

Dear Colleagues,

Below is the April Religious/Ethnic Holiday calendar. Please note that some holidays in this time frame include fasting or other religious practices associated with dietary traditions.

As a reminder, CUNY's policy on religious accommodation allows students to request and be granted academic and attendance accommodations based on religious belief. A link to the policy is posted here: [VI. Religious Accommodations – The City University of New York \(cuny.edu\)](#)

**VI. Religious Accommodations**

**A. Requests for Accommodations**

- 1. Students requesting a religious accommodation should contact the Office for Student Affairs at the College or unit in which they are enrolled. The Chief Student Affairs Officer, or a designee, and the student will engage in an interactive process with the goal of finding an acceptable accommodation.*
- 2. Consistent with New York State Education Law § 224-a, students who are absent from school because of a religious belief will be given the equivalent opportunity, without any additional fee charged, to register for classes or make up any examination, study or work requirements missed because of such absence on any particular day or days.*

As a frame of reference for anticipating student requests for religious accommodations, CUNY's Interfaith Council has developed the following "Religious & Ethnic Holidays Calendar," which serves as a helpful resource

[\(https://www.cuny.edu/current-students/student-affairs/religious-ethnic-holiday-calendar/\)](https://www.cuny.edu/current-students/student-affairs/religious-ethnic-holiday-calendar/).

For questions about CUNY's policy on religious accommodations or to add additional observances, don't hesitate to get in touch with Sophia McGee, Director of Intercultural Student Engagement and Dialogue, at [sophia.mcgee@cuny.edu](mailto:sophia.mcgee@cuny.edu).

Thank you for your support and enduring commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion at CUNY.

<b>Religious/ Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Obligations/ restrictions affiliated with the holidays</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Traditions or Practices</b>
Muslim	Eid al-Fitr	Marks the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting, and the holiest month in Islamic tradition. It literally means "breaking the fast."	Please be aware that Muslim students are likely to miss class due to this observance which will be an official CUNY	4/9 sunset - 4/10 sunset	Eid al-Fitr is one of two major holidays celebrated by Muslims and commemorates the end of the holy month of Ramadan, in which Muslims fast daily from before dawn until sunset. It is

			Holiday/Day Off next year.		commemorated by a large, community-wide prayer service in the morning, followed by meals and conversation with friends and family.
Hinduism	Chaitra Navratri	This week-long celebration celebrates the Goddess Shakti and three of her forms: Saraswati, the Goddess of Knowledge, Lakshmi, the Goddess of Prosperity, and Durga, the warrior Goddess.	Please be aware that those observing Chaitra Navratri may be fasting.	4/9 - 4/17	During this nine-night festival, Goddess Shakti is remembered with prayers and fasting.
Sikh	Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)	The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated).	N/A	4/13	On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.
Hindu	Rama Navami	Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.	N/A	4/17	Vaishnava Hindus celebrate the festival by visiting temples, praying, fasting, listening to spiritual discourses and singing bhajans or kirtans (devotional songs)
Jain	Mahavir Jayant	This religious festival commemorates the birth of Lord Mahavir, the last spiritual leader of Jainism.	N/A	4/21	Believers visit temples and engage in acts of charity on this day to honor this important person in their history. His teachings of nonviolence and

					spiritual enlightenment are shared during sermons at religious events.
Baha'i	Festival of Ridvan	The day that it is believed that Baha'u'llah learned his mission as the last messenger of God to the world in 1863.	Please be aware that school and work is prohibited on the first day of Ridvan for those observing.	4/21-5/3	Celebrations begin two hours before sunset as it symbolizes the time that Bahá'u'lláh entered the garden. Given that the First Day of Ridván is also one of the Bahá'í Holy Days, work and school is prohibited. Baha'i's traditionally observe this holiday by gathering together in prayer and celebration.
Jewish	Passover (beginning days)	Commemorates the Exodus of Jews from slavery in Egypt.	Please be aware during the first two and last two days of Passover, many traditionally observant Jews will abstain from most of the same activities they avoid on the Sabbath — no driving, working, using electricity, lighting fires or spending money.	4/22 sunset - 4/24 sunset	The first and second nights of Passover are celebrated with a special family meal called a "Seder". At the Seder, the story of Jewish slavery, struggle for liberation, and subsequent exodus from Egypt is told, there are foods of symbolic significance and prayers and traditional recitations are performed.
Jewish	Passover (Middle days)	Commemorates the Exodus of Jews from slavery in Egypt.	N/A	4/24 sunset	People recite special blessings or prayers, make a

				- 4/28 sunset	particular effort to visit a synagogue or listen to readings from the Torah and eat a ceremonial meal.
Coptic & Eastern Orthodox Christianity	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday is considered the entry of the Lord Jesus into Jerusalem and the start of Holy Week. On the day before, believers create palm fronds by knotting them into crosses in preparation for the event.	N/A	4/28	On Palm Sunday, people of the Orthodox Christian church receive and worship Jesus in the same way that the people of Jerusalem did after he performed His miracle.
Jewish	Passover (End days)	Commemorates the Exodus of Jews from slavery in Egypt.	Please be aware during the first two and last two days of Passover, many traditionally observant Jews will abstain from most of the same activities they avoid on the Sabbath — no driving, working, using electricity, lighting fires or spending money.	4/28 sunset - 4/30 sunset	People recite special blessings or prayers, make a particular effort to visit a synagogue or listen to readings from the Torah and eat a ceremonial meal.