I. PURPOSE & INTENT

Pursuant to Section 1006.53 Florida Statutes and Board of Governors Regulation 6.0115, the University of South Florida System (USF System) establishes the following Policy regarding religious observances.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

All students, faculty, and staff within the USF System have a right to expect reasonable accommodation of their religious observances, practices and beliefs.

The USF System will, at the beginning of each academic term, provide written notice of the class schedule and formal examination periods. The USF System, through its faculty, will make every attempt to schedule required classes and examinations in view of customarily observed religious holidays of those religious groups or communities comprising the USF System’s constituency.

Students are expected to attend classes and take examinations as determined by the USF System. No student shall be compelled to attend class or sit for an examination at a day or time prohibited by his or her religious belief. However, students should review the course requirements and meeting days and times to avoid foreseeable conflicts, as excessive absences in a given term may prevent a student from completing the academic requirements of a specific course.

Students are expected to notify their instructors at the beginning of each academic term if they intend to be absent for a class or announced examination, in accordance with this Policy. Students absent for religious reasons, as noticed to the instructor at the beginning of each academic term, will be given reasonable opportunities to make up any work missed. In the event that a student is absent for religious reasons on a day when the instructor collects work for purposes of grading (homework, pop quiz, etc.), the student shall be given a reasonable
opportunity to make up such work or shall not have that work averaged into the student's grade at the discretion of the instructor.

Any student who believes that he or she has been treated unfairly with regard to the above may seek review of a complaint through established USF System Academic Grievance Procedures (found in the Graduate and Undergraduate Catalogs) and those provided by the University's Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Equal Opportunity.

*Current Responsible Office: Academic Affairs

*Refer to the appropriate Responsible Office website for a current name of the Vice President or other Responsible Officer.