

GOUCHER | college

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

Dear Goucher Community:

Below you will find a list of the religious holy days that may impact your calendars during the **2025-2026 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.

Faculty and staff should try to avoid scheduling major programs, fieldtrips, events, exams, or 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.

For academic conflicts, students may request an extension on deadlines or may submit a [Religious Observance Request Form](#) for a specific absence, which once submitted, will be sent to the impacted faculty member(s) and the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies for final approval.

Catia Rembert and Karen Sykes will be approving religious observance requests for housing or changes to the meal plan. Please reach out to inclusion@goucher.edu with any questions.

Thank you in advance for making Goucher College a more religiously inclusive campus!

More information about religious holidays can be found on the Religious & Spiritual Life website under the [Religious Holidays](#) tab in the menu.

Peace to you,

The EIE Team

IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS: August 2025 – July 2026

For a complete list of Religious Holidays and more information about each, please visit:

<https://chaplain.yale.edu/faith-communities-at-yale/multi-faith-calendar>

KEY

** 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 2025</u>		<u>Notes</u>
Labor Day	September 1	
Mawlid al-Nabi (Birth of the Prophet Muhammad) # (Islam)	September 4-5	
Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish)	September 22-24	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Navratri/Dussehra (Hindu)	September 25 - October 2	<i>(Date Celebrated – 9-day festival)</i>
<u>October 2025</u>		
Yom Kippur* (Jewish)	October 1-2	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Dussehra (Hindu)	October 2	
Sukkot* (Jewish)	October 6-12	<i>(Work Restricted 10/6-8)</i>
Shemini Atzeret* (Jewish)	October 13-14	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Simchat Torah* (Jewish)	October 14-15	<i>(Work Restricted)</i>
Indigenous Peoples Day	October 13	
Diwali (Hindu/Jain/Sikh/Cultural)	October 20-25	
Samhain (Pagan/Wiccan)	October 31-Nov 1	
<u>November 2025</u>		
All Saints/Souls Day (Christian)	November 1-2	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
Veteran’s Day (Cultural)	November 11	
Thanksgiving Day (Interfaith/Cultural)	November 27	
Native American Heritage Day	November 28	

<u>December 2025</u>		
Bodhi Day (Buddhist)	December 8	
Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic Christian)	December 8	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe (Catholic Christian/Cultural)	December 12	
Hannukah/Chanukah (Jewish)	December 14-Dec 22	
Yule/Winter Solstice (Pagan/Wiccan)	December 21	
Christmas (Christian)	December 24-25	
Kwanzaa (Interfaith/Cultural)	December 26-Jan1	
WINTER TERM		
<u>January 2026</u>		
Epiphany/Dia de Reyes (Christian/Cultural)	January 6	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Orthodox Christmas (Christian)	January 7	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Lailat al Miraj # (Islam)	January 15-16	
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 19	
SPRING SEMESTER		
<u>February 2026</u>		
Lunar New Year (Confucius/Daoist/Buddhist/Cultural)	February 17	
Nirvana Day/Buddha's Passing (Buddhist)	February 15	
Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)	February 15	
Ramadan # (Islam)	February 17-March 19	<i>(Fasting during daylight hours, additional prayers and services)</i>
Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)	February 15	
Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent) (Christian)	February 18	<i>(Services Required)</i>
<u>March 2026</u>		
Ta'anit Esther + Purim* (Jewish)	March 2-3	
Holi (Festival of Colors) (Hindu/Jain/Cultural)	March 4	
Nowruz/Naw Rúz/Norooz (Persian New Year) (Zoroastrian/Bahá'ís/Sufis/Cultural)	March 20	
Laylat al-Qadr # (Islam)	March 16	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Eid al-Fitr # (Islam)	March 20	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Rama Navami (Hindu)	March 26	
Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday) (Christian)	March 29-April 4	<i>(Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday)</i>

		<i>may include services and fasting)</i>
<u>April 2026</u>		
Pesach* (Passover) (Jewish)	April 1-9	<i>(Work Restricted 4/1-4/3 and 4/7-4/9)</i>
Easter (End of Lent) (Christian)	April 5	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Holy Week (Christian Orthodox)	April 5-11	<i>(Week may include services and fasting)</i>
Easter (End of Lent) (Christian Orthodox)	April 12	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) (Jewish/Cultural)	April 13-14	
<u>May 2026</u>		
Ascension of Jesus (Christian)	May 14	<i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
BACCALAUREATE (Goucher College)	May 15	
Shavuot* (Jewish)	May 20-22	
Pentecost (Christian)	May 24	
Memorial Day	May 25	
Eid al-Adha # (Islam)	May 27	<i>(Services Required)</i>
Pentecost (Christian Orthodox)	May 31	<i>(Services Required)</i>
SUMMER SESSIONS		
<u>June 2026</u>		
Juneteenth	June 19	
Ashura # (Islam)	June 26	
<u>July 2026</u>		
Tisha B'av (Jewish)	July 22-23	