

Interfaith Statement and Observance of Religious Holidays at SUNY Plattsburgh

Dear SUNY Plattsburgh Cardinal Family Member:

SUNY Plattsburgh is committed to embracing and supporting a culturally and spiritually diverse interfaith community. We recognize that our diverse students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members observe many solemn religious days, interfaith practices, indigenous rituals, and gatherings which may preclude them from participating in regular classes or duties as a member of our university community. Please know that SUNY Plattsburgh has an unwavering commitment to making sure that students and employees can practice and observe their faith without penalty or fear of retaliation. Please know that WE ARE ONE CARDINAL FAMILY, and YOU BELONG HERE!

Throughout the academic year, students who are unable to attend classes during the observance of religious holidays must be excused. While students remain responsible for course material, assignments, and examinations, no penalty may be applied due to the absence. When considering the absence, our community must be mindful of travel time that students and employees may need to observe the religious holidays with their families. In addition, we must be mindful of time students and employees may need to observe intentional prayer and/or fasting practices and rituals during high holy days and holy weeks.

Students who are unable to register for or attend classes on certain days due to their religious beliefs are protected by [New York State Education Law Section 224-A](#). Further details are available in the [SUNY Plattsburgh Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog regarding Absence due to Religious Beliefs](#). Faculty and students are encouraged to work together when discussing common religious observances, broad-based religious and diversity celebrations, and requests for individual accommodations. To ease planning, please reference the following resources and links that are provided in this document.

Please remember that we can all do our part to ensure that we foster a campus climate that is respectful of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. If, and when, a disconnect or confusion occurs, there are several ways to alleviate some of the discomfort or hurt that one may experience. When confusion occurs, we encourage you to discuss the situation privately with the faculty member, student, and/or supervisor to find acceptable ways to process and address the issue. Discussion enhances the ability for everyone to embrace a fuller understanding of the context of the situation and its impact. If the issues persist and a resolution is not obtained, please feel free to reach out to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion by visiting the H.U.B. in Angell College Center, first floor. You can also email the office at diversity@plattsburgh.edu or call 518-564-5410. In addition, please note that resources are available for reporting diversity incidents, bias, discrimination, or harassment by accessing the following link: [Diversity Incident Reporting Form | SUNY Plattsburgh](#).

Additional Resources:

- [Diversity Incident Report Information](#)
- [DEI Diversity Training Request Form](#)
- [Silent Witness Report Form](#)
- [Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Center Touchstones](#)
- [7 Practices for Engaging Religious Diversity at Work](#)
- [Ultimate Interfaith Calendar of Religious Holidays](#)
- [Calendar Z Religious Holidays](#)
- [National Institutes of Health Diversity Calendar](#)