Academic Considerations for Religious Obligations

Policy on Academic Consideration for Religious Obligations

The University acknowledges the pluralistic nature of the graduate and undergraduate communities and that accommodation will be made to students who experience a conflict between a religious obligation and scheduled tests, mid-term examinations, final examinations, or requirements to attend classes and participate in laboratories. The type of accommodation will vary depending on the nature, weight and timing of the work for which accommodation is sought. Accordingly, the request for alternative arrangements normally must be submitted to the instructor in charge of the course within two weeks of the distribution of the course outline. A student requiring accommodation may submit the request to the instructor directly or through his/her program counsellor. The instructor has a responsibility to provide reasonable alternative arrangements that do not put the student at an academic disadvantage. In the case of a conflict with a final examination, the instructor should reschedule the examination to another time during the examination period taking care that the new date and time do not put the student at an academic disadvantage.

In the event that a student is not satisfied with the accommodation offered by the instructor, he/she may appeal to the Department Chair who may grant alternative accommodation. A student who remains dissatisfied with the outcome of his/her request may seek the assistance of the Office of Diversity and Human Rights to facilitate a resolution.