

Proposed Religious Holy Day Observance Policy – 10 September 2019

Per Section 1006.53, Florida Statutes, the Florida State University policy on observance of religious holy days provides that reasonable accommodations will be provided to students who request to be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students will make the request in writing to their instructor, preferably upon receipt of the course syllabus but not later than two weeks before the holy day observance. Note that such an accommodation may not be possible when the religious holy day conflicts with group work or experiential learning projects that cannot reasonably be rescheduled, therefore students should avoid potential conflicts when scheduling courses or joining particular student groups. While excused students will be held responsible for the material covered in their absence, they shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the work missed. Instructors and University administrators shall not penalize students who are absent from academic activities because of excused religious holy day observance. Instructors may find information provided in these two links to be helpful when responding to student requests concerning holy day observation: <https://interfaithcouncil.fsu.edu/> and <https://www.interfaith-calendar.org/>. Students who allege that this policy has been improperly applied in specific instances may have their grievances addressed through the general academic appeals process. In this process, the student brings a complaint first to the instructor, then to the department chair, and finally to the academic dean appropriate to the course involved, stopping at the level at which the complaint is resolved. If no resolution is reached, the student brings the complaint to the attention of the Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement for either resolution or referral to the Student Academic Relations Committee of the Faculty Senate. This committee has the authority to recommend to the Vice President for Academic Affairs that corrective action be taken when justified. Consult the ‘Grievance Procedure’ section of this chapter for a complete description.