid al-Nabi	Islam (Sh)	Birthday of the founder of Islam, the Prophet Mohammed; Sunni Muslims celebrate it five days earlier than Shi'a Muslims; also know as <i>Malid al-Nabi</i>	Shi'a Muslim employees may request this day off.
Oct 6 Oct 7	sundown Friday sundown Saturday	Shemini Atzeret	Judaism	"The Eighth (Day) of Assembly" observed on the day following Sukkot	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. This is a non-work day and Jewish students and employees may request this day off.
Oct 7 Oct 8	sundown Saturday sundown Sunday	Simchat Torah	Judaism	"Rejoicing in the Torah" celebrates the conclusion of public reading of the Pentateuch and the reading cycle beginning again	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. This is a non-work day and Jewish students and employees may request this day off.
Oct 15 Oct 24	Sunday Tuesday	Navratri	Hinduism	Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil; festival celebrating the universal mother known as Durga, Devi, or Shakti; marks the start of the fall	
Oct 16	Monday	Birth of the Báb*	Bahá'í	Anniversary of the birth in 1819 of the Báb, prophet-herald of the Bahá'í faith, in Shíráz, Persia	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Bahá'í students and employees suspend work on this day and will likely request this day off.
Oct 17	Tuesday	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh*	Bahá'í	Anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá'í, in Núr, Persia	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Bahá'í students and employees suspend work on this day and will likely request this day off.
Oct 19 Oct 20		<i>Fall Break for Undergraduates</i>			
Oct 20	Friday	Gur-Gaddi Guru Granth Sahib	Sikhism	Commemorates Sri Guru Granth Sahib, who is considered the eternal guru who holds the spirit of all Ten Gurus of the Sikhs, and who is a spiritual guide for all Sikhs	
Oct 24	Tuesday	Vijayadashami	Hinduism	Festival following Navratri, celebrating the god Rama's victory over the	

DATE 2023	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
				demon Ravana; includes readings from <i>Ramayana</i> ; also known as <i>Dussehra</i> , <i>Dasara</i> , or <i>Dashain</i>	
Oct 31 Nov 1	sundown Tuesday sundown Wednesday	Samhain*	Earth-based Spiritualities, Paganism, Wicca	A festival of darkness; time to celebrate the lives of ancestors, loved ones, and others who have died; coincides with <i>Halloween</i>	
Nov 1	Tuesday	All Saints Day	Christianity (C, P)	Remembers all known and unknown Christian saints; Orthodox Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost	
Nov 10	Friday	Dhanteras	Hinduism	First day of the festival of Diwali; recalls the giving of Ayurveda (a system of medical theory and practice) by the god Dhanvantari for the betterment of humanity and ridding the world of disease	
Nov 12	Sunday	Diwali*	Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism	Festival of lights, celebrating good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance; for Hindus, associated with the gods Rama and Krishna and the goddess Lakshmi; also known as <i>Deepvli</i>	Hindu, Jain, and Sikh students and employees may request this day off.
Nov 12	Sunday	Bandi Chhor Divas	Sikhism	Celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment; coincides with Diwali	
Nov 15	Wednesday	Bhai Dooj	Hinduism	Celebrated during Diwali, this is a holiday similar to Raksha Bandhan, celebrating the relationship between siblings	
Nov 18 Nov 26		<i>Thanksgiving Break for Undergraduates</i>			
Nov 26	Sunday	Day of the Covenant	Bahá'í	Recalls Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of Abdu'l-Baha as successor	

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Nov 27	Monday	Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday	Sikhism	Celebration of the birth the First Guru of the Sikhs and the founder of Sikhism	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Sikh employees may request this day off.
Dec 2	Saturday	19 th of Kislev	Judaism (Chabad)	Commemorates the release of the founder of Chabad Hasidism, Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, from a Russian prison	
Dec 3 Dec 24	Sunday Saturday	Advent	Christianity (C, P)	A season of spiritual preparation prior to the observance of the birth of Jesus; in Western Christianity, it begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas; in Orthodox Christianity, the season is longer and begins in mid-November	
Dec 7		<i>Undergraduate Classes End</i>			
Dec 7 Dec 15	sundown Thursday sundown Friday	Chanukah	Judaism	Eight-day "Festival of Lights" celebrating the rededication of the Temple to worship of God in 164 BCE; commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek king Antiochus, who suppressed freedom of worship; also known as <i>Hanukkah</i>	Academics and work are permitted. Provide food accommodations as requested.
Dec 8	Thursday	Bodhi Day	Buddhism	Marks the day that the Buddha experienced enlightenment or spiritual awakening (bodhi); celebrated either in December or the twelfth month of the lunar calendar; also known as <i>Rohatsu</i>	Buddhist students and employees may have had little sleep.
Dec 8	Thursday	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	Christianity (C)	Recalls the conception of Mary, who would become the mother of Jesus, without original sin	
Dec 8 Dec 16		<i>Reading and Exams for Undergraduates</i>			

DATE 2023	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
<i>Dec 17 Jan 7</i>		<i>Winter Break for Undergraduates</i>			
Dec 21	Thursday	Yule (Winter Solstice)*	Earth-based Spiritualities Paganism, Wicca	Marks a turning point in the yearly cycle, as the reduced presence of the sun ends; feasting, gift-giving, and decorating with evergreen are common	
Dec 22	Friday	10 th of Tevet	Judaism	A day of fasting that recalls the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar in 588 BCE, which led to the destruction of the First Temple and the exile of the Jewish people	Jewish students and employees may be fasting.
Dec 24 Dec 25	sundown Sunday Monday	Christmas	Christianity (C, P)	Commemorates the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Catholic and Protestant Christian employees will likely request this day off.

SPRING SEMESTER 2024

DATE 2024	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Jan 1	Monday	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Christianity (C)	Celebrates the identity of Mary as the mother of Jesus, the Son of God; derived from the Greek title <i>Theotokos</i> , "Bearer of God"	
Jan 1	Monday	Gantan-sai	Shintoism	Celebrates the new year; also known as <i>Shogatsu</i> or <i>Japanese New Year</i>	Shinto employees may request the day off.
Jan 6	Saturday	Epiphany	Christianity (C, P, O)	In Catholic and Protestant Christianity, recalls the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus; also known as <i>Three Kings Day</i> ; in Orthodox Christianity, celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ and the baptism of Jesus by John, also known as <i>Theophany</i>	
Jan 7	Sunday	Feast of the Nativity; Christmas	Christianity (O)	Celebrates the birth of Jesus	Orthodox Christian employees will likely request this day off.
Jan 8		<i>First Day of Classes for Undergraduates</i>			
Jan 13	Saturday	Maghi-Lohri	Sikhism	Celebrates 40 Sikh martyrs who deserted and then returned to the tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh, in order to fight the Mughal Empire	
Jan 15	Monday	Makar Sankranti,* Pongal	Hinduism	Seasonal celebration marking turning of the sun to the north	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities.
Jan 15		<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>			
Jan 17	Wednesday	Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday	Sikhism	Guru Gobind Singh was the Tenth Sikh Guru of Nanak and founder of the Khalsa, the sacred community of Sikhs	

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Jan 20	Saturday	10 th of Shvat	Judaism (Chabad)	Commemorates the death of the sixth Chabad Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn and the acceptance of leadership by the seventh Rebbe, Rabbi Menacham Mendel Schneerson	
Jan 21	Sunday	World Religion Day	Bahá'í	Observance of the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify all people	
Jan 25	Thursday	Mahayana New Year*	Buddhism	Adherents of the Mahayana tradition of Buddhism celebrate the new year on the first full moon in January; observance may vary or extend over several days according to region	
Jan 25	Thursday	Tu B'Shvat	Judaism	Celebrates the fruits and trees of Israel, and the deeper spiritual significance of nature; also known as <i>Rosh Hashanah for the Trees</i>	
Feb 1 Feb 2	sundown Thursday sundown Friday	Imbolc*	Earth-based Spiritualities, Paganism, Wicca	A time of spring cleaning and anticipation of the new year's life; in Celtic traditions it is dedicated to the goddess Brigid; in other traditions it is a time of rededication or initiation; also known as <i>Imbolg</i>	
Feb 3	Saturday	Setsubun	Shintoism	Day before the traditional beginning of spring in Japan; associated with the Lunar New Year; includes rituals to cleanse evil of the prior year and drive away evil spirits for the coming year	
Feb 6 Feb 7	sundown Tuesday sundown Wednesday	Lailat al-Mi'raj*	Islam	The "Night Journey" of the Prophet Mohammed, commemorating his mystical journey from Mecca to al-Aqsa in Jerusalem and then to heaven; also known as <i>Shab-e-Mi'raj</i> and <i>Miraç Kandili</i>	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Muslim students and employees may have had little sleep.

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Feb 10	Saturday	Lunar New Year	Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism	Celebrates the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar; also known as <i>Spring Festival</i>	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Students and employees who are adherents of these faiths may request to have this day off.
Feb 14	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)	Christianity (C, P)	First day of Lent, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, excluding Sundays	Throughout Lent (ending Easter Sunday, March 31), some observant Christians may be fasting, particularly on Fridays
Feb 14	Wednesday	Vasant Panchami; Saraswati Puja	Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism	Held 40 days before Holika and Holi, a preparation for spring; nature of observance varies by region; many Hindus celebrate the goddess Sarawati who embodies creating energy and love, and is the goddess of knowledge, language, music, and arts	
Feb 15	Thursday	Nirvana Day*	Buddhism	Observed by Mahayana adherents as the day the Buddha achieved complete nirvana upon the death of his physical body; date may vary by sect or region	
Feb 24	Saturday	Magha Puja	Buddhism	Commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 enlightened disciples in the historical Buddha's presence; also known as <i>Sangha Day</i>	
Feb 24 Feb 25	sundown Saturday sundown Sunday	Lailat al-Bara'at	Islam (Sh)	Marked as the night when one may ask Allah for forgiveness; celebrated by Shi'a Muslims as the birth of Muhammed al-Mahdi	Shi'a Muslim students and employees may have had little sleep.
Feb 26 Feb 29	Monday Thursday	Ayyám-i-Há	Bahá'í	The "Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity, and gift giving; they are celebrated these four days before the last month of the Bahá'í year by inserting days into the	

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				calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar; also called <i>Intercalary Days</i>	
Mar 1 Mar 19	Friday Tuesday	'Alá'	Bahá'í	Bahá'ís between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset, and set aside time for prayer and meditation; also called the <i>Nineteen Day Fast</i>	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Bahá'í students and employees may be fasting.
Mar 8	Saturday	Maha Shivaratri, Shiva Ratri*	Hinduism	The "Great Night of Shiva" is a festival dedicated to the god Shiva; celebrated on the 13 th night or 14 th day of the waning moon in the Hindu calendar	
Mar 9 Mar 17		<i>Spring Break for Undergraduates</i>			
Mar 10 Apr 9	sundown Sunday sundown Tuesday	Ramadan*	Islam	A month of fasting commemorating the first revelation of the <i>Qur'an</i> to the Prophet Muhammed	Muslim students and employees will be fasting for an extended time during daylight hours, which may result in less stamina. For evening events, provide food accommodations as requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply). Further recommendations TBA.
Mar 18	Monday	Clean Monday (Great Lent begins)	Christianity (O)	First day of Great Lent, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for <i>Pascha</i> (Easter), including Sundays	Throughout Great Lent (ending on Pascha, May 15) Orthodox Christians may be fasting.
Mar 20	Wednesday	Ostara (Spring Equinox)*	Earth-based Spiritualities, Paganism, Wicca	Light and darkness are in balance, with growing light; a time of new beginnings and emerging life; also known as <i>Eostar</i>	
Mar 21	Thursday	Naw-Rúz, Nowrúz*	Bahá'í, Zoroastrianism	New Year's Day in the Bahá'í tradition; traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of spring and the start of the Iranian new year; date may vary by region or sect	
Mar 21	Thursday	Ta'anit Ester; Fast of Esther	Judaism	Commemorates the fasting and repentance of Esther (and the entire	Jewish students and employees may be fasting.

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				Jewish community) before she pleaded for the Jewish people before the king of Persia	
Mar 23 Mar 24	sundown Saturday sundown Sunday	Purim	Judaism	The “Feast of Lots” marks the salvation of the Jews from extermination in ancient Persia	Purim is not subject to work restrictions, but some sources indicate Jews should not go about ordinary business at Purim in order to respect the festival.
Mar 24	Sunday	Palm Sunday	Christianity (C, P)	Observed the Sunday before Easter to recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem	
Mar 25	Monday	Holi	Hinduism	Festival associated with the defeat of the demoness Holika; celebrated by throwing colored powders and paints	
Mar 25 Mar 27	Monday Wednesday	Hola Mohalla*	Sikhism	A martial arts festival and parade coinciding with Holi; actual celebration date may vary by location	
Mar 26	Tuesday	Khordad Sal	Zoroastrianism	Celebration of the birth of Zoroaster, the founder of the Zoroastrian religion; specifically celebrated in India and Iran, following the Persian new year, Nowrúz	
Mar 28	Thursday	Maundy Thursday	Christianity (C, P)	Celebrated the Thursday before Easter, commemorates the Last Supper, at which Jesus and his followers were together for the last time before his crucifixion; also known as <i>Holy Thursday</i>	
Mar 29	Friday	Good Friday	Christianity (C, P)	Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter	Some Christian students and employees may be fasting.
Mar 30	sundown Saturday	Easter Vigil	Christianity (C, P)	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus; may also be the time of initiation for new Christians	
Mar 31	Sunday	Easter	Christianity (C, P)	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Catholic

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					and Protestant Christian employees may request this day off.
Apr 5 Apr 6	sundown Friday sundown Saturday	Lailat al-Qadr*	Islam	The “Night of Power” when the <i>Qur’an</i> was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed; date of observance may vary depending on tradition	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Muslim students and employees may have had little sleep.
Apr 8 Apr 9	sundown Monday sundown Tuesday	Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)*	Islam	The “Feast of Breaking the Fast” marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Muslim students and employees may request this day off.
Apr 13	Saturday	Vaisakhi	Sikhism	Celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated); also called <i>Baisakhi</i>	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Sikh students and employees may request this day off.
Apr 17	Wednesday	Rama Navami	Hinduism	Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic <i>Ramayana</i> , and seventh incarnation of Vishnu	
Apr 21	Sunday	Mahavir Janma Kalyanak*	Jainism	Celebrates the birth of Mahavir Swami, the 24 th and last Tirthankara of present Avasarpini	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities.
Apr 21 May 2	Friday Tuesday	Ridván	Bahá’í	The “Most Great Festival” which commemorates the 12 days when Bahá’u’lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá’í faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God’s messenger for this age	The 1 st day (Apr 21), 9 th day (Apr 29), and 12 th day (May 2) are work restricted. Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on these days. Bahá’í students and employees may request these days off.
Apr 22		<i>Classes End for Undergraduates</i>			
Apr 22 Apr 30	sundown Monday sundown Tuesday	Pesach; Passover	Judaism	Eight-day “Feast of Unleavened Bread,” celebrating Israel’s deliverance from bondage in Egypt	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Evening of Apr 22, and all day Apr 23 and 24; evening of Apr 28 and all day Apr 29 and

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					30 are non-work days. Provide food accommodations as requested.
Apr 23 May 2		<i>Exams and Reading Days for Undergraduates</i>			
Apr 24 Apr 26	Wednesday Friday	Theravada New Year*	Buddhism	Adherents of the Theravada tradition of Buddhism celebrate the new year on the first full moon in April	
Apr 28	Sunday	Palm Sunday	Christianity (O)	Observed the Sunday before Pascha to recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Orthodox Christian employees may request this day off.
May 1	Wednesday	Beltane	Paganism, Wicca	Celebrates the fullness of life, youthfulness, and the greening of the world; halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstice, marks the beginning of summer; also known as <i>May Eve</i>	
May 3	Friday	Holy Friday	Christianity (O)	Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Pascha	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Orthodox Christians may be fasting.
May 5	Sunday	Pascha; Easter	Christianity (O)	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Orthodox Christian employees may request this day off.
May 5 May 6	sundown Sunday sundown Monday	Yom HaShoah	Judaism	“Holocaust Remembrance Day” memorializes the martyrdom of six million Jews who died in the Nazi Holocaust	Academics and work are permitted. Provide food accommodations as requested.
May 6		<i>Maymester Begins</i>			
May 9	Thursday	Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord	Christianity (C)	Celebrated 40 days after Easter, commemorates the ascension of Jesus into heaven	

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May 19	Sunday	Pentecost	Christianity (C, P)	The seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on followers of Jesus; marks the birth of the Christian church; also known as <i>Whitsunday</i>	
May 23	Thursday	Buddha Day*	Buddhism	Marks the birth, spiritual awakening, and death of the historical Buddha; date may vary by region or sect; also known as <i>Visakha Puja</i> or <i>Vesak</i>	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Buddhist students and employees will likely request to have this day off.
May 23 May 24	sundown Thursday sundown Friday	Declaration of the Báb	Bahá'í	Commemorates the day in 1844 when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í faith, announced that he was the herald for the new messenger of God	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Bahá'í students and employees suspend work on this day and will likely request to have this day off.
May 25 May 26	sundown Saturday sundown Sunday	Lag B'Omer	Judaism	Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime	
May 27 May 28	sundown Monday sundown Tuesday	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	Observance of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í faith	
June 4		<i>First-Half and Full-Term Summer Classes Begin</i>			
June 11 June 13	sundown Tuesday sundown Thursday	Shavuot	Judaism	The "Feast of Weeks," celebrating the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. These are non-work days and Jewish students and employees may request these days off. Jewish students and employees may have had little sleep.
June 15 June 16	sundown Saturday	Day of Arafat*	Islam	Second day of the Hajj pilgrimage, recalling the Prophet Mohammed giving	Muslim students and employees may be fasting.

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	sundown Sunday			his Farewell Sermon; adherents not on the Hajj repent of their sins	
June 16 June 17	sundown Sunday sundown Monday	Eid al-Adha*	Islam	Commemorates Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God's command; marks the end of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca)	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date.
June 21	Friday	World Humanist Day	Humanism, Materialism, Secularism	Promotes awareness of Humanism as a philosophical life stance and means to effect change in the world	
June 21	Friday	Litha (Summer Solstice)*	Earth-based Spiritualities, Paganism, Wicca	Marks the middle of the summer, when the sun is at its greatest strength; also known as <i>Midsummer</i>	
June 23	Sunday	Pentecost	Christianity (O)	The seventh Sunday after Pascha, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on followers of Jesus; marks the birth of the Christian church	
July 7 July 8	sundown Sunday sundown Monday	Islamic New Year*	Islam	Month marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year; this first day, <i>al-Hijra</i> , recalls the migration of Mohammed and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE; also marks the beginning of the ten-day Shi'a Muslim Remembrance of Muharram, recalling the martyrdom of Hussein, the son of Ali and grandson of Mohammed	
July 8 July 9	sundown Monday sundown Tuesday	Martyrdom of the Báb	Bahá'í	Marks the execution of the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í faith, in 1850	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Bahá'í students and employees will likely request this day off.
July 16 July 17	sundown Tuesday sundown Wednesday	Ashura	Islam	A day of fasting recalling Moses' exodus from Egypt; for Shi'a Muslims, the end of the Remembrance of Muharram,	Muslim students and employees may be fasting.

DATE 2024	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
				marking the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Karbala	
July 21	Sunday	Asalha Puja	Buddhism	Recalls the Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual enlightenment; also known as <i>Dharma Day</i>	
July 21	Sunday	Guru Purnima	Hinduism Jainism	Dedicated to all spiritual and academic gurus who share their wisdom; also called <i>Vyasa Purnima</i> , as celebration of Veda Vyasa who wrote the Mahabharata and compiled the Vedas; revived by Mahatma Gandhi to honor his spiritual guru, Shrimad Rajchandra; many Indians, regardless of faith tradition, may celebrate by thanking teachers	
July 23	Tuesday	17 th of Tammuz	Judaism	Commemorating the breach of the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE	Jewish students and employees may be fasting.
July 24	Wednesday	Pioneer Day	Latter-day Saints	Commemorates the entry of Brigham Young and the first group of Mormon pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley of Utah in 1847	