



**Awarding Posthumous Degrees**

<b>Name of Policy</b>	Awarding Posthumous Degrees Policy
<b>Description of Policy</b>	Awarding Posthumous Degrees
<b>Policy applies to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University-wide <input type="checkbox"/> Specific ( <i>outline location, campus, organizational unit, etc.</i> )
	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff only <input type="checkbox"/> Students only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faculty and students
<b>Policy status</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New policy <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of existing policy

<b>Approval authority</b>	President
<b>Governing authority</b>	Office of Academic Affairs
<b>Responsible officer</b>	Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

<b>Approval date</b>	February 13, 2024
<b>Effective date</b>	May 1, 2024
<b>Approval date of last revision</b>	N/A
<b>Effective date of last revision</b>	N/A
<b>Date of policy review*</b>	Every five years

*\*unless otherwise indicated, this policy will still apply beyond the review date*

<b>Related legislation, policies, procedures, guidelines, and local protocols</b>	N/A
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The purpose of this policy is to describe the awarding of posthumous degrees and the procedures associated with its implementation. Alcorn State University (ASU) prides itself on being student centered, student-driven and student focused. Therefore, the untimely death of a student matriculating at the University is a tremendous loss to the ASU Community. When appropriate, the University may recognize and honor the achievements of the deceased student to celebrate the life and academic accomplishments of the student. Therefore, the University reserves the right and authority to award undergraduate and graduate degrees to recently deceased students who meet certain criteria.

For a degree to be awarded posthumously, the following conditions must be met:

- To be eligible for a Posthumous degree, the following criteria must be met:

Undergraduate students:

- The deceased student must have attained sophomore standing by earning a minimum of thirty (30) credit hours, which equates to 25% of the total undergraduate degree requirements.

Graduate students:

- The deceased student must have completed at least 50% of the required credit hours in their program of study.

- The deceased student must have been actively enrolled in the program at ASU and in good disciplinary, and academic standing at the time of death. A student is considered actively enrolled if they meet one of the following criteria:
  1. The student has registered for courses prior to the final registration deadline.
  2. The student's continuous enrollment was temporarily disrupted due to extenuating circumstances such as injury, illness, or deployment.
- The posthumous degree recommendation process involves the following steps:
  1. The School Dean overseeing the deceased student's academic discipline collaborates with the Office of the Registrar to assess the student's academic progress.
  2. The School Dean and the Office of the Registrar must confirm that the deceased student was on track to meet all necessary requirements for degree conferral.
  3. Upon verification, the School Dean submits a recommendation to the Provost advocating for the awarding of a posthumous degree to the deceased student.
- After receiving the recommendation from the School Dean and the Office of the Registrar, the Provost will:
  1. Review the recommendation and evaluate whether the deceased student meets the criteria for a posthumous degree.
  2. Based on the evaluation, the Provost will decide if a posthumous degree should be granted to the deceased student.
  3. The Provost will then submit a recommendation to the university President, advising whether the posthumous degree should be awarded.
- If the President approves the Provost's recommendation to grant a posthumous degree, the following steps will be taken:
  1. The Provost will inform the Office of the Registrar that the posthumous degree has been approved and should be awarded.
  2. Upon receiving approval from the President, the Provost will also be responsible for contacting the deceased student's family to notify them that the posthumous degree will be conferred.

**REVIEWED BY:**

/s/ Sandra L. Barnes, Ph.D.

University Academic Governance Council

April 8, 2024

Date

/s/ Joyce Buckner-Brown, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

April 8, 2024

Date

/s/ Alfred L. Galtney, J.D.

Chief Compliance Officer

April 8, 2024

Date

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Tracy M. Cook, Ed.D.

President/IEO

April 8, 2024

Date