



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Memorandum

Date: January 14, 2016

To: Deans, Department Chairs, and Faculty

From: Provost David W. McLaughlin

Re: Students' Religious Observance and Class Attendance

As a nonsectarian, inclusive institution, NYU policy permits members of any religious group to absent themselves from classes without penalty when required for compliance with their religious obligations. The policy and principles to be followed by students and faculty may be found here: [The University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#).

The spring is a time of important religious observance for many of our students, of multiple faiths. Some students may miss a significant amount of class during the semester, as they choose to observe some or all the holidays.

Notwithstanding the University's supportive approach to these matters, some students may feel uncomfortable alerting their professors to upcoming absences related to religious observance. As we start the new semester, I thank you for your continued cooperation in creating an atmosphere of understanding and accommodation in response to our students' commitment to religious observance. Where questions arise about applying the policy to specific circumstances, faculty should consult with their department chairs and deans of their schools. Questions that arise from faculty should be settled in each school dean's office in consultation with the University chaplains and/or the Office of General Counsel, as appropriate.