

Procedure Title: Absence Due to Religious or Cultural Day Observance
Procedure Number: 05-2015-0003
Board Policy Reference: IV.C. Equality of Opportunity

Accountable Administrator: Vice President, Instruction
Position responsible for updating: Vice President, Instruction
Original Date: 07/27/2015
Date Approved by College Senate: 01-08-2025
Authorizing Signature: *original signature on file*
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Purpose:

The Religious or Cultural Day Observance Policy is designed to communicate the College's official policy and to provide guidance to students regarding how to support requests for religious or cultural observance while maintaining the College's commitment to its academic mission.

Principles:

1. BMCC respects the religious beliefs of all members of the student body.
2. BMCC affirms students' rights to observe religious or cultural days of observance.

Policy:

The College supports all requests for an excused absence due to the demands of religious or cultural days of observance. Students cannot be penalized due to absence from class for religious or cultural observance. There is no limit to the number of days a student may request, but this policy does not exempt a student from meeting course requirements or completing assignments. It is the student's responsibility to arrange any make-up work with the instructor. Students who are excused are not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.

Accommodations are to be dealt with based on individual requests from students to the Office of Instruction by the end of the first week of the term in which the day occurs or when the student first becomes aware of the dates. Religious and Cultural Days of observance are numerous, and no day is privileged above another for the purposes of BMCC policy.

Guidelines for Appeals:

1. A student who feels that they have been unreasonably denied an education benefit due to religious or cultural belief or practice may seek redress through the student grievance procedure as defined in the Student Handbook.