

1. GENERAL

- 1.01 Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.
- 1.02 "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, United States Tax Code.

2. PROCEDURES

- 2.01 Each instructor will reference the provisions of this policy in the syllabus.
- 2.02 A student who is excused under this section may not be penalized for the absence, but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to satisfactorily complete the assignment or exam.
- 2.03 A statement regarding University attendance policies and procedures for religious holy days will be published in University undergraduate and graduate catalogs, Student Guidelines published by the Division of Student Affairs, and the Faculty Handbook.

APPROVED: <signed>
Alisa White, Ph.D., President

DATE: 5/24/2023

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

This academic policy statement (APS) has been approved by the reviewer(s) listed below and represents SHSU's Division of Academic Affairs' policy from the date of this document until superseded.

Original: October 1, 1986
Reviewer(s): Academic Affairs Council

Review Cycle: Five years*
Review Date: Spring 2027

Approved: <signed>
Michael T. Stephenson, Ph.D.,
Provost and Sr. Vice President
for Academic Affairs

Date: 5/9/2023

*Effective January 2018, Academic Policy Statements will be reviewed on a rotating 5-year schedule. To transition to a distributed review load, some policies may be reviewed prior to the 5-year timeframe, with subsequent reviews transitioning to the 5-year schedule.