



## Religious Observance Dates (2024 - 2026)

This resource can be used to guide your planning process for scheduling events and exams on campus. While this list of holidays isn't comprehensive, it does highlight the major days of observance of many of the various religious students on campus.

**Note: These dates may require some form of accommodation for religious observances.**

For more information about Academic Accommodations for Religious Observance, the University of Calgary has a Student Accommodation Policy that supports religious accommodation of students. [View the policy.](#)

Tradition	2024	2025	2026	Holiday/Observance/Celebration
<b>Bahá'í</b>  Badí Calendar Year 1=1944 CE  This marks the beginning of the Bahá'í or Badí era.	March 20	March 20	March 21	<b>Naw-Rúz</b> - Bahá'í New Year
	May 23	May 23	May 24	<b>Declaration of the Báb</b> - anniversary of the Báb's announcement of His mission in 1844.
	May 28	May 28	May 29	<b>Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh</b> - the marking the passing of Bahá'u'lláh in 1892
	July 9	July 9	July 10	<b>Martyrdom of the Báb</b> - executed in 1850
	Nov. 2	Oct. 22	Nov. 10	<b>Birth of the Báb</b> - commemorates the day in 1844, when the Báb announced his mission as the Herald of a new Messenger of God.
	Nov. 3	Oct. 23	Nov. 11	<b>Birth of Bahá'u'lláh</b>
	Nov. 27	Nov. 27	Nov. 28	<b>Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*</b> marking the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1921
<b>Buddhism</b>  The Buddhist calendars are a set of lunisolar calendars primarily used in mainland Southeast Asian countries  <b>Types of Buddhists:</b> Theravada Mahayana Zen Tibetan  Year 1 = 543-542 BCE	Feb. 10	Jan. 29	Feb. 17	<b>Lunar New Year</b> - the first day after the new moon. A religious and cultural festival for Chinese, Vietnamese and Koreans of Buddhist and other backgrounds
	Feb. 10	Feb. 28	Feb. 18	<b>Tibetan New Year - Losar</b> - a 15-day celebration, with the main celebration on the first three days.
	Feb. 15	Feb. 15	Feb. 15	<b>Nirvana Day</b> - Nehan-e is the Mahayana memorial of the historical Buddha's passing away
	April 13	April 13	April 2	<b>Theravada New Year</b> - because the beginning is marked by sighting the moon, the actual date is not always predictable (it takes place three days from the first full moon in April)
	May 23	May 12	May. 1	<b>Vesak - Buddha Day</b> - the most important day of the year for Theravada Buddhists. It commemorates the birth, awakening and passing away of the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. This date is changed based on sect and area. These dates shown are the dates celebrated at the UN headquarters
	July 21	July 10	July 29	<b>Asala - Dharma Day</b> - celebrates the Buddha's first teachings

<b>Christianity</b>  Gregorian Calendar (Catholic/Protestant/Orthodox following modified calendar)  Year 1 = 0 CE	Dec. 25	Dec. 25	Dec. 25	<b>Christmas</b> – celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the promised messiah. More importance is given to this holiday in Western Christianity
	Mar. 29	April 18	April 3	<b>Good Friday</b> – commemorates the Passion of Jesus Christ and his submission to death by crucifixion
	Mar. 31	April 20	April 5	<b>Easter</b> – celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ
<b>Christianity</b>  Julian Calendar (Orthodox/Ukrainian Catholic/ Coptic)  Year 1 = 0 CE	Jan. 6	Jan. 6	Jan. 6	<b>Nativity of Jesus on Epiphany/Armenian Christmas</b> – celebrated by the Armenian Orthodox Church
	Jan. 7	Jan. 7	Jan. 7	<b>Christmas</b> – celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ
	May. 3	April 18	April 10	<b>Holy Friday</b> – commemorates the Passion of Jesus Christ and his submission to death by crucifixion
	May. 5	April 20	April 12	<b>Pascha</b> – celebrates the resurrection of Jesus
<b>Hindu</b>  The Indian national calendar or “Saka calendar” was introduced in 1957 based on the traditional regional Hindu calendars. These calendars the names of the twelve months but some festivals differ, and the month that starts the year also varies regionally.	Aug. 26	Aug. 16	Sept. 4	<b>Sri Krishna Jayanti (Janmashtami)</b> – celebrates the birthday of Krishna, the 8th incarnation of the God Vishnu
	Sept. 6	Aug. 26	Sept. 14	<b>Ganesh Chaturthi</b> – celebrates the birth anniversary of Lord Ganesh, a deity of prosperity, good fortune, and wisdom
	Oct. 31, Nov. 1	Oct. 20, 21	Nov. 8, 9	<b>Diwali</b> – a popular festival known as the Festival of Lights. It's celebrated continuously for five days and is associated with a story about the destruction of evil by Lord Vishnu in one of his many manifestations. *Also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains
	Jan. 15	Jan. 14	Jan. 14	<b>Makar Sankranti</b> – a harvest festival that marks the increase of the sun twinned with the Punjab celebration Lohri, which marks the passing of the winter solstice
	Feb. 13	Feb. 2	Jan. 23	<b>Vasanta Panchami</b> – a North Indian celebration associated with Saraswati and Lakshmi (the Goddess of Learning and the Goddess of Wealth), as well as the colour yellow
	Mar. 8	Feb. 25	Feb. 15	<b>Mahashivaratri</b> – “the Great Night of Shiva,” is a major festival in Hinduism, but one that is solemn. It marks a remembrance of “overcoming darkness and ignorance” in life and the world, and honors the God Shiva
	Mar. 25	Mar. 14	Mar. 3	<b>Holi</b> – the Festival of Colours that welcomes in spring. It's generally celebrated over two days with people throwing colourful powder and coloured water on each other
<b>Indigenous Spirituality</b>  The Indigenous calendar is cyclical following the moon, and is connected to the land and the seasons. This calendar includes the typical yearly events offered through UCalgary's Writing Symbols Lodge.	Usually around the same time as Convocation (check with the Writing Symbols Lodge for exact dates)			<b>Indigenous Graduation Banquet &amp; Pow-wow</b> – celebrated near the time of Convocation
	Occurs in the summer season (check with Writing Symbols Lodge for exact dates)			<b>Sundance</b> – a ceremony that occurs in the summer season
	June 1 - 30	June 1 - 30	June 1 - 30	<b>Indigenous History Month</b>
	June 21	June 21	June 21	<b>National Indigenous People's Day</b> – a day to celebrate First Nations, Inuit and Métis people
	Occurs mid-Sept. (check with Writing Symbols Lodge for exact dates)			<b>Sage Picking</b> – a ceremony to collect sage that is usually done mid-Sept. (weather permitting)
	Sept. 30	Sept. 30	Sept. 30	<b>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day</b> – the national day of remembrance for the victims of the Canadian residential school system

<p><b>Islam</b></p> <p>Hijri calendar</p> <p>Lunar Calendar *The actual dates are not always predictable because the beginning of the month is marked by sighting the moon.</p> <p>Year 1 = 622 CE</p>	June 16	June 6	May 27	<b>Eid al-Adha'</b> – the Festival of Sacrifice. Abraham offered his son, Ishmael, to God, so Muslims offer goat, sheep and camels, and then distribute the meat to the poor. This is the concluding act of pilgrimage (Hajj) but also observed even when not on pilgrimage. (Observance begins at the sunset of the previous day, but special worship and prayers begin on this day)
	Mar. 11 - April 10	Mar. 1 - 30	Feb. 18 - Mar. 20	<b>Ramadan</b> – the month of fasting, self-examination and devotion during which physically able Muslims don't eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset
	April 10	Mar. 30	Mar. 20	<b>Eid al-Fitr</b> – the last day of the month and is “the breaking of the fast” that celebrates the end of Ramadan. (Observance begins at the sunset of the previous day, but special worship and prayers begin on this day)
	Mar. 20	Mar. 20	Mar. 21	<b>Nowruz</b> – the spring equinox and the New Year. It's celebrated by many religious communities originating in Persia, including some Muslims
<p><b>Jain</b></p> <p>The Jain calendar (Panchanga) is a Indian lunisolar calendar.</p>	Aug. 31	Aug. 20	Sept. 8	<b>Paryushana-parva</b> – the holiest periods of the year for the Shvetambara sect. It includes fasting, worship, and reading the life story of Lord Mahavira from the Kalpasutra. It's celebrated over eight days ending on Samvatsari
	Sept. 7	Aug. 27	Sept. 15	<b>Samvatsari</b> – the Day of Forgiveness. It's the last day of Paryushana-parva, and is observed by fasting, introspection, confession and penance
	Nov. 1	Oct. 21	Nov. 8	<b>Mahavira Nirvana &amp; Diwali</b> – on this day, the 24th Tirthankara attained nirvana and release from the cycle of rebirth
	April 21	April 10	Mar. 30	<b>Mahavira-Jayanti</b> – celebrates the birth of the Lord Mahavira, “Great Hero,” the 24th and last Tirthankara of his time. He's a savior who has succeeded in crossing over life's stream of rebirths and has made a path for others to follow
<p><b>Judaism</b></p> <p>Hebrew Calendar</p> <p>Year 1 = 3760 BCE</p> <p>Note: While a day in the secular calendar begins and ends at midnight, a Jewish day goes from nightfall to nightfall.</p>	Aug. 13	Aug. 3	July 22	<b>Tish'a B'Av</b> – the ninth of the month of Av is a major fast day. It commemorates the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem in ancient times
	Oct 2 - 4	Sep 22 - 24	Sept. 11 - 13	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> – New Year's Day in the Jewish calendar (5777). It's the anniversary of the creation of the world and the first of the Ten Days of Awe
	Oct. 12	Oct. 2	Sept. 21	<b>Yom Kippur</b> – the Day of Atonement, is the year's holiest day and a day of fasting. Jews ask forgiveness from and forgive others. This is to re-establish oneness with God, as well as to confess their sins and ask God for forgiveness
	Oct. 16 - 23	Oct. 6 - 13	Sept. 25 - Oct. 2	<b>Sukkot</b> – a pilgrimage feast and a time of thanksgiving for God's presence in creation and among the Jewish people
	Oct. 23 - 25	Oct. 12 - 15	Oct. 2 - 4	<b>Shemini Atzeret</b> – the Eighth Day of Assembly. It's a holiday that concludes Sukkot and marks the beginning of winter in Israel
	Oct. 25	Oct. 15	Oct. 4	<b>Simhat Torah</b> – rejoicing of the Law. It celebrates the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle at the synagogue
	April 22 - 30	April 12 - 20	April 1 - 9	<b>Pesah (Passover)</b> – commemorates the departure of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Celebrated over 7/8 days; the first two days and last two are holidays
June 11 - 13	June 1 - 3	May 21 - 23	<b>Shavuot</b> – marks the closing of the seven weeks that follow Pesah and commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses and the Israelites. It's celebrated over one day in Israel and two days by Jews in the Diaspora (outside of Israel)	

<p><b>Sikh</b></p> <p>Nanakshahi Calendar</p> <p>Year 1 = 1469 CE</p> <p>Note: Dates of some festivals are fixed to the Indian Calendar (shift every year) and some have been changed to fit to the Gregorian calendar.</p>	Oct. 20	Oct. 20	Oct. 20	<b>Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji</b> – celebrates Guru Gobind Singhi Ji (the 10th Guru) passing the Guruship to the Holy Scriptures
	Nov. 1	Oct. 21	Nov. 8	<b>Bandi Chhor Divas &amp; Diwali</b> – commemorated the return of Guru Hargobind Ji (the 6th Guru) to the holy city of Amritsar after negotiating the release of himself and 52 princes held for political reasons. This festival falls on the same day as Diwali
	Nov. 15	Nov. 5	Nov. 24	<b>Birth Date of Guru Nanak Dev Ji</b> – the founder of the Sikh faith, an accomplished poet and the first of the Ten Gurus in 1469 CE
	Nov. 24	Nov. 24	Nov. 24	<b>Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji</b> – the ninth of the Ten Gurus. He’s remembered for his defense of the Sikh faith, but also for being willing to give up his life for religious liberty of all faiths (1621-1675)
	April 14	April 14	April 14	<b>Vaisakhi</b> – this festival commemorates the day in 1699 that Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10th Guru, removed the caste system from Sikhism and affirmed the nationhood of the Khalsa
<p><b>Wicca</b></p> <p>Includes Pagan traditions using the Gregorian calendar.</p>	Sept. 22	Sept. 22	Sept. 23, Sept. 24	<b>Mabon</b> – Fall equinox. Similar to Canadian Thanksgiving, this is a time to spend with family, eat food, give thanks and appreciate the goddess for her bounty
	Oct. 31	Oct. 31	Oct. 31	<b>Samhain</b> – the end and the beginning of the Celtic year. Celebrated by honoring and paying respect to the dead
	Dec. 21	Dec. 21	Dec. 21	<b>Yule</b> – Winter solstice. A time of hope and renewal as the sun begins to return after this day
	Mar. 20	Mar. 20	Mar. 20	<b>Ostara</b> – Spring equinox. The first day of spring celebrates a time of growth and balance
	May. 1	May. 1	May 1	<b>Beltane</b> – beginning of summer. Celebrated through a festival of fire and fertility
<p><b>Zoroastrian</b></p> <p>Qadimi Calendar</p>	Dec. 26	Dec. 26	Dec. 26	<b>Death of Prophet Zarathustra</b> , the founder of the Zoroastrian faith who lived somewhere between 6000-2000 BCE
	March 20	March 20	March 21	<b>Nowruz</b> – “new day” is New Year’s Day in the Fasli seasonal calendar. It celebrates the renewal of the world, the creation of fire and the day Zarathustra received his revelation