



#### 4.3.8P

Volume 4, Academic Affairs  
Chapter 3, Courses, Programs, and Degrees  
Section 8, Posthumous Degrees  
Approval Authority: Board of Regents  
Responsible Executive: Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Responsible Office(s): Office of the Registrar  
Effective: February 5, 2000 Issued: February 5, 2000  
Last Revised: Next Review Date:

## 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 ~~and who has made noteworthy contributions to the University community.~~

The University will award a posthumous upon approval of the Faculty Senate 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.

~~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. 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.~~
- ~~2. The student had been in good academic standing in their program of study at the time of their death.~~
- ~~3. Documentation is provided of the student's noteworthy contributions to the University community during his/her tenure at the University.~~

### Entities Affected by the Policy

- Students
- Colleges
- Departments
- Office of the Registrar

### 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. The student is nominated by the Chair of his/her major department.

2. Nominations for posthumous degrees ~~should~~ shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Faculty Senate and copied to the ~~Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research Registrar~~.
3. The Registrar shall verify that the conditions for awarding a posthumous degree have been met and shall report the findings to the Chair of the Faculty Senate.
4. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will consider nominations and will forward positive recommendations ~~on~~ to the Faculty Senate, unless there is an emergency situation.
5. Upon approval by the Faculty Senate, the Chair of Faculty Senate will notify the Registrar, who shall coordinate with the appropriate College to make arrangements with the student's family, forward positive recommendations on to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research for implementation. The appropriate degree ~~would~~ 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 ~~would~~ will not be attired in cap or gown, there ~~would~~ will be no other changes in the ceremony.

## Responsibilities

<b>Department Chair/Unit Head</b>	The Department Chair/Unit Head is responsible for submitting nominations of students for posthumous degrees and providing any necessary supporting documentation.
<b>Faculty Senate Chair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair of Faculty Senate is responsible for ensuring posthumous degree nominations are considered by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee as well as the Faculty Senate.</li> <li>• The Chair of Faculty Senate is responsible for communicating positive recommendations to the Registrar.</li> </ul>
<b>Registrar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Registrar is responsible for verifying that the nominated student has met the conditions for a posthumous degree.</li> <li>• The Registrar is responsible for coordinating with the College to make arrangements with the student's family.</li> </ul>

## Interpreting Authority

Senior Vice President for Academics and Provost

## Policy Adoption Review and Approval

<u>Date</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Action</u>
February 5, 2000	Board of Regents	Adopted
November 1, 1999	Faculty Senate	Approved
October 20, 1999	Council on Academic Affairs	Approved