

Religious Holidays 2009-10 Academic Year

In accordance with the policy approved by the Board of Regents at its meeting on March 23, 1979, UMBC adopted the following policies and procedures with respect to the observance of religious holidays:

1. All academic programs and services of the University of Maryland are available to all qualified students who have been admitted to the University's programs, regardless of their religious beliefs. University policies should therefore not penalize students and faculty 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 that is missed due to religious observances. In particular:
 - a. Students 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. Students who wish to file a complaint about an instructor who has not complied with the policy may do so without being penalized in any way. The initial appeal of the student should be to the Chair of the Department concerned. Such complaints are to be reviewed in accordance with duly established campus complaint procedures which protect the rights of all parties.
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. An individual faculty member may decide to avoid giving tests or assignments on religious holidays if large numbers of students would have to make up that work at a later date.

Some major religious holidays during the 2009-10 academic year are:

Fall Semester

Ramadan Begins	August 22
Rosh Hashannah	September 18 (evening) 19, 20
Eid-ul Fitr	September 19 (evening), 20
Yom Kippur	September 27 (evening), 28
Sukkot	October 2 (evening), 3, 4
Shmini Atzeret	October 9 (evening), 10
Simchat Torah	October 10 (evening), 11
Eid-ul Adha	November 26 (evening), 27
1 st . of Muharram	December 17 (evening), 18

Spring Semester

Theophany	January 6 (evening), 7
Pesach (Passover)	March 29 (evening), 30, 31
Good Friday	April 2
Orthodox Good Friday	April 1 (evening), 2
Pesach (concluding days)	April 4 (evening), 5, 6
Easter Sunday	April 4
Pascha (Orthodox Easter)	April 3 (evening), 4
Shavuot	May 18 (evening), 19, 20

- All Islamic holidays begin 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.
- Christian Orthodox holidays begin at sundown on the evening preceding the holiday.