

POLICY: 6Hx28:2-08



VALENCIA

Responsible Executive:

Vice President, Organizational
Development and Human Resources and
Campus Presidents

Policy Contacts: Assistant Vice President,
Equity and Access

Specific Authority: 1001.64, F.S.; 1006.53,
F.S.

Law Implemented: 1001.64, F.S.; 1006.53,
F.S.

Effective Date: ~~03-22-1995~~02-24-2021

Date of Last Policy Review:
~~03-22-1995~~02-24-2021

Accommodation of Religious Observances by Students

**Policy
Statement:**

I. It is the policy of Valencia College to reasonably accommodate the religious observance, practice, and belief of individual students with regard to admission, registration, official ceremonies, and attendance in class (including the scheduling of class activities, work assignments, and examinations), by the provision of reasonable alternative means for students to carry out their responsibilities as students.

~~II. A religious holy day is defined as a significant day of religious observance as recognized by the highest governing body of that particular religious faith. Students requesting a religious accommodation with respect to their observance to a religious holy day(s) may be asked to provide information about their religious obligations. Evidence of recognition shall be provided by the student unless previously designated by the College. College designation shall be based on listings in the current year Multi-Cultural Resource Calendar (Amherst Educational Publishing). Information on College designation shall be made available in the Student Services office of each campus/center.~~

III. Students should refer to College Policy 6Hx28: 02-01 Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct if questions or concerns arise about being unreasonably denied educational benefits due to their religious beliefs or practices, to include contacting the

Assistant Vice President for Equity and Access for additional information and/or assistance at 407-582-3421 or equalopportunity@valenciacollege.edu.

- ~~I. A student shall, upon notifying his or her instructor, be excused from class without penalty to observe a religious holy day of his or her religious faith. Notification must be made no later than one week prior to the holy day, or as prescribed by the instructor at the beginning of the Session.~~
- ~~II. Each student excused from class to observe a religious holy day shall be responsible for material covered in his or her absence, but shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time, as determined by the instructor, to make up any missed examination/assignment. Whenever practicable, major class assignments, major examinations and official ceremonies should occur on days other than major religious holy days.~~
- ~~III. A religious holy day is defined as a significant day of religious observance as recognized by the highest governing body of that particular religious faith. Evidence of recognition shall be provided by the student unless previously designated by the College. College designation shall be based on listings in the current year Multi-Cultural Resource Calendar (Amherst Educational Publishing). Information on College designation shall be made available in the Student Services office of each campus/center.~~
- ~~IV. A student who believes that he or she has been unreasonably denied educational benefits due to his or her religious beliefs or practices may seek redress in accordance with Valencia College Policy 6Hx28:2-01 "Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity."~~

Policy History:

Adopted 3-22-95; Amended 02-24-2021; Formerly 6Hx28:10-19

Related Documents/ Policies:

Policy 6Hx28:2-01 "Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct"

Procedures:

- I. Students are responsible for reviewing syllabi at the beginning of each term to identify course expectations that may be impacted by their observance of a religious holy day(s). At the beginning of each term, a student should submit a statement identifying their sincerely held religious belief, notifying the faculty/instructor of any date(s) of observance that may conflict with attending or participating in class related activities (e.g. class work requirements on a particular day, examinations, etc.). This statement of notification shall be in writing from the student and provided to the professor/instructor as soon as possible and no later than seven calendar days prior to the holy day(s), or by the prescribed timeframe as communicated by the faculty/instructor at the beginning of the term.

- II. Upon receipt of written notification, the respective faculty/instructor is responsible for excusing the student without penalty. In addition, the student shall be provided with a reasonable opportunity, as determined by the respective faculty/instructor, to complete any class related activity(ies) the student may miss due to the religious absence, either before or after the holy day(s).
- III. A student excused from class or class related activities shall be responsible for material covered in their absence.
- IV. Faculty/instructors with questions or seeking additional guidance and direction regarding aspects of this policy and procedure may contact their dean, dean of students (<https://valenciacollege.edu/students/student-services/dean.php>), or the Assistant Vice President for Equity and Access at 407-582-3421 or equalopportunity@valenciacollege.edu.
- V. Students or other individuals with questions or seeking additional guidance regarding aspects of this policy and procedure may contact the dean of students (<https://valenciacollege.edu/students/student-services/dean.php>) or the Assistant Vice President for Equity and Access at 407-582-3421 or equalopportunity@valenciacollege.edu.

Procedure History: ~~None~~ Amended 02-24-2021

Date of Last Procedure Review: 02-24-2021