RELIGIOUS BELIEFS & CLASS ATTENDANCE

Throughout the academic year, many students and faculty will need to
miss class or reschedule assignments, exams, practices, or other school
commitments in order to observe religious holidays that fall on class or
work days.

Students who will be taking time to observe these holidays should
communicate with faculty, coaches, etc. as soon as possible regarding
absences for religious observations and be prepared to discuss plans
for making up missed work. Faculty will continue to respect the needs
of our students and, in compliance with the New York State Education
Law (Chapter 161, Section 224-a), honor students’ requests for such
rescheduling and collaborate with them to determine a path to make up
missed work.

Faculty who plan to observe religious holidays on scheduled work
days should communicate with their department chair and arrange for
make-up sessions or alternative content delivery in order to preserve
instructional time. (See the Faculty Handbook, Section 3: Instruction.)

This applies to all religious observances, specified or not specified on the
academic calendar.

1. Staff absences for religious observance will also be accommodated.
   Professional and Classified staff are required to charge accruals for
   these absences. (Sick days cannot be used for this purpose.)

2. Section 224-a, "Students unable because of religious beliefs to register
   or attend classes on certain days," states the following (see below):

   1. No person shall be expelled from or be refused admission as a student to
      an institution of higher education for the reasons that he or she is unable,
      because of his or her religious beliefs, to register or attend classes or to
      participate in any examination, study or work requirements on a particular
day or days.

   2. Any student in an institution of higher education who is unable, because
      of his or her religious beliefs, to attend classes on a particular day or days
      shall, because of such absence on the particular day or days, be excused
      from any examination or any study or work requirements.

   3. It shall be the responsibility of the faculty and of the administrative
      officials of each institution of higher education to make available to
      each student who is absent from school, because of his or her religious
      beliefs, an equivalent opportunity to register for classes or make up
      any examination, study or work requirements which he or she may have
      missed because of such absence on any particular day or days. No fees
      of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to
      the said student such equivalent opportunity.

   4. If registration, classes, examinations, study or work requirements
      are held on Friday after four o’clock post meridian or on Saturday,
similar or makeup classes, examinations, study or work requirements or
      opportunity to register shall be made available on other days, where it is
      possible and practicable to do so. No special fees shall be charged to the
      student for these classes, examinations, study or work requirements or
      registration held on other days.

   5. In effectuating the provisions of this section, it shall be the duty of the
      faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher
      education to exercise the fullest measure of good faith. No adverse

   or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his or her
   availing himself or herself of the provisions of this section.

   6. Any student who is aggrieved by the alleged failure of any faculty or
      administrative officials to comply in good faith with the provisions of
      this section, shall be entitled to maintain an action or proceeding in the
      supreme court of the county in which such institution of higher education
      is located for the enforcement of his or her rights under this section.

   a. It shall be the responsibility of the administrative officials of each
      institution of higher education to give written notice to students of
      their rights under this section, informing them that each student who
      is absent from school, because of his or her religious beliefs, must
      be given an equivalent opportunity to register for classes or make up
      any examination, study or work requirements which he or she may
      have missed because of such absence on any particular day or days.
      No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making
      available to such student such equivalent opportunity.

   7. As used in this section, the term "institution of higher education" shall
      mean any institution of higher education, recognized and approved by
      the regents of the university of the state of New York, which provides a
      course of study leading to the granting of a post-secondary degree or
diploma. Such term shall not include any institution which is operated,
supervised or controlled by a church or by a religious or denominational
organization whose educational programs are principally designed for the
purpose of training ministers or other religious functionaries or for the
purpose of propagating religious doctrines. As used in this section, the
term "religious belief" shall mean beliefs associated with any corporation
organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, which is not
disqualified for tax exemption under section 501 of the United States
Code.