

Dear Canisius Community,

I hope this letter finds you all well. We are approaching the beginning of the Ramadan holiday. [Ramadan](#) is a holiday practiced by Muslims* where they focus on introspection, communal prayer, and observe religious fasting. Given that the Muslim calendar year is shorter than the Gregorian calendar year, Ramadan begins 10–12 days earlier each year, allowing it to fall in every season throughout a 33-year cycle. As a result, this year Ramadan will take place from **April 1-May 1****, which means individuals will be observing this holiday as we come towards the end of the semester. Here is some information about Ramadan:

- Individuals refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, and intimate contact from dawn to sunset
- Individuals increase their focus on personal restraint, proper conduct, and empathy with the less fortunate through giving to charity and engagement in local projects
- All Muslims who have reached puberty are obligated to fast. Individuals who are not at puberty, although are not obligated may choose to fast anyway. Exemptions are made for individuals in situations where fasting would be a hardship such as illness, pregnancy, nursing, etc.

In an effort to support the members of our community, here are some things for your consideration:

- Please be flexible with scheduling. Families may choose to pray together. Individuals may need to [pray](#) during class, meetings, etc. Consider creating a space in your office for individuals to use to pray if necessary (There is a prayer room located in the library that individuals can use)
- Due to fasting, individuals may struggle concentrating. Consider allowing individuals to keep their cameras off during virtual classes, meetings, etc. or to take a quick break if needed
- Individuals may begin to wear [hijabs](#) during this month. Remember it is not the individual's responsibility to educate the community
- As we come down to the end of the semester, please be mindful of end of the year gatherings that involve food. You can also set limitations on when food can be consumed in your office during this month
- Engaging in additional research to offer effective support

During this month, the ALANA Student Center plans to educate the campus community through messages in The Dome and our social media accounts. Consistent with our [institutional statement on diversity and inclusion](#), these efforts will help us achieve our goals of “creating a culture of acceptance, awareness, learning, respect, and understanding inside and outside of the classroom.”

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the ALANA Student Center at asc@canisius.edu or you can contact me directly at willi100@canisius.edu. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Go Griffs!



Bennie D. Williams

Assistant Dean of Students

*The term Muslim refers to individuals who practice the religion of Islam

**Dates may vary depending on individual's religious school of thought



ASC at Canisius College



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