

Statement on Religious Accommodation for Students

The College of Charleston community is enriched by students of many faiths that have various religious observances, practices, and beliefs. We value student rights and freedoms, including the right of each student to adhere to individual systems of religion. The College prohibits discrimination against any student because of such student's religious belief or any absence thereof.

The College acknowledges that religious practices differ from tradition to tradition and that the demands of religious observance in some traditions may cause conflicts with student schedules. In affirming this diversity, like many other colleges and universities, the College supports the concept of "reasonable accommodation for religious observance" in regard to class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and other academic work requirements, unless the accommodation would create an undue hardship on the College. Faculty are required, as part of their responsibility to students and the College, to ascribe to this policy and to ensure its fair and full implementation.

The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the College. Faculty members are expected to reasonably accommodate individual religious practices. Examples of reasonable accommodations for student absences might include: rescheduling of an exam or giving a make-up exam for the student in question; altering the time of a student's presentation; allowing extra-credit assignments to substitute for missed class work or arranging for an increased flexibility in assignment dates. Regardless of any accommodation that may be granted, students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives, requirements and prerequisites as defined by the instructor and by the College.

Below is a partial list of the religious holidays that might pose conflicts with the spring 2009 academic calendar. If a student indicates to you that a date not on this list is a day of religious significance for the student, please work with that student to determine reasonable accommodation in the spirit of the above statement.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Feast of the Epiphany | January 6 |
| Eastern Orthodox Christmas (Julian Calendar) | January 7 |
| Sankranti | January 14 |
| Chinese New Year & Tet | January 26 |
| Ash Wednesday | February 25 |
| Eastern Orthodox Beginning of Lent | March 2 |
| Passover (Pesach) | April 8-16 |
| Good Friday | April 10 |
| Baisakhi | April 13 |
| Eastern Orthodox Good Friday | April 17 |
| Ascension Day | May 21 |
| Eastern Orthodox Ascension Day | May 28 |
| Shavuot | May 28-30 |