



# **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 2030

## **Academic Regulation: 4.3.8ACR**

### **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

#### DATE

February 28, 2025  
 October 18, 2024  
 February 22, 2019  
 October 24, 2018  
 October 3, 2018  
 October 1, 2018  
 December 4, 2017

#### ENTITY

Provost  
 University Counsel  
 Board of Regents  
 President  
 Provost Council  
 Faculty Senate  
 Faculty Senate

#### ACTION

Reviewed & Readopted  
 Editorial Revision  
 Adopted  
 Approved  
 Approved  
 Approved modified version  
 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