



## Eastern Kentucky University Policy and Regulation Library

### 4.3.8

Volume 4, Academic Affairs  
Chapter 3, Courses, Programs, and Degrees  
Section 8, Posthumous Degrees

**Approval Authority:** Board of Regents

**Responsible Executive:** Provost

**Responsible Office(s):** Registrar

**Effective:** February 22, 2019

**Last Revised:** February 22, 2019

**Issued:** February 5, 2000

**Next Review Date:** Spring 2024

## Posthumous Degrees

### Policy Statement

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.

The University will award a posthumous degree upon approval of the College Dean if the following conditions are met:

1. the student had completed 75% of degree requirements for an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree, and
2. the student was in good academic standing in his/her program of study

If the above conditions have not been met, consideration will be given upon documentation of a student's noteworthy contribution to the University community during his/her tenure, or explanation of extraordinary circumstances, such as active military or public service personnel killed in the line of duty.

### Entities Affected

- Colleges
- Departments
- Registrar
- Students

### Procedures

1. A student meeting the condition of this Policy may be nominated for a posthumous degree by the department chair/unit head of his/her major department. Nomination

letters shall indicate that the student met the conditions for awarding a posthumous degree or, if conditions have not been met, shall provide documentation or explanation of the student's contributions to the University community or of other extraordinary circumstances.

2. Nominations for posthumous degrees shall be forwarded to the College Dean and copied to the Registrar.
3. The Registrar shall verify that the conditions for awarding a posthumous degree have been met and shall report the findings to the College Dean.
4. Upon approval by the College Dean, the Dean will notify the Registrar, who shall coordinate with the College to make arrangements with the student's family. The appropriate degree will be awarded at the Commencement at which the student would have been otherwise recognized or at a commencement acceptable to the University and the student's family. 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 will not be attired in cap or gown, there will be no other changes in the ceremony.

## Responsibilities

- Department Chair/Unit Head
  - The Department Chair/Unit Head is responsible for submitting nominations of students for posthumous degrees and providing any necessary supporting documentation.
- College Dean
  - The Dean of the College is responsible for reviewing posthumous degree nominations.
  - The Dean of the College is responsible for communicating positive recommendations to the Registrar.
- Registrar
  - The Registrar is responsible for verifying that the nominated student has met the conditions for a posthumous degree.
  - The Registrar is responsible for coordinating with the College to make arrangements with the student's family

## Interpreting Authority

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

## Review and Approval

### Policy Revised

| <u>DATE</u>       | <u>ENTITY</u>    | <u>ACTION</u>             |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| February 22, 2019 | Board of Regents | Adopted                   |
| October 24, 2018  | President        | Approved                  |
| October 3, 2018   | Provost Council  | Approved                  |
| October 1, 2018   | Faculty Senate   | Approved modified version |
| December 4, 2017  | Faculty Senate   | Approved                  |

### Policy Issued

| <u>DATE</u>      | <u>ENTITY</u>               | <u>ACTION</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| February 5, 2000 | Board of Regents            | Adopted       |
| November 5, 1999 | Faculty Senate              | Approved      |
| October 20, 1999 | Council on Academic Affairs | Approved      |