

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
CALENDAR OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS AND OBSERVANCES

Center for Religious and Spiritual Life Academic Year 2025-2026

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 multi-faith 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 [Equal Opportunity and Access \(EOA\)](#):

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires employers to reasonably accommodate the religious practices of an employee or prospective employee unless doing so would create an undue hardship upon the employer.

To receive reasonable accommodations for a religious practice at Vanderbilt University employees should submit the [Religious Reasonable Accommodation Request Form](#) to the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access (EOA). The submission of this form will begin an interactive process that will include the employee, the employee's supervisor, EOA, and relevant parties as Vanderbilt deems necessary. On average, the process takes at least two weeks to complete.

Reasonable accommodation arrangements are not retroactive. The accommodation will begin once it is

approved by EOA. The employee will be notified about the outcome. Requests for accommodations must be renewed annually.

Accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis. Examples include, but are not limited to, flexible scheduling, voluntary substitutions or swaps, job reassignment, and lateral transfers.

**This information is included here for convenience. Please visit the Equal Opportunity and Access Office's website for additional, current 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 2025

DATE 2025	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Aug 1	Friday	Lughnasadh*	Earth-based Spiritualities, Paganism, Wicca	First of three festivals celebrating harvest; also known as <i>Lammas</i>	
Aug 2 Aug 3	sundown Saturday sundown Sunday	Tish'a B'av	Judaism	A day of mourning, commemorating several disasters in Jewish history, including the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem; also called the <i>9th of Av</i>	Some Jewish students and employees may be fasting.
Aug 9	Saturday	Raksha Bandhan*	Hinduism	Festival celebrating family relationships; also called <i>Rakhi</i>	
Aug 12		<i>Summer Semester Ends</i>			

DATE 2025	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Aug 13 Aug 15	Wednesday Friday	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; also known as <i>Bon</i> ; in other regions or practices may also be called <i>Ullambana</i> or observed in July	
Aug 15	Friday	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	
Aug 16	Saturday	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.
Aug 20		<i>First Day of Classes for Undergraduates</i>			
Aug 21 Aug 28	Thursday Thursday	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>	

DATE 2025	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Aug 23 Aug 24	Saturday Sunday	Jizō Bon	Buddhism (M)	Mahayana Buddhists in Japan and North America celebrate this day to honor the deity who protects those in hell, animals, travelers, and children; also called the <i>Festival of Jizō (Kṣitigarbha) Bodhisattva</i>	
Aug 26 Aug 27	Tuesday Wednesday	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hinduism	Festival celebrating the god Ganesha	
Sep 4 Sep 5	sundown Thursday sundown Friday	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 22	Monday	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 22 Sep 24	sundown Monday sundown Wednesday	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 22 Oct 2	Monday Thursday	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	

DATE 2025	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Sep 25	Thursday	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.
Oct 1 Oct 2	sundown Wednesday sundown Thursday	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.
Oct 2	Thursday	Vijayadashami	Hinduism	Festival following Navratri, celebrating the god Rama’s victory over the demon Ravana; includes readings from <i>Ramayana</i> ; also known as <i>Dussehra</i> , <i>Dasara</i> , or <i>Dashain</i>	
Oct 6 Oct 13	sundown Monday sundown Monday	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 (Oct 7 and 8), which are non-working days.
Oct 9 Oct 10		<i>Fall Break for Undergraduates</i>			

DATE 2025	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Oct 13 Oct 15	sundown Monday sundown Wednesday	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 14 Oct 15	sundown Tuesday sundown Wednesday	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 18	Saturday	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	
Oct 20	Monday	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>Deepvali</i>	Hindu, Jain, and Sikh students and employees may request this day off.
Oct 21	Tuesday	Bandi Chhor Divas	Sikhism	Celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment; coincides with Diwali	

DATE 2025	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Oct 22	Wednesday	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 23	Thursday	Bhai Dooj	Hinduism	Celebrated during Diwali, this is a holiday similar to Raksha Bandhan, celebrating the relationship between siblings	
Oct 23	Thursday	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 31 Nov 1	sundown Friday sundown Saturday	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	Saturday	All Saints Day	Christianity (C, P)	Remembers all known and unknown Christian saints; Orthodox Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost	

DATE 2025	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Nov 5	Wednesday	Guru Nanak Jayanti	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.
Nov 15 Jan 6	Saturday Tuesday	Nativity Fast*	Christianity (O)	A season of spiritual preparation prior to the observance of the birth of Jesus; in Catholic and Protestant Christianity, it is called <i>Advent</i> and begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas	
Nov 22 Nov 30		<i>Thanksgiving Break for Undergraduates</i>			
Nov 24 Nov 25	sundown Monday sundown Tuesday	Day of the Covenant	Bahá'í	Recalls Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of Abdu'l-Baha as successor	
Nov 30 Dec 24	Sunday Wednesday	Advent	Christianity (C, P)	A season of spiritual preparation prior to the observance of the birth of Jesus; in Orthodox Christianity, the season is longer and begins in mid-November	
Dec 4		<i>Undergraduate Classes End</i>			
Dec 5 Dec 13		<i>Reading and Exam Days for Undergraduates</i>			

DATE 2025	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Dec 8	Monday	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	Monday	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	Christianity (C)	Recalls the conception of Mary, who would become the mother of Jesus, without original sin	
Dec 9	Tuesday	19 th of Kislev	Judaism (Chabad)	Commemorates the release of the founder of Chabad Hasidism, Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, from imprisonment	
Dec 14 Jan 5		Winter Break for Undergraduates			
Dec 21	Sunday	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 25	Thursday	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.

DATE 2025	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Dec 25 Jan 2	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	Academics and work are permitted. Provide food accommodations as requested.
Dec 30	Tuesday	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.

SPRING SEMESTER 2025

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Jan 1	Thursday	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	Thursday	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 3	Saturday	Mahayana New Year*	Buddhism	Adherents of the Mahayana tradition of Buddhism celebrate the new year on the first full moon in January;	
Jan 5		<i>First Day of Classes for Undergraduates</i>			
Jan 6	Tuesday	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	Wednesday	Feast of the Nativity; Christmas	Christianity (O)	Celebrates the birth of Jesus	Orthodox Christian employees will likely request this day off.

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
				observance may vary or extend over several days according to region	
Jan 13	Tuesday	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 14	Wednesday	Makar Sankranti,* Pongal	Hinduism	Seasonal celebration marking turning of the sun to the north	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities.
Jan 15 Jan 16	sundown Thursday sundown Friday	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.
Jan 18	Sunday	World Religion Day	Bahá'í	Observance of the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify all people	
Jan 19		<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>			

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Jan 23	Friday	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 Saraswati who embodies creating energy and love, and is the goddess of knowledge, language, music, and arts	
Jan 28	Wednesday	10 th of Shevat	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	
Feb 1	Sunday	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 1 Feb 2	sunset Sunday sunset Monday	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>	

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Feb 2 Feb 3	sundown Monday sundown Tuesday	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; also called <i>Mid-Sha'ban</i>	Shi'a Muslim students and employees may have had little sleep.
Feb 3	Tuesday	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 15	Sunday	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 15 Feb 16	Sunday Monday	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	
Feb 17 Mar 19	sundown Tuesday sundown Thursday	Ramadan*	Islam	A month of fasting commemorating the first revelation of the <i>Qur'an</i> to the Prophet Muhammed	

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Feb 17	Tuesday	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 18	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, April 5), some observant Christians may be fasting, particularly on Fridays
Feb 23	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, April 11) Orthodox Christians may be fasting.
Feb 25 Mar 1	Wednesday Sunday	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	
Mar 2 Mar 20	sundown Monday Friday	‘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.

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Mar 2	Monday	Ta'anit Ester; Fast of Esther	Judaism	Commemorates the fasting and repentance of Esther (and the entire Jewish community) before she pleaded for the Jewish people before the king of Persia	Jewish students and employees may be fasting.
Mar 2 Mar 3	sundown Monday sundown Tuesday	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.
March 3	Tuesday	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>	
Mar 4	Wednesday	Holi	Hinduism	Festival associated with the defeat of the demoness Holika; celebrated by throwing colored powders and paints	
Mar 4 Mar 6	Wednesday Friday	Hola Mohalla*	Sikhism	A martial arts festival and parade coinciding with Holi; actual celebration date may vary by location	
Mar 7 Mar 15		<i>Spring Break for Undergraduates</i>			

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Mar 16	Monday	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.
Mar 19 Mar 20	sundown Thursday sundown Friday	Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)*	Islam	The “Feast of Breaking the Fast” marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting; actual date depends on lunar sighting and may vary by location	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Muslim students and employees may request this day off.
Mar 20	Friday	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 20 March 21	Friday Saturday	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	

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Mar 26	Thursday	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, Nowruz	
Mar 26	Thursday	Rama Navami	Hinduism	Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic <i>Ramayana</i> , and seventh incarnation of Vishnu	
Mar 29	Sunday	Palm Sunday	Christianity (C, P)	Observed the Sunday before Easter to recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem	
Mar 31	Tuesday	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.
April 1 Apr 9	sundown Wednesday sundown Thursday	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 1, and all day Apr 2 and 3; evening of Apr 7 and all day Apr 8 and 9 are non-work days. Provide food accommodations as requested.
Apr 2	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>	

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Apr 2	Thursday	Theravada New Year*	Buddhism (Th)	Adherents of the Theravada tradition of Buddhism celebrate the new year on the first full moon in April	
Apr 3	Friday	Good Friday	Christianity (C, P)	Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter	Some Christian students and employees may be fasting.
Apr 4	sundown Saturday	Easter Vigil	Christianity (C, P)	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus; may also be the time of initiation for new Christians	
Apr 5	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.
Apr 5	Sunday	Easter	Christianity (C, P)	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Catholic and Protestant Christian employees may request this day off.
Apr 10	Friday	Good 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.
Apr 12	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.

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
Apr 13	sundown	Yom HaShoah	Judaism	“Holocaust Remembrance Day” memorializes the martyrdom of six million Jews who died in the Nazi Holocaust	Academics and work are permitted.
Apr 14	Monday sundown				
Apr 14	Tuesday	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 20	sundown	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 20), 9 th day (Apr 28), and 12 th day (May 1) are work restricted. Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on these days. Bahá’í students and employees may request these days off.
May 2	Monday Saturday				
Apr 20		<i>Classes End for Undergraduates</i>			
Apr 21		<i>Reading and Exam Days for Undergraduates</i>			
Apr 30					
May 1	Friday	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>	

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
May 4		<i>Maymester Begins</i>			
May 4 May 5	sundown Monday sundown Tuesday	Lag B'Omer	Judaism	Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime, as well as remembrance of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai	
May 8		<i>Commencement</i>			
May 14	Thursday	Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord	Christianity (C)	Celebrated 40 days after Easter, commemorates the ascension of Jesus into heaven	
May 21 May 23	sundown Thursday sundown Saturday	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.
May 22 May 23	sundown Friday sundown Saturday	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.

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
May 24	Sunday	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> (by Theravada Buddhists)	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Buddhist students and employees will likely request to have this day off.
May 24	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 28 May 29	sundown Thursday sundown Friday	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	
Jun 2		<i>First-Half and Full-Term Summer Classes Begin</i>			
May 24	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	
May 25 May 26	sundown Monday sundown Tuesday	Day of Arafat*	Islam	Second day of the Hajj pilgrimage, recalling the Prophet Mohammed giving his Farewell Sermon; adherents not on the Hajj repent of their sins.	Muslim students and employees may be fasting.

DATE 2026	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION	SIGNIFICANCE	RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION
July 2	Thursday	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 9 July 10	sundown Thursday sundown Friday	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 24	Friday	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	
July 29	Wednesday	Asalha Puja	Buddhism	Recalls the Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual enlightenment; also known as <i>Dharma Day</i>	
July 29	Wednesday	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	