

Religious Observance Academic Policy  
2021-22 Academic Year

In accordance with the University System of Maryland [Policy](#) approved January 11, 1990, UMBC has adopted the following policies and procedures with respect to student access to academic programs and services and Religious Holidays and Observances:

1. All academic programs and services of the University are available to all qualified students who have been admitted to the University's programs, regardless of their religious beliefs. University policies and practices should therefore not penalize students for individual participation in religious observances.
2. Students should be given the opportunity to make up, whenever feasible, within a reasonable time, any academic assignment, examination or test that will be impacted or missed due to religious observance.
  - a. A student should be allowed an opportunity to make up any examination, other written test, or class work, have access to any handouts or other material distributed in class, and have the opportunity to obtain or to review any duplicated lecture notes or slides presented in class. In some classes (for example, laboratories with special material), the instructor may determine that the work is to be made up by an alternative comparable assignment rather than by the original work of the class. A make-up examination must be at a time and place feasible for both the instructor and student, cover only the material for which the student was originally responsible, and be given within a time limit that retains currency of the material.
  - b. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of each instance of any intended absences or requests for make-up assignments related to any individual religious observance. Requests should be made in advance, and as early as possible to provide adequate notice and the opportunity to determine whether and how the request can be granted, or what alternative arrangements can be made. Requests should include a description of the make-up or other modification being requested, how religious observance impacts their ability to complete an assignment by the deadline, attend class, or take a specific test or examination, and how the requested modification will resolve/ address the conflict between the assignment, class, test or exam and their participation in the Religious Observance.
  - c. A student who disagrees with an instructor's decision as it relates to a request related to a religious observance should first contact the Chair of the Department and submit an appeal, with a copy to the Dean of the respective College. A student wishing to appeal the decision of the Chair should file that appeal with the College Dean. Such appeals are to be reviewed in accordance with duly established campus academic complaint procedures which protect the rights of all parties; students who file such appeals may do so without being penalized in any way.
  - d. Faculty who need advice or assistance, and/or Students who have concerns about discrimination on the basis of Religion may contact the [Office of Equity and Inclusion](#) or [file a report online](#).
3. The President of UMBC has decided that no particular holidays involve a sufficient number of students and faculty as to constitute a general administrative burden on the campus. However, an individual faculty member may decide to avoid giving tests, assignments or exams on the date/s of Religious Observances if a significant number of students would have to make up the assignment, test or exam at a later date.

This is not intended to be a complete or restrictive list; major religious holidays and observances during the 2021-22 academic year are listed here:

<b>Fall Semester 2021</b>		<b>Spring and Summer Semesters 2022</b>	
Rosh Hashanah	Sept. 6 (eve), 7-8	Theophany	January 6
Yom Kippur	Sept. 15 (eve), 16	Purim	March 16 (eve), 17
Sukkot	Sept. 20 (eve), 21-27	Ramadan Begins	April 2 (eve), 3
Shmini Atzeret	Sept. 27 (eve), 28	Good Friday	April 15
Simchat Torah	Sept. 29	Easter Sunday	April 17
Hanukkah	Nov. 28 (eve)	Good Friday (Orthodox)	April 22
	Nov. 29 - Dec. 6		
		Pascha (Orthodox Easter)	April 24
		Pesach (Passover)	April 15 (eve), 16-23
		Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	May 2 (eve)
		Shavout	June 4 (eve), 5-6
		Eid-al-Adha	July 9 (eve), 10
		Muharram	July 29 (eve), 30

**Notes:**

- More information about these holidays, and others can be [found here](#) on the OEI webpage.
- Observance of Islamic holidays begins at sundown on the evening before the given date. Islamic holidays are based on the lunar calendar and thus may vary by one or two days.
- Observance of Jewish holidays begins before sundown on the preceding evening and concludes at dusk on the dates noted.
- Observance of Christian Orthodox holidays begins at sundown on the evening preceding the holiday.