Guide to Muslim Holidays, Academic Year 2021-22
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Georgia State University

The following guide has been assembled to help explain major holidays of the Muslim faith, which many in the Georgia State community observe. The guide is specifically intended to explain those holidays which have significant work restrictions for those who observe the faith. It is not intended to be all-encompassing of all holidays in the faith but is instead intended to assist faculty and staff in understanding major holidays which may necessitate accommodations.

Georgia State’s religious accommodation policy is outlined at https://dei.gsu.edu/religious-observances/.

Georgia State gratefully acknowledges the University of Missouri’s Office of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity as a critical resource as well as Golden Gate University and Grinnell College in compiling this document.

All holidays begin at sundown on the first date listed.

Ramadan
April 2-May 1, 2022

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar year and is the time in which Muslims focus on faith through fasting and prayer, observing the fast from sunrise to sunset. The date at sundown marks the beginning of a 30-day observance of this important month in the Muslim calendar, with dates determined by the lunar calendar. It is held in the faith as when the Qur’an was first revealed to the prophet Muhammad, providing ultimate guidance for humankind.

Muslims refrain from food and beverages during the daylight hours and smoking and sexual relations are forbidden. The fast is broken each night with prayer, reading of the Qu’ran, and a meal called the iftar; many also attend night prayers at mosques and try to give up bad habits during Ramadan.

Eid al-Fitr
May 2, 2022

Eid al-Fitr is the last day of Ramadan, marking the end of a month of fasting, with a celebration with friends and family, prayer, and often an exchange of gifts. Eid al-Fitr is a three-day celebration beginning at sundown.

Eid al-Adha
July 10, 2022
(In 2021, this holiday occurred July 19-20.)

Eid al-Adha is a major festival with a focus on the willingness to make sacrifices in the name of one’s faith. Prayers and gift giving mark this holiday, beginning at sundown based on the lunar calendar.