



Policy Number: II.17  
Policy Level: Operating Policy  
Originally Issued: January 13, 2016  
Reviewed: February 2019  
Reviewed: April 4, 2022  
Reviewed: February 14, 2025

Policy Owner: Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services  
Policy Implementation: Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services  
Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services

## **Awarding of Degrees Posthumously**

### **I. Policy Statement and Purpose**

In accordance with Athens State University's mission, this policy establishes the standards by which Athens State University may confer posthumous baccalaureate and graduate degrees upon students who become deceased prior to, but nearing formal completion of, all degree requirements of the programs being pursued.

### **II. Eligibility**

The Registrar will determine whether the deceased student meets the eligibility requirements (see below) to be awarded a posthumous degree and report that finding to the Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services and the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services. The Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services will notify the family that the deceased is eligible to be awarded a posthumous degree and coordinate how the family would like to accept the degree.

#### **Undergraduate**

Any undergraduate student who becomes deceased while officially enrolled at the University and who was within twelve (12) credit hours of completing the degree requirements of the academic program/major of record, is eligible to be awarded a posthumous bachelor's degree.

#### **Graduate**

Any graduate student who becomes deceased while officially enrolled at the University and who was within six (6) credit hours of completing the degree requirements of the academic program/major of record, is eligible to be awarded a posthumous master's degree.

### **III. Responsibility for this Operating Policy**

#### **Policy Owner**

As part of the initial approval of this policy by the President and subsequent to the original dissemination of the policy, the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services is the policy owner for the ongoing evaluation, review, and approval of this policy. Subsequent reviews and revisions to this policy must be in accordance with approved operating policy procedures and processes.



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This policy will be reviewed every three years or more frequently as needed by the Policy Owner. Revisions will be reviewed/affirmed by the Faculty Senate and the Cabinet and approved by the University President. This policy will be updated/published in the University's Policy Library.

#### **Responsibility for Policy Implementation**

The President has assigned the responsibility of implementing this policy to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services.