

**A Resolution of the
Associated Students of Western Washington University**

“Ramadan Accommodations”

The Associated Students of Western Washington University recognizes the diverse backgrounds represented in our campus community. We recognize that in order to create an environment that makes steps towards the strategic mission of “inclusive success,” we have to be sensitive and honor the needs and values of all students, staff, and faculty. In recognition that students are currently facing challenges in place due to COVID-19, Muslim students will be navigating academia while also observing the holy month of Ramadan.

WHEREAS, we are in the holy month of Ramadan, a month important to 1.8 billion followers of Islam — and a number of Western Washington University students, faculty, and staff.

WHEREAS, during this holy month of Ramadan, Muslim students abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset. Therefore, their mental and physical abilities to complete an assignment during the day may be compromised.

WHEREAS, due to the geographical location of Washington State, students will be refraining from food and water for 16 hours of a day.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 5166, effective July 8, 2019 states that, "educational institutions must develop policies to accommodate students' absences to allow students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience... so that students' grades are not adversely impacted by the absences" [3].

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 5166, also states that faculty are required to "accommodate students who, due to the observance of religious holidays, expect to be absent or endure a significant hardship during certain days of the course or program" [3].

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE 2019-2020 ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:

THAT, Western Washington University implements specific Ramadan policies in accordance to Senate Bill 5166.

THAT, faculty is courteous with evening deadlines, and if a student who is fasting needs to complete their assignment during the hours after sunset, have a 24-hour grace period without impacting their grades [1].

THAT, online exams and quizzes, if strictly timed and on limited hours, can be taken with reasonable accommodations at a different time discussed between both the student and professor.

THAT, this resolution be forwarded to President Sabah Randhawa, Vice President Melynda Huskey, Provost and Vice President Brent Carbajal, Faculty Senate President Jeff Young, the Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance Office, and all WWU College Deans, and all Department chairs to distribute to all professors.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the 2019-2020 Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate at their regular meeting on May 5, 2020.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the 2019-2020 Associated Students of Western Washington University Executive Board of Directors at their regular meeting on May 6, 2020.



Adah Barenburg
Chair, ASWWU Student Senate



Noelani DeFiesta
Chair, ASWWU Executive Board

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE 2020-2021 ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:

THAT, the 2020-21 Associated Students of Western Washington University reaffirms the “Ramadan Accommodations” resolution as passed by the 2019-2020 ASWWU Executive Board and Student Senate.

THAT, Western Washington University implements specific Ramadan policies in accordance to Senate Bill 5166, the Western Washington University Black Student Organizations Demands, and Western Washington University Teaching Handbook as passed by Academic Coordinating Commission on April 20, 2021 [1] [2] [3].

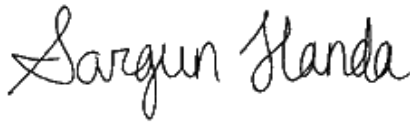
THAT, faculty is courteous with evening deadlines, and if a student who is fasting needs to complete their assignment during the hours after sunset, have a 24-hour grace period without impacting their grades [1].

THAT, online exams and quizzes, if strictly timed and on limited hours, can be taken with reasonable accommodations at a different time discussed between both the student and professor.

THAT, this resolution be forwarded to President Sabah Randhawa, Vice President Melynda Huskey, Provost and Vice President Brent Carbajal, Faculty Senate President Jeff Young, the Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance Office, and all WWU College Deans, and all Department chairs to distribute to all professors.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the 2020-2021 Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate through electronic vote on April 23, 2021.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the 2020-2021 Associated Students of Western Washington University Executive Board at their regular meeting on April 22, 2021.



Sargun Handa
Chair, ASWWU Student Senate



Abdul-Malik Ford
Chair, ASWWU Executive Board

Appendix

[1]: WWU Teaching Handbook passed by the Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC) on April 20, 2021 (pending Faculty Senate approval)

<https://www.wwu.edu/teachinghandbook/>

Religious Accommodation

- Western provides reasonable accommodation for students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience or for organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious organization. Accommodation is available to students who expect to be absent or endure a significant hardship due to religious observance during certain days of the course of the program. An example of significant hardship would be challenges resulting from fasting for religious reasons.
- Students seeking such accommodation must provide written notice to their faculty within the first two weeks of the course, or at least 3 weeks prior to when the accommodation is needed, citing the specific dates for which they will need accommodation. If the exact date of a religious observance is variable, (for instance, pending official sighting of the moon), faculty will work with the student to include options to provide accommodation one day before or after the expected date.
- “Reasonable accommodation” means that faculty will coordinate with the student on scheduling examinations or other activities necessary for completion of the course or program so that class activities do not conflict with the student’s participation in the religious observance. Alternate times offered must extend at least 24 hours before or after the scheduled activity to provide reasonable accommodation. In the event that course activities cannot be rescheduled, such as certain lab activities, faculty will provide an alternative method for the student to learn the missed content. Absences as part of religious accommodation will not count against any attendance requirements for the course.
- The testing center is available to administer exams for these accommodations. Additional information about this accommodation can be found in [SB 5166: Providing religious accommodations for postsecondary students](#)

[2]: Senate Bill 5166: Providing religious accommodations for postsecondary students

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5166&Initiative=false&Year=2019>

Sec. 1. RCW 28B.10.039: Postsecondary educational institutions must develop policies to accommodate student absences to allow students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience or for organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious organization, so that students' grades are not adversely impacted by the absences.

[3]: WWU Black Student Organizations Demands

<https://www.change.org/p/western-washington-university-demand-wwu-support-black-students>

18. Define "**reasonable accommodations**" for students observing religious holidays. Mandate at least a 12-hour extension and have accommodations for different times where students who are observing religious holidays can take exams as policy. Have professors who do not follow these policies penalized as breaking the anti-Discrimination code in the collective bargaining agreement.