

## Guidelines for Observance of Religious Holidays

As a non-sectarian institution, Allegheny College affirms the variety of religious faiths represented within our community and supports individuals' personal practice and expression of religion. We urge flexibility in allowing time away from work or classes for religious holidays. We encourage individuals who celebrate or decorate for religious holidays to do so with sensitivity to those who are not religious or whose faith does not lend itself to outwardly visible expression. Common spaces should provide room for representation of a variety of faiths. We support continuing education about religious diversity and awareness of religious seasons that members of our campus community observe.

### Suggested actions:

- Contact the Religious Life Office for information about any holidays with which you are unfamiliar.
- Attend services and celebrations held by religious groups on campus, such as the Eid al-Fitr or the Passover Seder.
- Sample special meals and take note of information about religious holidays provided in dining halls.
- When scheduling exams, ask students in your class if there are days they will be observing religious holidays.
- Around the winter holidays, do not assume that everyone in your office, department, floor, etc. celebrates Christmas, but invite persons to share stories and customs from their own experience.
- When in doubt, ask: simply asking about someone's comfort level in a particular setting can make them feel valued and included.

## Holiday Schedule for 2007-2008

### Major Holidays

*We discourage the scheduling of any campus-wide events on these days, such as Matriculation, Homecoming, Family Weekend, Visit Days, Honors Convocation, Commencement, or major Student Activities programs or events.*

- Sep. 12-14: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year, begins at sundown, ends at sundown two days later)
- Sep. 13: Ramadan begins (Muslim month of fasting)
- Sep. 21-22: Yom Kippur (Jewish Day of Atonement, begins at sundown, ends at sundown the next day)
- Oct. 13: Eid al-Fitr (Muslim feast celebrating end of Ramadan)
- Dec. 20: Eid al-Adha (Muslim three-day Festival of Sacrifice begins)
- Dec. 25: Christmas (Christian celebration of birth of Jesus, school not in session)
- Dec. 26-Jan. 1: Kwanzaa (African American celebration of family, community, and culture; school not in session)
- Mar. 23: Easter (Christian celebration of resurrection of Christ; school not in session: note: Eastern Orthodox Christians celebrate Easter on Apr. 27)
- Apr. 19: Passover (Jewish week-long celebration of Exodus from Egypt begins at sundown)

### Other Holidays

*These holidays may be celebrated on campus, but do not have the same level of obligation as major holidays.*

- Sep. 26: Sukkot (Jewish week-long Festival of Booths begins at sundown)
- Nov. 1: All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics: attendance at Mass required)
- Dec. 2: Advent (Christian season of preparation for birth of Jesus; four Sundays prior to Christmas)
- Dec. 4: Hanukkah (Jewish eight-day Festival of Lights begins at sundown)
- Dec. 8: Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics: attendance at Mass required)
- Jan. 22: Tu B'Shvat (Jewish Arbor Day)
- Feb. 6: Ash Wednesday (Christian first day of Lent, 40-day season of repentance)
- Mar. 16: Palm Sunday (Christian observance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem)
- Mar. 20: Maundy Thursday (Christian observance of Jesus' Passover meal with disciples)
- Mar. 21: Good Friday (Christian observance of Jesus' crucifixion and burial)
- Mar. 21: Purim (Jewish Feast of Lots)
- May 2: Yom Hashoah (Jewish day of Holocaust remembrance)