



Policy Number: II.17
Policy Level: Operating Policy
Originally Issued: January 13, 2016
Reviewed: February 2019
Reviewed: April 4, 2022
Reviewed: February 14, 2025
Revised: May 12, 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.

The Registrar's Office will annotate the student's academic record with the statement "awarded posthumously".

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.



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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.

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.