The purpose of this document is to highlight, educate, and inform of major customs and holidays. It also provides a social construct that allows colleagues to better understand the psychosocial aspects impacting college personnel outside the classroom. While the college and university are not in a position to celebrate every holiday, every holiday is important. Thus, best practice “recommended accommodations” are included in each holiday description for consideration, but should not be considered a requirement.

A chronological list of holidays for three consecutive academic years has been organized into a table for ease of viewing. In this list you will find the name of the holiday and the date(s) on which each occurs. UNMC holidays for faculty, staff, and students are indicated by an asterisk (*). Holidays which have significant work restrictions due to religious or cultural reasons are highlighted.

A descriptor of each holiday is also included in this document, detailing the religion/culture that primarily celebrates the holiday, a description of the holiday and significance to said religion or culture, as well as general practices done by those who observe the holiday. Also included are any recommended accommodations and details on the dates of the holiday. Within this list, holidays which have significant work restrictions throughout the world due to religious or cultural reasons are highlighted.

Thank you for taking the time to review this document. Again, the purpose of this document is to highlight, educate, and inform. Please take the opportunity to incorporate this information in your day-to-day interactions with our colleagues within the college and beyond.
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**Ash Wednesday (Christian – Roman Catholic and Protestant)**
The first day of Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter in which many Christians sacrifice ordinary pleasures to reflect on Christ's sacrifice.

*General practices:* Christians often attend church services and some may receive and wear a cross of ashes marked on their foreheads. Abstinence from meat is also a common practice.

*Date details:* 40 days before Easter.

*Recommended accommodations:* Provide food accommodations as requested.

*Date(s) observed:*
- February 22, 2023
- February 14, 2024
- March 5, 2025

**Ayyám-i-Há (Baha’i)**
A four- or five-day festival commemorating the transcendence of God over his attributes.

*General practices:* Bahá’ís celebrate God and his oneness by showing love fellowship, and unity.

*Date details:* Five consecutive days which fall between the 18th and 19th months of the Bahá’í calendar. Exact dates depend on the actual (solar) occurrences of spring equinox.

*Date(s) observed:*
- February 26-March 1, 2023
- February 26-29, 2024
- February 25-28, 2025

**Chinese New Year (Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist)**

*Holiday with significant work restrictions.*
A festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.

*General practices:* Those celebrating often begin with cleaning the hours and decorating with the color red, which denotes prosperity and energy. Other practices include offering sacrifices to ancestors, family dinners and/or reunions, exchanging red envelopes and other gifts, fireworks display, and watching lion and dragon dances.

*Date details:* Determined by the Chinese lunisolar calendar, but usually falls between January and February.

*Recommended accommodations:* Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date.

*Date(s) observed:*
- January 22, 2023 (Rabbit)
- February 10, 2024 (Dragon)
- January 29, 2025 (Snake)

**Christmas Eve (Christian – Roman Catholic and Protestant, and Non-Christian)**
Marks the culmination of the Advent period before Christmas. It was on this night that the shepherds outside Bethlehem saw the bright star that signaled the birth of Jesus Christ.

*General practices:* Varies across different countries, cultures, and religions. Often includes family gatherings, church services, celebratory meals, and gift giving.

*Date details:* The day and/or evening before Christmas and falls on December 24th of each year.

*Recommended accommodations:* This holiday is a UNMC holiday for faculty, staff, and students, therefore no accommodation plans need to be made.

*Date(s) observed:*
- December 24, 2022
- December 24, 2023
- December 24, 2024
Christmas (Christian — Roman Catholic and Protestant, and Non-Christian)

Holiday with significant work restrictions.
A festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.
General practices: Varies across different countries, cultures, and religions. Often includes family gatherings, church services, celebratory meals, and gift giving.
Date details: This holiday falls on December 25th of each year.
Recommended accommodations: This holiday is a UNMC holiday for faculty, staff, and students, therefore no accommodation plans need to be made.
Date(s) observed:
December 25, 2022
December 25, 2023
December 25, 2024

Diwali (Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain)

Holiday with significant work restrictions.
The Festival of Lights, symbolizing the victory of good over evil, inner light over spiritual darkness, and knowledge over ignorance. A time for gathering with loved ones, celebrating life, and committing to making the right decisions in life.
General practices: Festivities include the illumination of lights, candles, firecrackers, and diya (clay lamps). It is often celebrated over five days, with each day holding a special significance.
Date details: Synchronized with the lunar calendar and typically falls between October and November.
Recommended accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date.
Date(s) observed:
October 24, 2022
November 12, 2023
November 1, 2024

Easter (Christian — Roman Catholic and Protestant)

Holiday with significant work restrictions.
A Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
General practices: Celebratory meals, family gatherings, distribution of colored eggs, baskets and chocolate bunnies.
Date details: Typically falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox.
Date(s) observed:
April 9, 2023
March 31, 2024
April 20, 2025

Eid al-Adha (Islamic)

Holiday with significant work restrictions.
The Feast of Sacrifice - a day to honor the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifices his son Ismail as an act of obedience to God’s command.
General practices: Eid prayers are done and gifts may be exchanged. It is also common to sacrifice of a sheep, cow, goat, buffalo, or camel which is then divided into three to be shared equally among family, friends, and the needy. Some Muslims travel to Mecca for Hajj, the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia which is the fifth of the fundamental Muslim practices and institutions.
Date details: Takes place on the 10th day of the final month of the Islamic calendar.
Recommended accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities.
Date(s) observed:
June 28-29, 2023
June 16-17, 2024
June 6-7, 2025
**Eid al-Fitr (Islamic)**

*Holiday with significant work restrictions.*

The Feast of Breaking the Fast and is celebrated to mark the end of Ramadan.

*General practices:* Muslims often pray, exchange gifts, give money to children, feast, and celebrate with friends and family.

*Date details:* Determined by the lunar calendar and follows Ramadan.

*Recommended accommodations:* Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. If planning an event, provide food accommodations if requested.

*Date(s) observed:*
  - April 22, 2023
  - April 10, 2024
  - March 31, 2025

**Festival of the Twin Birthdays/Birth of Báb and Bahá’u’lláh (Baha’i)**

*Holiday with significant work restrictions.*

Two successive holy days that celebrate the births of two central figures of the Bahá’í Faith.

*General practices:* Celebrations include prayer gatherings, reading from the Bahá’í writings, singing, and dancing.

*Date details:* The first (Báb) and second (Bahá’u’lláh) days of Muharram in the Islamic calendar. Determined in advance by astronomical tables, using Tehran as the point of reference. Typically falls somewhere between mid-October to mid-November on the Gregorian calendar.

*Recommended accommodations:* Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on these dates.

*Date(s) observed:*
  - October 26-27, 2022
  - October 16-17, 2023
  - November 2-3, 2024

**Friday after Thanksgiving/Black Friday (United States)**

The day after Thanksgiving, which unofficially kicks off the holiday season, but is not an official holiday.

*General practices:* Many retailers will have their best deals, discounts, and doorbusters on this day. For many shoppers, this day is the beginning of holiday shopping.

*Date details:* The day after Thanksgiving each year.

*Recommended accommodations:* This day is a part of the UNMC Thanksgiving holiday break for faculty, staff, and students, therefore no accommodation plans need to be made.

*Date(s) observed:*
  - November 25, 2022
  - November 24, 2023
  - November 29, 2024

**Good Friday (Christian – Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox Christian)**

Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

*General practices:* Varies among different sects of Christianity, but may include prayer, fasting, and noon or afternoon church services.

*Date details:* The Friday before Easter.

*Recommended accommodations:* Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on this date. Provide food accommodations as requested.

*Date(s) observed:*
  - April 7, 2023
  - March 29, 2024
  - April 18, 2025
Hanukkah (Jewish)
An 8-day holiday that commemorates the Jewish recapture and rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in 164 BCE.
General practices: Main observance is lighting the candles in a ceremonial lamp, menorah, each night for 8 nights.
Date details: Falls on the 25th day of the month of Kislev of the Hebrew calendar.
Date(s) observed:
- December 18-26, 2022
- December 7-15, 2023
- December 25-January 2, 2024

Holi (Hindu)
The “Festival of Colors” which commemorates good over evil. A celebration of the colorful spring and a farewell to the dull of winter.
General practices: Hindus often participate in large celebrations where colored water and powder are sprinkled on others and bonfires and lights are lit to signify the victory of good over evil.
Date details: Celebrated at the end of winter season on the last full moon day of the lunar moon in late February or early March.
Date(s) observed:
- March 8, 2023
- March 25, 2024
- March 14, 2025

Independence Day (United States)
Annual celebration of nationhood and commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.
General practices: Commonly associated with fireworks, parades, carnivals, fairs, concerts, sporting events, family reunions, and ceremonies.
Date details: Celebrated annually on July 4th.
Recommended accommodations: This holiday is a UNMC holiday for faculty, staff, and students, therefore no accommodation plans need to be made.
Date(s) observed:
- July 4, 2023
- July 4, 2024
- July 4, 2025

Juneteenth (United States)
A day to commemorate the emancipation of African-American slaves and for celebrating African-American culture.
General practices: Celebrated with street fairs, parades, and concerts.
Date details: Celebrated annually on June 19th.
Recommended accommodations: This holiday is a UNMC holiday for faculty, staff, and students, therefore no accommodation plans need to be made.
Date(s) observed:
- June 19, 2023
- June 19, 2024
- June 19, 2025
Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
A traditional Hindu holiday that celebrates the first earthly appearance, or the birth, of the god Krishna.

*General practices:* Celebrations begin at midnight, as that believed to be the time Krishna was born in 3228 BC. Singing, dancing, and feasting on traditional foods are common, but some choose to fast until the birth of Krishna at midnight.

*Date details:* Occurs in the Hindu month of Sravana.

*Recommended accommodations:* Avoid scheduling major academic deadlines on this day, as it is likely that students will be operating on very little sleep.

*Date(s) observed:*
- August 19, 2022
- September 7, 2023
- August 26, 2024

Kwanzaa (African-American and pan-African)
A celebration of family, community, and Continental African and African-America culture.

*General practices:* Communities organize activities around The Seven Principles. Participants celebrate with feasts, music, dance, poetry, narratives, and end with a day dedicated to reflection and recommitment to The Seven Principles and other cultural values.

*Date details:* Celebrated each year from December 26th through January 1st.

*Date(s) observed:*
- December 26, 2021-January 1, 2022
- December 26, 2022-January 1, 2023
- December 26, 2023-January 1, 2024

Labor Day (United States)
A Day that pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers.

*General practices:* Often celebrated in cities and towns across the United States with parades, picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays and other public gatherings. It often represents the end of summer.

*Date details:* Traditionally observed on the first Monday in September.

*Recommended accommodations:* This holiday is a UNMC holiday for faculty, staff, and students, therefore no accommodation plans need to be made.

*Date(s) observed:*
- September 5, 2022
- September 4, 2023
- September 2, 2024

Martin Luther King Jr. Day/ MLK Day (United States)
A Day honoring the achievements of Martin Luther King Jr. and his advocacy and use of nonviolent means to end racial segregation.

*General practices:* Often celebrated by parades and speeches by civil rights leaders and politicians. Individuals and organizations also may undertake volunteer efforts in support of what is often called MLK Day of Service.

*Date details:* Observed each year on the 3rd Monday in January.

*Recommended accommodations:* This holiday is a UNMC holiday for faculty, staff, and students, therefore no accommodation plans need to be made.

*Date(s) observed:*
- January 16, 2023
- January 15, 2024
- January 20, 2025
Maundy Thursday (Christian – Roman Catholic and Protestant)
Commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with the Apostles.
General practices: Prayer, church services, meals, and foot-washing ceremonies are common.
Date details: The Thursday before Easter.
Date(s) observed:
   April 6, 2023
   March 28, 2024
   April 17, 2025

Memorial Day (United States)
A Day honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U. S. military.
General practices: Many Americans observe this day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades.
Date details: Observed on the last Monday of May.
Recommended accommodations: This holiday is a UNMC holiday for faculty, staff, and students, therefore no accommodation plans need to be made.
Date(s) observed:
   May 29, 2023
   May 27, 2024
   May 26, 2025

Naw-Rúz (Baha’i)
Holiday with significant work restrictions.
First day of the Bahá’í calendar year. The Bahá’í and Persian New Year.
General practices: Celebrated with many symbols representing spring and renewal, gift giving, and celebrations with family and friends to enjoy each other's company and welcome the unlimited possibilities of the new year.
Date details: Occurs on the vernal equinox which is typically on or around March 21st.
Recommended accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date.
Date(s) observed:
   March 21, 2023
   March 20, 2024
   March 22, 2025

New Year’s (World-wide)
A celebration to reflect on the past and to look forward to the future.
General practices: Varying practices between different countries, cultures, and religions which may include large celebrations, performances, and fireworks displays. May also have other names among different countries and cultures.
Date details: The first day of the first month of the year.
Recommended accommodations: This holiday is a UNMC holiday for faculty, staff, and students, therefore no accommodation plans need to be made.
Date(s) observed:
   January 1, 2023
   January 1, 2024
   January 1, 2025
Palm Sunday (Christian – Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
A commemoration of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem as crowds lined his path with palm fronds.
*General practices*: Prayer, church services, and the distribution of palm leaves are common.
*Date details*: The Sunday before Easter.
*Date(s) observed*:
- April 2, 2023
- March 24, 2024
- April 13, 2025

Pesach/Passover (Jewish)
*Holiday with significant work restrictions.*
Celebrates God freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The name refers to God “passing over” the houses of the Israelites during the 10th plague.
*General practices*: Most celebrated Jewish holiday in the world. Varying celebrations and rituals as different Jewish cultures have different practices. Some common practices include family gatherings, ritualized meals called Seders, reading of the Haggadah, and lighting of Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown on the last night.
*Date details*: Begins at sundown on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, the first month of Aviv (spring).
*Recommended accommodations*: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on the first two days of the holiday.
*Date(s) observed*:
- April 5-13, 2023
- April 22-30, 2024
- April 12-20, 2025

Purim (Jewish)
Celebration of the narrow escape from genocide of the Jews described in the biblical Book of Esther.
*General practices*: Practices include reading the Book of Esther, wearing costumes, donate to charity, and sending anonymous packages of goodies to friends.
*Date details*: Celebrated annually on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar, the day following the victory of the Jews over their enemies.
*Date(s) observed*:
- March 7, 2023
- March 24, 2024
- March 14, 2025

Ramadan (Islamic)
The ninth month of the Muslim calendar which serves as a reminder of the month when the Qur’an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammed.
*General practices*: A month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community.
*Date details*: The ninth month of the Muslim calendar. It begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon. Because the Muslim calendar is shorter than the Gregorian calendar, Ramadan begins 10-12 days earlier each year.
*Recommended accommodations*: It is recommended that important academic deadlines, events, and activities – especially exams – be scheduled to be completed by noon at the latest.
*Date(s) observed*:
- March 22-April 21, 2023
- March 10-April 9, 2024
- February 28-March 30, 2025
**Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)**

*Holiday with significant work restrictions.*

The start of the Jewish New Year.

**General practices:** A contemplative holiday, on which work is prohibited. Many spend much of the holiday attending synagogue. After services are over, a festive meal of beginning with ceremonial lighting of candles is common. The foods served represent positive wishes for the new year.

**Date details:** Begins at sundown on the first day of the seventh month (Tishrei) of the Hebrew Calendar, 10 days prior to Yom Kippur. Typically occurs in either September or October.

**Recommended accommodations:** Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. If planning an event, provide food accommodations as requested (kosher restrictions apply).

**Date(s) observed:**
- September 25-27, 2022
- September 15-17, 2023
- October 2-4, 2024

**Shavuot (Jewish)**

*Holiday with significant work restrictions.*

Celebrates the giving of Torah at Mt. Sinai that marks the covenant between God and the Jewish people, as well as the early summer grain harvest.

**General practices:** Kept like the Sabbath as a holy day of rest so, therefore, no work is permitted. Festive meals, all-night Torah study, readings of the Book of Ruth in synagogues, consuming dairy products, and decorating homes and synagogues are all common.

**Date details:** Marks the end of Passover and occurs on the 6th day of the Hebrew month of Sivan.

**Recommended accommodations:** Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities. Provide food accommodations as requested.

**Date(s) observed:**
- May 25-27, 2023
- June 11-13, 2024
- June 1-3, 2025

**Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)**

*Holiday with significant work restrictions.*

A fall festival, which includes a memorial service for the dead and features prayers for rain in Israel.

**General practices:** Jews light a Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown on Shemini Atzereth (the eighth night of Sukkot).

**Date details:** Begins at sundown.

**Recommended accommodations:** Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on these dates. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).

**Date(s) observed:**
- October 16-18, 2022
- October 6-8, 2023
- October 23-25, 2024

**Simchat Torah (Jewish)**

*Holiday with significant work restrictions.*

Rejoicing the Torah – celebrating the end of the year’s Torah cycle and starting it anew for the new year.

**General practices:** Jews attend religious services where the final words of the Torah are read. This is followed by joyful celebrations that include singing, dancing, and a procession as Torah scrolls are carried around the synagogue seven times.

**Date details:** Immediately follows the festival of Sukkot, beginning at sundown and ending at nightfall the following day.

**Recommended accommodations:** Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on these dates. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).

**Date(s) observed:**
- October 17-18, 2022
- October 7-8, 2023
- October 24-25, 2024
**Sukkot (Jewish)**

*Holiday with significant work restrictions.*

Jewish autumn festival known as either the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths.

**General practices:** Those celebrating often build huts, known as sukkahs, in their gardens, in which they eat and/or sleep throughout the festival. The first day of the festival is kept like the Sabbath so many Jewish people do not engage in work activities.

**Date details:** begins on the 15th day of Tishri, or five days after Yom Kippur.

**Recommended accommodations:** Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on the first two days of the festival. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).

**Date(s) observed:**
- October 10-16, 2022
- September 30-October 6, 2023
- October 16-23, 2024

**Thanksgiving (United States)**

A celebration of the harvest and blessings of the past year modeled after a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists and the Wampanoag people.

**General practices:** Varying practices across the country which often include a traditional meal, parades, sporting events, and reflection.

**Date details:** Occurs on the 4th Thursday of November.

**Recommended accommodations:** This holiday is a UNMC holiday for faculty, staff, and students, therefore no accommodation plans need to be made.

**Date(s) observed:**
- November 25, 2022
- November 24, 2023
- November 23, 2024

**Tisha B’Av (Jewish)**

Commemorates the Roman destruction of the Holy Temple, as well as a number of other disasters in Jewish history.

**General practices:** A 24-hour fast day with no food, water, or washing. Services at the synagogue, during which it is traditional to sit on the floor, are held.

**Date details:** The 9th day of the Hebrew month of Av. It begins at sunset of the first day and ends at night fall of the next day.

**Recommended accommodations:** Plan limited activities after a fast.

**Date(s) observed:**
- August 6-7, 2022
- July 26-27, 2023
- August 12-13, 2024

**Yom Kippur (Jewish)**

*Holiday with significant work restrictions.*

The Day of Atonement.

**General practices:** Those celebrating refrain from work, as it is forbidden, and participate in religious services. Fasting is a common practice and begins at sundown the evening before and ends at nightfall the next day.

**Date details:** Occurs 10 days following Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

**Recommended accommodations:** Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on these dates.

**Date(s) observed:**
- October 4-5, 2022
- September 24-25, 2023
- October 11-12, 2024

*There are many religions worldwide, and we have chosen the most common for this calendar; please feel free to reach out to our office if any errors or updates need to be made.*

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