



GUIDELINE

SUBJECT/TITLE: Religious/Spiritual Observance for Undergraduate Students (Calgary Campus/Medicine Hat College Site)		PAGE: 1 of 3
RELATED POLICY: Nursing Practice Attendance Policy Deferred Final Examinations	DATE ESTABLISHED: April 24, 2008	
AUTHORIZATION: Practice Policy and Procedure Committee Undergraduate Programs Committee Executive Committee of Council	DATE LAST REVISED: February 28, 2018 (editorial revisions) April 11, 2012 May 3, 2012 May 3, 2019 (reviewed at MHC)	

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for instructors to address student requests to be absent from mandatory practice attendance for reasons of religious/spiritual observance.

To highlight university policies and procedures regarding student requests for deferred mid-term examinations, tests, quizzes and final examinations, etc. for reasons of religious/spiritual observance.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT REQUESTS TO BE ABSENT FROM MANDATORY PRACTICE LEARNING

Instructors will attempt to make accommodations for a student to be absent from mandatory practice for reasons of religious/spiritual observance. The accommodation will consist of permission to be absent without penalty and/or provision of opportunity to make up the missed learning.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS: The role of the instructor is to assess student requests on a case-by-case basis. Factors to consider will include student learning performance, the availability of alternative arrangements, and the impact on student ability to be successful in the course.

The role of the student is to make a timely request in writing (email is acceptable, texting is not) and to consider the impact of this request on their own learning progression.

PROCEDURES FOR PRACTICE

ABSENCE:

The student will:

- provide a written request to be absent for religious/spiritual observances to the instructor of each course concerned at the beginning of the term.
- agree to accommodate alternative learning arrangements made by the instructor to assist in meeting the course requirements.
- consider if subsequent to being absent for religious reasons there is an unanticipated absence(s) due to illness that it may not be possible to meet the requirement of the course.

The instructor will:

- meet with student to discuss their request.
- examine the feasibility of alternative arrangements.
- alert the student at the meeting that there are constraints to available practice opportunities.
- as the course progresses, advise the student in a timely way if there is a risk to their ability to be successful in the course. Advise the student that if subsequent to being absent for religious reasons there is an unanticipated absence(s) due to illness that it may not be possible to meet the requirement of the course.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT REQUESTS FOR DEFFERAL OF TERM AND FINAL EXAMINATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS

The instructor will accommodate a student request for deferral of a term exam for reasons of religious observance.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS:

Religious/spiritual observance does not preclude a student from having to meet deadlines for submission of assignments (for example, term papers, journals, book reviews), when such deadlines fall on a day of observance and the deadline was determined at the start of the course.

Students who miss classes for religious/spiritual observances must make up the material covered in that class on their own.

PROCEDURE FOR TESTS, QUIZZES AND OTHER IN-CLASS EVALUATION:

The instructor will:

- meet with the student to discuss an alternative course of action such as another test date or transferring the percentage weight for the test to the final examination.
- attempt to accommodate invigilation for the alternative test date within the department (if the mid-term test cannot be invigilated within the department, the Registrar's office may be able to invigilate the examination).

The student will:

- give the instructor of the course two weeks advance notification of being unable to write a test due to religious convictions.
- meet with the instructor to discuss the alternative course of action such as another test date or transferring the percentage weight for the test to the final examination.

PROCEDURE FOR FINAL EXAMINATIONS:

A student who is unable to attend a final examination due to religious/spiritual observance will:

- notify the instructor immediately after the final examination timetable has been published and no later than two weeks prior to the first day of the final exam period.
- approval from the Dean required at MHC site.

The instructor will:

- meet with the student to discuss whether it will be possible for the student to write on an alternate, mutually agreeable day, within the final exam period. If this is not possible, the student will be eligible to write a deferred exam within the Registrar scheduled deferral period. [NOTE: If the Registrar scheduled deferral date conflicts with nursing course(s) in the next semester, the student will be excused from the course(s) to write the exam.]
- notify the Coordinator and Faculty of Nursing of the proposed alternate exam date. Approval from the Dean required at the MHC site.

REFERENCES:

Faculty of Nursing, Nursing Practice Attendance Policy

University of Calgary Calendar, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/>, Academic Regulations, E4 Religious/Spiritual Observance

University of Calgary, Office of the Registrar, Exams, Deferred Exams: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>