

Religious Holidays - Comprehensive Calendar Academic Year 2017-2018

All Faculty and Staff at ESF receive annual reminders of the college's policy regarding the need to respect and appropriately accommodate student's observance of religious holidays, and they are encouraged to work carefully with students in anticipating and resolving conflicts to their mutual satisfaction.

The list that follows is liberally adapted from that developed by Williams College Chaplain's Office (<https://chaplain.williams.edu/religious-holidays-comprehensive-calendar-academic-year-2017-2018/>).

The list that follows is not exhaustive; it includes major festivals and holy days for many, though by no means all, religious traditions represented in the WESF community. (If it does not include an important date in the religious calendar of your particular tradition, please let us know.) Every effort has been made to insure that this information is accurate. Note that some holidays in some traditions are tied to the lunar calendar or to particular cultural patterns that vary by region or by sect which make their location in the calendar somewhat more fluid. **Dates marked with a double asterisk (**) denote occasions on which the precept of a particular tradition, and the practice of nearly all its adherents, includes significant restrictions on academic activity.**

Islamic Holidays: Regional customs or moon sightings may cause a variation of the date for Islamic holidays, which begin at sundown the day before the date specified for the holiday. The Islamic calendar is lunar and the days begin at sunset, so there may be one-day error depending on when the New Moon is first seen.

For holidays associated with Christianity, the following notations are used to denote observance by particular strands of the Christian tradition: **RC-Roman Catholic P-Protestant O-Orthodox**

2017	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION
Sep. 1 Sep. 5	Sundown- Friday Sundown-Tuesday	**Eid al-Adha (date can vary by a day) <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on the first day. (Islamic dietary restrictions apply).	Islam
Sep. 20 Sep. 22	Sundown-Wednesday Sundown-Friday	**Rosh Hashanah (2 days) <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. (kosher restrictions apply).	Judaism
Sep. 21 Sep. 29	Thursday Friday	Navaratri	Hinduism
Sep. 29 Sep. 30	Sundown-Friday Sundown-Saturday	**Yom Kippur <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic	Judaism

		deadlines, events, or activities on this date and after a day of fasting.	
Sep. 30	Saturday	Dussehra/Dasara	Hinduism
Sep. 30 Oct. 1	Sundown-Saturday Sundown-Sunday	Ashura	Islam
Oct. 1 Oct. 2	Sundown-Sunday Sundown-Monday	Muharram/New Year (date can vary by a day)	Islam
Oct. 4 Oct. 6	Sundown-Wednesday Sundown-Friday	**Sukkot (1st 2 days) <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on the first two days. (kosher restrictions apply).	Judaism
Oct. 11 Oct. 13	Sundown-Wednesday Sundown-Friday	**Shemini Atzeret **Simchat Torah <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. (kosher restrictions apply).	Judaism
Oct. 19 Oct. 20	Sundown-Thursday Sundown-Friday	Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í
Oct. 19	Thursday	**Diwali <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. Hindu employees will likely request a vacation day on this date.	Hinduism - Jain – Sikh
Nov. 1	Wednesday	All Saints Day	Christianity (RC, P)
Nov. 2	Thursday	All Souls Day	Christianity (RC, P)
Nov. 4	Saturday	Guru Nanak Jayanti Birthday	Sikh
Nov. 11 Nov. 12	Sundown-Saturday Sundown-Sunday	**Birth of Bahá'u'lláh <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. (Baha'i employees will likely request to have this day off.)	Bahá'í
Nov. 24 Nov. 25	Sundown-Friday Sundown-Saturday	Day of the Covenant	Bahá'í
Nov. 27 Nov. 28	Sundown-Monday Sundown-Tuesday	Ascension of Abdul'l-Baha	Bahá'í

Nov. 30 Dec. 1	Sundown-Thursday Sundown-Friday	Mawlid al Nabi (dates can vary by a day)	Islam
Dec. 3 Dec. 24	Sunday Sunday	Advent Begins	Christianity (RC, P)
Dec. 8	Friday	Bodhi Day	Buddhism
Dec. 8	Friday	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Christianity (RC, P)
Dec. 12 Dec. 20	Sundown-Monday Sundown-Wednesday	**Hanukkah <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. (kosher restrictions apply).	Judaism
Dec. 25	Monday	Christmas	Christianity (RC, P)
Dec. 26 Jan. 1	Tuesday Monday	Kwanzaa	African American
2018	DAYS	HOLIDAY	RELIGION
Jan. 1	Monday	**Gantan-sai <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on this date (work holiday)	Shinto
Jan. 2 Jan. 4	Tuesday Thursday	Mahayana New Year	Buddhism
Jan. 6	Saturday	Epiphany (Theophany)	Christianity (RC, P, O)
Jan. 7	Sunday	Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) Many Eastern Orthodox employees will probably request this day off.	Orthodox Christian
Jan. 13	Saturday	Maghi	Hinduism
Feb. 8	Thursday	Nirvana Day	Buddhism, Jain, Sikh
Feb. 12	Monday	Lent begins-Clean Monday	Christianity (O)
Feb. 13	Tuesday	Shrove Tuesday	Christianity (RC, P)
Feb. 14	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday, Lent begins	Christianity (RC, P)
Feb. 14	Wednesday	Maha Shivaratri	Hinduism

Feb. 16	Friday	**Chinese New Year <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. Many Chinese employees will probably request this day off.	Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist
Feb. 28 Mar. 1	Sundown-Wednesday Sundown-Thursday	Purim <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Purim is not subject to the restrictions on work that affect some other holidays. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (kosher restrictions apply).	Judaism
Mar. 1 Mar. 2	Sundown-Thursday Sundown-Friday	Holi	Hinduism
Mar. 20 Mar. 21	Sundown-Tuesday Sundown-Wednesday	Naw-Rúz (New Year)	Bahá'í, Zoroastrian
Mar. 25	Sunday	Palm Sunday	Christianity (RC, P)
Mar. 25 Mar. 26	Sunrise-Sunday Sundown-Monday	Ram Navami	Hinduism
Mar. 30	Friday	Good Friday	Christianity (RC, P)
Mar. 30- Apr. 1 Apr. 6 & 7	Sundown-Friday Sundown-Monday	**Pesach (1st 2 days and last 2 days of Passover) <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the first two and last two days of the holiday (kosher restrictions apply).	Judaism
Mar. 31	Saturday	Magha Puja Day	Buddhism
Apr. 1	Sunday	Easter	Christianity (RC, P)
Apr. 1	Sunday	Palm Sunday	Orthodox Christian
Apr. 6	Friday	Holy Friday <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the date.	Orthodox Christian
Apr. 8	Sunday	Easter/Pascha	Orthodox Christian
Apr. 11	Sundown-Wednesday	Yom HaSho'ah	Judaism

Apr. 12	Sundown-Thursday	<i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> This is not a work holiday—academics and work are permitted (kosher restrictions apply).	
Apr. 12 Apr. 13	Sundown-Thursday Sundown-Friday	Lailat al Mi'raj	Islam
Apr. 18 Apr. 19	Sundown-Wednesday Sundown-Thursday	Yom Ha'Atzmaut	Judaism
Apr. 20 Apr. 21	Sundown-Friday Sundown-Saturday	Ridván (1st day)	Bahá'í
Apr. 28 Apr. 29	Sundown-Saturday Sundown-Sunday	Ridván (9th day)	Bahá'í
Apr. 29	Sunday	Buddha Day- Visakha Puja	Buddhism
May 1 May 2	Sundown-Tuesday Sundown-Wednesday	Ridván (12th day)	Bahá'í
May 3	Thursday	National Day of Prayer-USA	Interfaith
May 10	Thursday	Ascension of Jesus	Christianity (RC, P)
May 14	Monday	Vaisakhi (date can vary by a day)	Sikhism, Hinduism
May 15 June 14	Sundown-Tuesday Sundown-Thursday	**Ramadan <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> If possible, avoid scheduling major academic deadlines during this time. Be sensitive to the fact that students and employees celebrating Ramadan will be fasting during the day (continuously for 30 days) and will likely have less stamina as a result. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply).	Islam
May 19 May 21	Sundown-Saturday Sundown-Monday	**Shavuot <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the first two and last two days of the holiday. (Kosher restrictions apply)	Judaism
May 20	Sunday	Pentecost	Christianity (RC, P)
May 23 May 24	Sundown-Wednesday Sundown-Thursday	Declaration of the Báb	Bahá'í

May 27	Sunday	Pentecost	Orthodox Christian
May 28 May 29	Sundown-Monday Sundown-Tuesday	Ascension of Baha'u'lláh	Bahá'
May 29	Tuesday	Vesak (Buddha Day)	Buddhism
Jun. 2	Saturday	All Saints Day	Orthodox Christian
Jun. 14 Jun. 15	Sundown-Thursday Sundown-Friday	Eid al-Fitr (date can vary by a day) <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Employees will likely ask to take a vacation day on this day, and that request should be granted if at all possible. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply).	Islam
Aug. 21 Aug. 22	Sundown-Tuesday Sundown-Wednesday	**Eid al-Adha (date can vary by a day)	Islam