

Governing Body:	Southern Oregon University	Policy Number:	AAD.042
Policy Contact:	Provost	Date Revised:	2009
Custodial Office:	Academic Affairs	Date Approved:	8/8/12
Approved By:	President, Cabinet	Next Review:	8/15
Related Policy:			

A. Purpose

At the request of the faculty of a deceased student's major department(s), the Provost and the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment shall confer to determine if the student is eligible for a posthumous degree.

B. Definitions

Posthumous: following or occurring after death.

C. Policy Statement

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 his/her discretion, may direct the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment to record the awarding of the appropriate degree, order the associated diploma, and arrange for proper inclusion in the Commencement brochure. The Assistant Vice President for Enrollment 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 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 will be granted. The President of the University may, at his/her discretion, order the awarding of a posthumous degree to a student not meeting the below qualifications.

Qualifications:

1. The student would have met all general requirements for a degree, had s/he had the opportunity to complete the course work for which s/he was registered at the time of death. This determination is made by the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment in consultation with appropriate Enrollment Services staff.
2. The student would have met all major-specific requirements for a degree, had s/he had the opportunity to complete the course work for which s/he was 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 s/he had the opportunity to complete and defend the thesis during the term in which the student died. These determinations are made by the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment in consultation with appropriate faculty from the student's major department(s) and/or the student's thesis committee.
3. The student was in good academic standing at the time of his/her death. This determination is made by the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment in consultation with appropriate Enrollment Services staff.

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 Assistant Vice President for Enrollment. 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, Assistant VP for Enrollment, Academic Policies Committee, Faculty Senate

E. Associated Procedures or Other Information

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.