

**Office of the Provost**

University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

PHONE: 410-455-2333

FAX: 410-455-1107

VOICE/TTY: 410-455-3233

WEB: [www.umbc.edu/](http://www.umbc.edu/)

## interoffice MEMORANDUM

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Date: August 3, 2004

To: Department Chairs and Program Directors

From: Arthur T. Johnson   
Provost

Re: 2004-05 Religious Holiday

The 2004-05 Religious Holidays information is available on the Provost's website, <http://www.umbc.edu/provost>, under *What's New* or at <http://umbc.edu/provost/ReligiousHolidays.pdf>. Please provide your faculty and staff with this information. For your convenience, I have attached a copy of this information. Thank you.

ATJ:scm  
Enclosure

## **Religious Holidays**

### **2004-05 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. Please note that observance of Jewish holidays begins at sundown on the preceding evening and concludes at sundown on the dates noted.

The major religious holidays during the 2004-05 Academic Year are:

#### **Fall Semester**

Rosh Hashannah - September 15 (evening), 16, 17  
Yom Kippur - September 24 (evening), 25  
Sukkot - Sept. 29 (evening), 30, Oct. 1  
Shmini Atzeret - October 6 (evening), 7  
Simchat Torah - October 7 (evening), 8  
Ramadan Begins - October 16\*  
Eid-ul-Fitr - November 14\*

#### **Spring Semester**

Eid-ul-Adha - January 21,\*  
1<sup>st</sup> of Muharram - February 10\*  
Ashura - February 20 \*  
Pesach - April 23 (evening), 24, 25  
Good Friday - March 25  
Easter Sunday - March 27  
Pesach - April 29 (evening), 30, May 1  
Orthodox Good Friday - April 29  
Orthodox Easter - May 1  
Shavuot - June 12 (evening), 13, 14

\*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.