



Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

2025 Cultural & Heritage Observances Monthly Calendar

Months	Observance	Months	Observance
January	National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month Third Monday: Martin Luther King Day	July	Disability Pride Month July 18: Nelson Mandela Day
February	Black History Month Third Monday: President's Day	August	National Civility Month and National Wellness Month August 17: Marcus Garvey Day August 23: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade. Designated by UNESCO. August 23: Anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean. August 26: Women's Equality Day (19 th Amendment, 1920)
March	National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Women's History Month Irish-American Heritage Month March 8: International Women's Day March 31: International Day of Transgender Visibility	September	Latinx Heritage Month Hispanic Heritage Month (runs through Oct 15)
April	Arab American Heritage Month Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Autism Awareness Month April 22: Earth Day	October	Italian-American Heritage Month Filipino American History Month German-American Heritage Month LGBTQ+ History Month National Disability Employment Awareness Month October 11: National Coming Out Day October 13: Indigenous Peoples' Day
May	Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month	November	Native American History Month November 8: National First-Generation Day



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	<p>Jewish American Heritage Month Mental Health Awareness Month May 5: Cinco de Mayo commemoration May 6: Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) Last Monday: Memorial Day</p>		
June	<p>LGBTQ+ Pride Month Caribbean-American Heritage Month June 19: Juneteenth</p>	December	<p>International Human Rights Day December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities</p>

Spring 2025 Observances Calendar

* Some holy days (*) start at sundown of the evening of the listed start date and end at sundown or nightfall of the concluding listed date.

Some of these dates are not fixed to a calendar but based on the actual sighting of the moon and therefore there may be some variance by a day.

Note: This list does not include all religions. This list also is subject to change. Also, boxes in tan are generally non-instruction days.

Date	Name	Description	Faith Tradition
January 6, 2025	Epiphany	Commemorates the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, celebrated with various traditions. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> No specific accommodations needed.	Christian
Tuesday, February 25, 2025	Maha Shivaratri	Festival honoring the god Shiva with fasting and night worship. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling major academic events, as observants may have reduced energy.	Hindu
Friday, February 28, 2025	Beginning of Ramadan*#	Month of fasting from dawn to sunset, marking the first revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad. This season ends on March 30, 2025. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling exams or important deadlines during this month, especially near sunset when fasting ends.	Islamic
Wednesday, March 5, 2025	Beginning of Lent and Ash Wednesday	The start of the 40-day Christian Lenten season of fasting, reflection, and preparation for Easter. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Some Christians may observe fasting or abstain from certain foods; no specific accommodations required, but be mindful of dietary restrictions.	Christian



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Friday, March 14, 2025	Purim	Celebrates the Jewish community's deliverance from a plot of destruction in ancient Persia. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Academics and work permitted; celebrations may include costumes, food, and drink.	Jewish
Friday, March 14, 2025	Holi	Begins evening of March 14 and ends the evening of March 15. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> No specific accommodations needed.	Hindu
Monday, March 17, 2025	St. Patrick's Day	Commemorates St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Celebrated widely, including within some Christian traditions. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> No specific accommodations needed.	Christian
Thursday, March 27, 2025	Lailat al-Qadr #	“Night of Power,” commemorating the night the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling significant deadlines; Muslims may engage in night prayers and may request time off the next day.	Islamic
Sunday, March 30, 2025	Eid al-Fitr#	Celebration marking the end of Ramadan. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic events; Muslim students may request time off for family gatherings.	Islamic
Saturday April 12, 2025	Beginning of Pesach (Passover)	Celebrates the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. This season ends on Sunday, April 20, 2025 <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines on the first two nights; Kosher food options recommended.	Jewish



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Friday, April 18, 2025	Good Friday	Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling significant academic deadlines; quiet reflection time may be appropriate.	Christian
Sunday, April 20, 2025	Easter	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> No accommodations required, but avoid scheduling exams as some may observe additional family obligations.	Christian

Summer 2025 Observances Calendar

Date	Name	Description	Faith Tradition
Thursday, May 29, 2025	Vesak	Commemorates Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Provide vegetarian food options as requested.	Buddhist
Sunday, June 1 Tuesday June 3, 2025	Shavuot	Marks the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. This observance continues through June 3, 2025. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important deadlines, events, and provide Kosher options; dairy foods are often customary.	Jewish
Monday, June 16, 2025	Eid al-Adha*#	Commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling major academic events; provide food accommodations if requested, and be mindful of Islamic dietary restrictions.	Islamic
Saturday, July 26, 2025	Ashura*#	Marks the martyrdom of Husayn, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, and the Exodus of Moses. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Observers may request a vacation day; avoid scheduling major events if requested by students or employees.	Islamic

Fall 2025 Religious Calendar



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Date	Name	Description	Faith Tradition
Saturday, August 16, 2025	Krishna Janmashtami	Celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna, a major deity in Hinduism. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling major deadlines; students may have reduced energy due to late-night observances.	Hindu
Monday September 22 Wednesday, September 24, 2025	Rosh Hashanah*	Jewish New Year, marking the anniversary of creation. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important deadlines; provide Kosher food accommodations	Jewish
Wednesday Oct 1 Thursday, October 2, 2025	Yom Kippur*	Holiest day in Judaism, the Day of Atonement. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling deadlines or events; fasting ends at nightfall, so plan limited activities after this time.	Jewish
Thursday, October 2, 2025	Navaratri	Hindu festival celebrating the Divine Feminine with dance and fasting. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid major deadlines as some students may observe fasting and other rituals, especially in the evening.	Hindu
Monday Oct 6 Monday, October 13, 2025	Sukkot*	A week-long festival commemorating the sheltering of ancestors in huts after the Exodus. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid deadlines and events on the first two days; provide Kosher food if requested.	Jewish
Wednesday, October 15, 2025	Shemini Atzeret/Simc hat Torah*	Celebration marking the completion of the Torah reading cycle. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important deadlines; provide Kosher food as requested.	Jewish
Monday, October 20, 2025	Diwali	Festival of lights, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important deadlines; many may request time off for family gatherings.	Hindu, Sikh, Jain
Thursday, October 23, 2025	Birth of Bahá' u'lláh	Celebrates the birth of Bahá' u'lláh, founder of the Bahá'í Faith. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Avoid scheduling important deadlines or events; Bahá'í	Bahá'í



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		students may request the day off.	
Saturday, November 1, 2025	All Saints' Day	Christian holiday honoring all saints and martyrs. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> No specific accommodations typically required.	Christian
Monday, December 8, 2025	Bodhi Day	Marks the day Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> No specific accommodations required; quiet observance.	Buddhist
Sunday, December 14 22, 2025	Hanukkah*	Jewish Festival of Lights, commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> Academics and work permitted, but provide Kosher food as requested; fried foods are customary.	Jewish
December 25, 2025	Christmas	Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> National holiday; no academic accommodations typically needed.	Christian
December 26, 2025 - January 1, 2026	Kwanzaa	African-American cultural holiday celebrating family, community, and culture. Each day emphasizes one of seven principles, such as unity and self-determination. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> No specific accommodations typically needed; however, respect for observances and cultural gatherings is encouraged.	Cultural Observance
January 1, 2026	Gantan-sai (New Year's Day)	Shinto New Year celebration, marked by various traditional rituals for good fortune. <i>Recommended Accommodations:</i> No specific accommodations typically needed.	Shinto



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Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Principles

We are a community of humans--diverse in identities, roles, experiences, expertise--committed to the difficult work of educational and social equity. In this work, we maintain a radical vision for our own individual and collective well-being. We do this through:

- Forms of learning evident in scholarship, partnership, and leadership that thoughtfully engages with children and youth, families, schools, higher education institutions, businesses and nonprofits with diverse perspectives and backgrounds.
- Continuous collective reflection and self-reflection on the ways in which race, ethnicity, economic resources, languages, abilities, histories, geography, first-generation status, age, gender, sexual identities, veteran status, and cultural and faith practices surface and inform our shared commitments and interactions.
- Prioritizing psychological, emotional, and physical safety.
- Prioritizing the sense of belonging for all members of our community.
- Courage in our commitments to risk, reflect, and improve.