

# Augusta University

## Policy Library

### Posthumous Degree Policy

**Policy Owner: Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs**

#### **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.

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 an undergraduate level degree, the student should have completed 75% of the requirements for the degree and must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average. For a graduate level degree, the student should have completed 75% of course work without any “D” or “F” grades, and must have been in good academic standing. For research-based graduate programs, the student should have been admitted to degree candidacy, should have completed a substantial amount of required research, and must be recommended by the appropriate thesis advisory committee. All academic degree programs are eligible.

#### **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**

The faculty may recommend to a department or program chair that such a degree be considered for award. The chair may recommend on behalf of the faculty to the Dean the student be awarded a posthumous degree. The Dean may recommend in writing to the Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost that the student be awarded a posthumous degree. Determination of award will rest with the Provost and President.

All academic degree programs are eligible.

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

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**Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management Use Only**

**Policy No.:** 457

**Policy Sponsor:** Type the title of the Executive Leader of the department.

**Originally Issued:** Not Set

**Last Revision:** 01/23/2017

**Last Review:** 02/27/2017

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

**REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Intentionally left blank.

**RELATED POLICIES**

Intentionally left blank.

**APPROVED BY:**

President, Augusta University and CEO, AU Health System    Date: 02/27/2017