

# Augusta University

## Policy Library

### Posthumous Degree Policy

**Policy Manager: Office of the Vice Provost**

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Augusta University (“AU”) recognizes that, on rare occasions, a student may die prior to the completion of a degree for which he/she was enrolled. This policy allows AU to recognize the achievements of the deceased student and award the student a degree posthumously. This policy outlines the process for determining the criteria for awarding the posthumous degree.

#### **AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS**

*Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:*

- ☐ Alumni    ☒ Faculty    ☒ Graduate Students    ☒ Health Professional Students  
☒ Staff    ☒ Undergraduate Students    ☐ Vendors/Contractors    ☐ Visitors  
☐ Other:

#### **DEFINITIONS**

Posthumous degree: A degree awarded after death.

#### **PROCESS & PROCEDURES**

A posthumous degree may be awarded to a student enrolled or eligible for continued enrollment at the time of death prior to completion of all requirements for the degree. For undergraduate degrees and certificates, the student should have completed 75% of the requirements for the degree/certificate and must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0.

For a graduate and professional degrees, the student should have completed 75% of course work required for the degree without any “D” or “F” grades and must have been in good academic standing at the time of death. For research-based graduate programs, the student should have been admitted to degree candidacy, should have completed a substantial amount of the required research, and must be recommended by the appropriate thesis advisory committee for the conference of the posthumous degree. All academic degree programs are eligible to request conference of such degrees.

The faculty may recommend to a department or program chair/director that such a degree be considered for award. The chair/director may recommend to his/her/their Dean, on behalf of the faculty, the award of a posthumous degree to any student who meets the criteria outlined above. The Dean may recommend in writing to the Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost that the student be awarded a posthumous degree. The final determination concerning the appropriateness of the award will rest with the Provost and President.

The degree may be given at commencement, a hooding ceremony or other awards ceremony within the college and will read, “degree awarded posthumously”.

The program at graduation will read, “degree awarded posthumously.”

Posthumous Certificates of Achievement:

If the deceased student does not meet the criteria for a posthumous degree outlined in this policy, Augusta University may choose to award a posthumous Certificate of Achievement so long as at the time of the student’s death he/she was enrolled in at least one classes related to his/her degree.

## **REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Intentionally left blank.

## **RELATED POLICIES**

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## **APPROVED BY:**

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Augusta University

Date: 9/1/2025

President, Augusta University

Date: 9/1/2025