

Northeastern Dining



EBgWlrjb

Entry details

Entry Name: Spiritual Dining Guide at Northeastern University

Institution Name: Northeastern University

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Essay:

As colleges and universities adapt to serve diverse student populations, dining remains a central part of the shared student experience. Thus, Northeastern Dining (powered by Chartwells Higher Education) partnered with subject matter experts across Northeastern University to create an unprecedented Spiritual Dining Guide in August 2025.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, Northeastern had the second-highest international student enrollment in the country during the 2023–2024 academic year. This trend aligned with observations from Campus Registered Dietitians during University Health & Counseling Services appointments, who together observed a notable increase in students seeking guidance related to spiritual and religious dietary needs.

Our goal was to keep Northeastern's global student population engaged in dining while reducing the need for meal plan accommodations resulting from limited visibility or understanding of available options. By expanding menu diversity and highlighting existing offerings, the program aimed to help students of varying faiths, religions, and spiritual practices navigate dining with confidence, creating a more equitable experience for all.

With guidance from the Center for Spirituality, Dialogue, and Service (CSDS), our dietitians developed a Spiritual Dining Guide covering the four primary diets identified as most prevalent on campus: Hindu, Islam (Halal), Jain, and Judaism (Kosher). For each diet, the guide outlines residential and retail dining options, relevant religious holiday considerations, and the process for applying for a spiritual dining accommodation through the University.

Accommodations detailed in the guide include Jain-friendly entrées, dedicated Halal and Kosher stations, and a clearly organized chart of Halal protein options available across dining locations. Dietitians collaborate closely with the Senior Campus Executive Chef to ensure that on trend menu items meet spiritual dietary guidelines and increase variety, creating the most equitable experience possible. This guide also helps students navigate on-campus retail locations in relation to their dietary needs.

The guide is promoted through QR codes displayed alongside allergen information in all residential dining locations and is available digitally on both the Northeastern Dining and CSDS websites. Printed copies are available in residential and retail locations for managers to review with students as needed, and it is shared directly with student organizations, such as the Islamic Society of Northeastern University, particularly in advance of fasting periods or religious holidays.

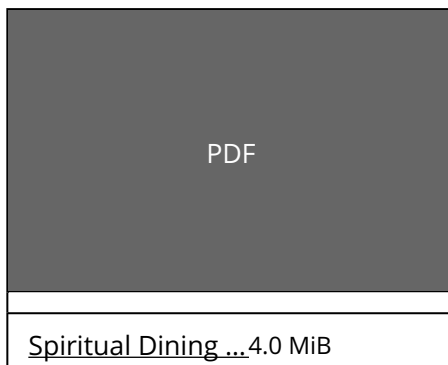
Most importantly, the guide now serves as a key resource during student meetings with Campus Registered Dietitians. This marks a significant shift, as dietitians were not previously involved in conversations about spiritual diet-related accommodations; the guide now enables them to offer tailored support before any meal plan accommodation decisions are made, alongside consultation with a spiritual advisor. Using the guide in this personalized, collaborative way has strengthened internal processes and improved accessibility for students seeking accommodations.

Following its launch, Northeastern saw an 84% decrease in meal plan exemptions requested through CSDS from Spring 2025 to Fall 2025, strengthening trust and collaboration between students and dining services. The guide has also been viewed digitally more than 260 times since its publication, reflecting strong engagement with the resource.

Log in to nacufs.awardsplatform.com to see complete entry attachments.



Gabby Johanna... 3.5 MiB



Spiritual Dining ...4.0 MiB



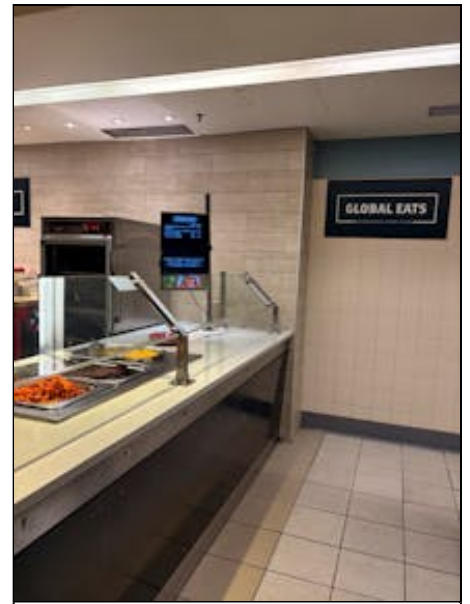
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Kosher 2.jpg 3.2 MiB



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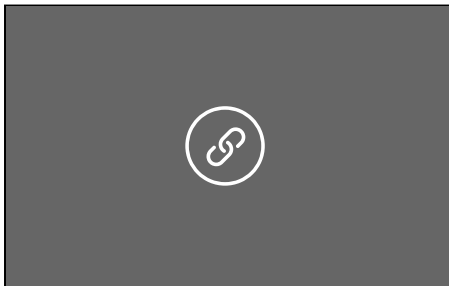
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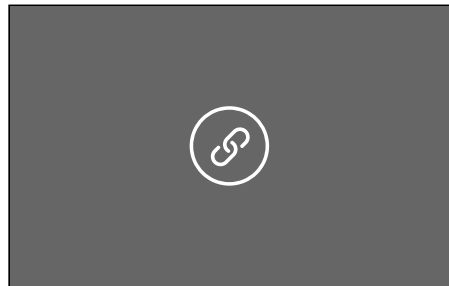


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Attachment name
Link to our Spiritual Din...

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Attachment name
Webpage: Dietary Acco...

<https://new.dineoncam...>