

GOUCHER | college

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

Dear Faculty:

Below you will find a list of the religious holy days that may impact your calendars during the **2024-2025 academic year**. Please keep in mind this is not an exhaustive list. The holidays included are those that may have a significant impact on observant students and could present a conflict with academic requirements. This list is more extensive than in years past to reflect our changing demographics as a college, but not all holidays will apply to all students.

Please avoid scheduling programs, fieldtrips, events, exams, or major projects on these days, as some members of our community could be fasting, limiting work, or observing the holiday in other ways. *Some religious observances require additional time for preparation or travel before and after the actual holy day.*

We are in the process of updating our current **Religious Observance Procedure (formerly the Religious Accommodation Procedure)** so please look out for those communications. For academic conflicts, students will be instructed to request a change in required assignments or attendance, which the Chaplain must approve before it is submitted for final approval from the impacted faculty member(s) and the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies.

Thank you in advance for making Goucher College a more religiously inclusive campus. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

A more complete list of religious holidays can be found on the Religious & Spiritual Life website under the Religious Holidays tab in the menu.

Peace to you,
Rev. Maeba

Rev. Maeba Jonas, M.Div. (she/her/hers)
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IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS: August 2024 – July 2025

**Note: For most religious traditions, the celebration or observance begins the evening before the actual day (sometimes called “eve” or “erev”). In these circumstances, both days are listed for ease of reference. Work restrictions for Jewish holidays begin shortly before sundown on the first date indicated.*

Some holidays in Islam are not fixed to a calendar but based on the actual sighting of the moon and therefore there may be some variance by day.

NOTE: Unless indicated, work is not restricted on these days but attendance at services, fasting, or other observances may take place.

FALL SEMESTER		
<u>September 2024</u>		<u>Notes</u>
Labor Day	September 2	
Mawlid al-Nabi (Birth of the Prophet Muhammad) # (Muslim)	September 15-16	
<u>October 2024</u>		
Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish)	October 2-4	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Yom Kippur* (Jewish)	October 11-12	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Navratri/Dussehra (Hindu)	October 12	<i>(Date Celebrated – 9-day festival)</i>
Indigenous Peoples Day	October 14	
Sukkot* (Jewish)	October 16-23	<i>(Work Restricted 10/17-18)</i>
Shemini Atzeret* (Jewish)	October 23	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Simchat Torah* (Jewish)	October 25	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Samhain (Pagan/Wiccan)	October 31-Nov 1	
<u>November 2024</u>		
All Saints/Souls Day (Christian)	November 1-2	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
Diwali (Hindu/Jain/Sikh/Cultural)	November 1	
Veteran’s Day (Cultural)	November 11	
Thanksgiving Day (Interfaith/Cultural)	November 28	
Native American Heritage Day	November 29	
<u>December 2024</u>		
Bodhi Day (Buddhist)	December 8	
Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic Christian)	December 9	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>

Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe (Catholic Christian/Cultural)	December 12	
Christmas (Christian)	December 24-25	
Hannukah/Chanukah (Jewish)	December 25-Jan 2	
Kwanzaa (Interfaith/Cultural)	December 26-Jan1	
WINTER TERM		
January 2025		
Epiphany/Dia de Reyes (Christian/Cultural)	January 6	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Orthodox Christmas (Christian)	January 7	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 20	
Lunar New Year (Confucius/Daoist/Buddhist/Cultural)	January 29	
SPRING SEMESTER		
February 2025		
Nirvana Day (Buddhist)	February 15	
Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)	February 25	
Ramadan # (Muslim)	February 28-March 30	<i>(Fasting during daylight hours, additional prayers and services)</i>
March 2025		
Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent) (Christian)	March 5	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Ta'anit Esther (Jewish)	March 13	
Purim* (Jewish)	March 13-14	
Holi (Festival of Colors) (Hindu/Jain/Cultural)	March 14	
Nowruz/Naw Rúz/Norooz (Persian New Year) (Zoroastrian/Bahá'ís/Sufis/Cultural)	March 20	
Laylat al-Qadr # (Muslim)	March 27	
Eid al-Fitr # (Muslim)	March 31	
April 2025		
Ramanavami (Hindu)	April 6	
Pesach* (Passover) (Jewish)	April 12-20	<i>(Work Restricted 4/12-4/13 and 4/19-4/20)</i>

Holy Week (Christian and Christian Orthodox)	April 13-19	<i>(Good Friday - 4/18; Week may include daytime services and fasting)</i>
Easter (End of Lent) (Christian and Christian Orthodox)	April 20	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) (Jewish/Cultural)	April 23-24	
May 2025		
BACCALAUREATE (Goucher College)	May 22	
Memorial Day (Cultural)	May 26	
Ascension of Jesus (Christian)	May 29	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
SUMMER SESSIONS		
June 2025		
Shavuot* (Jewish)	June 1-3	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Eid al-Adha # (Muslim)	June 16-17	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Juneteenth	June 19	
Muharram (Al Hijrah New Year) # (Muslim)	June 27	
Pentecost (Christian and Christian Orthodox)	June 8	<i>(Services Required)</i>

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