



Jewish Life and Antisemitism Initiative at U-M Presents: Passover on campus at U-M 2025

From April 12 through April 20, many Jewish students, faculty, and staff will observe Passover, a holiday observed by most Jews world-wide. Here's how you can support them and promote a more inclusive campus community.



1. When is Passover?

In 2025, Passover begins the evening of April 12 and continues through sunset on April 20. It is an eight-day holiday, beginning on the 15th of the Jewish month of Nisan. Because the Jewish calendar is based on a lunar cycle, Passover falls on different days of the Gregorian calendar each year, always in March or April.

2. How are these holidays observed?

On the first two evenings (Saturday 4/12-Sunday 4/13) most Jews hold a Passover Seder—a special meal with symbolic foods celebrated in the home with family and friends. People use both ancient and contemporary texts to discuss the themes of liberation and justice, rooted in the biblical story of the Exodus from enslavement in Egypt and connected to contemporary struggles for freedom.

Many Jews observe Passover by not eating leavened products or grains for the entire holiday, and instead eat matzah, an unleavened bread, and products prepared according to the holiday's dietary restrictions. Many Jews who do not follow kosher dietary laws during the year are stricter about their observance of these traditions on Passover.

The first two days (Saturday 4/12 -Monday 4/14) and the last two days (Saturday 4/19 and Sunday 4/20) are considered holy days, during which traditionally observant Jews refrain from all kinds of work, similar to their observance of the sabbath each week (including using anything electronic, riding in cars, writing or typing).

3. How does this affect the University of Michigan?

This year, Passover Seders fall on a weekend in winter semester, and the holiday continues through the last full week of classes. Because Seders are usually conducted at home, many students, faculty, and staff will want to be home or travel (likely Friday, 4/11) to be with their families to celebrate. The scheduling of faculty meetings and retreats, commonly held near the end of the semester, should offer Passover-friendly food options and avoid April 11-13 specifically.

4. How Can I Be Supportive?

| Be Aware: | Be Inclusive: | Be Accommodating: | Resources: |
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| <p>Mark these dates on your calendar. Let students know that you are aware that some may be observing these holidays and invite them to approach you about accommodations.</p> <p>Encourage Jewish faculty and staff to be proactive about making alternate schedule arrangements for this week.</p> | <p>Offer holiday greetings (Happy Holiday! or Happy Passover!).</p> <p>Recognize that requests from differently observant students may vary. Consider your final presentation or assignment schedule so that Jewish students can both complete their course requirements and celebrate their holiday.</p> | <p>Understand that students may need to make alternative arrangements to turn in assignments or to fulfill class responsibilities.</p> <p>Invite Jewish members of your team to consult about dietary needs for any meetings held during the week of Passover.</p> | <p>Hillel and Chabad both provide strictly kosher food for Passover Seders and meals throughout the holiday, and have other resources for those seeking information or ways to celebrate.</p> |