

Policy Title:	Posthumous Degrees
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Governing Body:	Southern Oregon University	Policy Number:	AAD.042
Policy Contact:	University Registrar	Date Revised:	April 2018
Custodial Office:	Academic Affairs	Date Approved:	May 10, 2018
Approved By:	President	Next Review:	
Related Policy:			

Revision History

Revision Number:	Change:	Date:
	Initial version	
1	Revision	April 2018

A. Purpose

At the request of the faculty of a deceased student's major program(s), the Provost and the University Registrar shall confer to determine if the student is eligible for a posthumous degree.

B. Definitions

Posthumous: following or occurring after death.

C. Policy Statement

A. If the student possessed appropriate academic credentials at the time of death (see qualifications below) and the family of the deceased student so wishes, the Provost, at their discretion, may direct the University Registrar to record the awarding of the appropriate degree(s), order the associated diploma(s), and arrange for proper inclusion in the Commencement program. The University Registrar will then also order that grades of "P" be recorded for the course work that the student was enrolled in at the time of death and that the

student's transcript be notated to reflect the awarding of a posthumous degree. The President of the University shall then write a letter to the appropriate family member(s) announcing the honor of the posthumous degree and the date of the Commencement ceremony at which the degree(s) will be granted. The President may, at their discretion, order the awarding of a posthumous degree to a student not meeting the below qualifications.

#### B. Qualifications

To be eligible for a posthumous degree, a review of the student's academic records must demonstrate all the following qualifications:

1. The student would have met all general requirements for a degree, had they had the opportunity to complete the course work for which they were registered at the time of death. This determination is made by the University Registrar in consultation with appropriate Enrollment Services staff.
2. The student would have met all major-specific requirements for a degree, had they had the opportunity to complete the course work for which they were registered at the time of death. In the case of a graduate student with a thesis requirement, said requirement would have been reasonably met had they had the opportunity to complete and defend the thesis during the term in which the student died. These determinations are made by the University Registrar in consultation with appropriate faculty from the student's major program(s) and/or the student's thesis committee.
3. The student was in good academic standing at the time of their death. This determination is made by the University Registrar in consultation with appropriate Enrollment Services staff.

#### C. Posthumous Certificate of Recognition

In cases where it is determined that either an undergraduate or graduate student did not meet the above requirements for a posthumous degree, a "posthumous certificate of recognition" may be awarded, at the request of the Provost, by the University Registrar. The certificate recognizes a student's progress toward attainment of a degree. The certificate will be noted on the student's transcript.

This policy may be revised at any time without notice. All revisions supersede prior policy and are effective immediately upon approval.

#### D. Policy Consultation

Provost, University Registrar, Academic Policies Committee and Policy Council. This policy was posted for campus comment on April 27, 2018.

The Policy Contact, defined above, will write and maintain the procedures related to this policy and these procedures will be made available within the Custodial Office.