Eastern Kentucky University recognizes the importance of acknowledging significant student achievement at all times, including following the tragic death of a student who has made substantial progress towards the completion of a degree and who has made noteworthy contributions to the University community.

It is therefore proposed that posthumous degrees be considered by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The student is nominated by the Chair of his/her major department.
2. At the time of his/her death, the student had achieved senior standing/or was within one year of graduation in the case of a Bachelor’s degree; fourth semester standing or within one semester of graduation in the case of an Associate’s degree; have obtained Candidacy plus completed 75% of program requirements for the Master’s degree.
3. The student had been in good academic standing in their program of study at the time of their death.
4. Documentation is provided of the student’s noteworthy contributions to the University community during his/her tenure at the University.

Nominations for posthumous degrees should be forwarded to the Chair of the Faculty Senate and copied to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will forward positive recommendations on to the Faculty Senate, unless there is an emergency situation. The Faculty Senate will forward positive recommendations on to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research for implementation. The appropriate degree would be awarded at the Commencement at which the student would have been otherwise recognized. The student’s family will be asked to identify an appropriate person to receive the diploma when the student is recognized at the appropriate time in the Commencement ceremony. Except for the fact that the individual receiving the diploma on behalf of the student would not be attired in cap or gown, there would be no other changes in the ceremony.

Entities Affected by the Policy

- Students
- Colleges
- Departments
- Office of the Registrar

Interpreting Authority

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

This policy has not yet been reviewed under Policy 1.1.1. For purposes of cataloging, it has been placed in an abbreviated form of the policy template. It remains an official university policy and will eventually be reviewed under Policy 1.1.1.
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