It is difficult to imagine attending class on Christmas.

But many Muslim students will juggle their academic schedule with their religious obligations when celebrating Eid ul-Fitr next week.

"Technically in Islam there are only two holidays," said Nasrat Touqan, Muslim Student Association president. "[Eid ul-Fitr] is one of them."

Touqan said he would compare Eid ul-Fitr to Christmas.

Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated as the end to Ramadan, the Islamic holy month when Muslims abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset.

The first day of Eid ul-Fitr begins with a morning prayer, followed with a community breakfast and the giving of presents to children.

Touqan said about 400 MSA members will celebrate the holiday with some forced to miss class because of their faith.

Touqan says as a student, his professors have been understanding and willing to accommodate.

However, Muslim students have the added difficulty of not yet knowing the exact starting date of Eid ul-Fitr.

"[Eid ul-Fitr] is followed by the lunar calendar," Touqan said. "Now in the past two years they have started actually using astronomical calculations to figure precisely the beginning of the new moon and projection for this year is Oct. 1, [but] it might be Sept. 30."

Although the first day of Eid ul-Fitr is the most important, the holiday officially lasts another two days.

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The MSA is planning a dinner after the beginning of Eid ul-Fitr with invitations extending to the public and OSU President Burns Hargis.

Oklahoman Mosques, along with all of Oklahoma's MSAs, plan to rent out Frontier City in Oklahoma City on Oct. 4, an event to which Touqan said he is eagerly looking forward.

Touqan said he expects to see a good turnout of MSA members at these events because of a high level of dedication many Muslim students have to their faith but also because of the nature of the MSA.

Upon entering the Mosque during the evening prayers, one notices the number of young men and women who gather to pray.

Many of those coming to pray are wearing jeans and T-shirts. Some of them might have just come from a class.

"About 90 percent are students, but 100 percent had at some point an affiliation with the university," Touqan said. "They graduated or teach at the university."

Touqan said of the seven members on The Islamic Society of Stillwater's board of directors, five are students and one is a faculty member.

What is important to remember about Eid ul-Fitr is that it marks the end to the holy time period of Ramadan, he said.

"We [are] just finish[ing] with Ramadan," Ahmed Alannsary said. "It is an important month in the year. We have been worshiping, we have been praying, doing many good things that God would like us to do.