

Religious Holidays and Observances

A Guide for Religious Observances When Planning Campus Programs, Events, and Activities

In an effort to foster a community of inclusion and belonging at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) we encourage you to be mindful of religious holidays, interfaith and holy days, and other commemorative events which may impact student and employee participation in campus programs, events, and activities.

Please refer to the resources below as you need to when conducting your program/event scheduling and planning this term/semester.

If you are unsure if the identified date may discourage active participation in your program/event please feel free to consult with a member of the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (ODIME) or Division of Talent and Inclusion.

CONTACT

Location: Collegiate Religious Center

Phone: 508-831-5796

Fax: 508-831-5818

diversity@wpi.edu



Quick Links

**2023 Worcester Polytechnic
Institute Paid Holidays**

Academic Calendar

ODIME Religious Holiday Calendar

The Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (ODIME) has curated a number of religious holidays and holy days students and employees might be observing during the year. The religious holidays and observances included in this resource are neither exclusive nor exhaustive. This resource is a snapshot for the user’s consideration and mindfulness around planning, scheduling, and support of members of the WPI community observing these holidays.

ODIME Religious and
Spiritual Holidays and
Observances 2024-2025

Significance and Recommendations for High Holiday Observances

Fall High Holiday Observances

Feast of Assumption (August)	+
Sri Krishna Janmashtami (Varies August/September)	+
Ganesh Chaturthi (Varies August/September)	+
Rosh Hashanah (Varies September/October)	+
Yom Kippur (Varies September/October)	+
Sukkot (Varies September/October)	+

Spring High Holiday Observances

Lunar New Year (Varies January/February)	+
Lent (Varies February thru April)	+
Maha Shiv Ratri (Varies February/March)	+
Holi (Varies February/March)	+
Ramadan (Varies March thru April)	+
Good/Holy Friday and Easter (Varies March/April)	+

Navaratri (Varies Fall - September/October Spring - March/April)	+	Mahaveer Jayanti (Varies March/April)	+
Diwali (Various October/November)	+	Passover (Varies March/April)	+
Advent (Varies November/December)	+	Yom HaShoah/International Holocaust Remembrance Day (Varies April/May)	+
Hanukkah (December)	+	Buddha Jayanti (May)	+
Kwanzaa (December)	+	Eid al-Adha (Varies June/July)	+

A Guide for Religious Observances

Religious Holy Days of Observance

This guide is for **Religious Holy Days or Days of Awe and Observances** across religious and spiritual traditions. These dates and periods of observance mark sacred time in the practices of those who hold identities around religious and religio-cultural traditions. For our campus community, we strive to make the Holy Days Calendar and guidance as accurate as possible and to describe the holy days, their significance, and the nature of observance correctly.

This guidance is published by the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (ODIME) (a) as a tool to educate the WPI community about the diverse religious traditions observed by our students, faculty, and staff and (b) to assist students, faculty, and staff in planning academic or work responsibilities, campus events, and other programs. This is not an exhaustive list of holy days or religious observances observed by members of the WPI community. Students, faculty, or staff may encounter requests for accommodation related to holy days not listed on this calendar.

Sources consulted in the process of curating this calendar include the Anti-Defamation League's Calendar of Observances and other multifaith references. The calendar has also been reviewed by, WPI's Campus Chaplains, Religious Advisors, Division of Student Affairs staff, Division of Talent and Inclusion staff, alongside various faith communities both on-campus and in Worcester. We strive to make the Holy Days Calendar as accurate as possible and to describe the holy days, their significance, and the nature of observance correctly.

If you observe an oversight, error, or have an feedback, please contact us at diversity@wpi.edu.

Guidance for Students

Guidance for Employees

WPI's Policy on Religious Observances

A student who is unable to attend classes or participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day because of their religious beliefs shall be excused from any such examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study, or work requirement which they may have missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school.

➤ COLLEGIATE RELIGIOUS CENTER (CRC)

➤ OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION (ODIME)