



Eastern Kentucky University

Policy and Regulation Library

Academic Regulation: 4.3.8ACR

Responsible Office(s): Office of the Provost

Effective: February 22, 2019

Next Review Date: Spring 2024

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Posthumous Degrees

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

Regulation Adoption Review and Approval

Regulation Revised

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ENTITY</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
October 18, 2024	University Counsel	Editorial Revision
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

Regulation Issued

DATE

February 5, 2000
November 5, 1999
October 20, 1999

ENTITY

Board of Regents
Faculty Senate
Council on Academic
Affairs

ACTION

Adopted
Approved
Approved