



REASON FOR POLICY

To establish the policy governing conferral of posthumous degrees for undergraduate, graduate, and law students.

ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY

University employees and students.

WEB SITE ADDRESS FOR THIS POLICY

<http://policies.uoregon.edu/policy/by/1/0299-general/posthumous-degrees-conferral>

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE

For questions about this policy, please contact the University Secretary's Office at 541-346-3166, trustees@uoregon.edu.

ENACTMENT & REVISION HISTORY

02/10/1971 Originally Implemented

06/03/1992 Reviewed and Approval Recommended by President's Policy Council

06/03/1992 Enacted by University Assembly

Reissued by: The President

02/08/2010 Policy number revised from 2.000 to 02.99.02

01/17/2013 Policy Revised by Vice President for Student Affairs in consultation with the Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Senior Assistant to the President, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and the University Registrar

04/17/2013 Approved by UO Senate.

06/07/2013 Signed by UO Senate President.

07/15/2013 Approved by UO President Michael Gottfredson <[document](#)>

POLICY

Upon learning that a student has died, the Vice President for Student Affairs, with appropriate consultation from Academic Affairs, will confer with the University Registrar, and, if applicable, the Dean of the Graduate School or Dean of the School of Law, to determine if the student is eligible for a posthumous degree. If the student possessed the necessary academic credentials at the time of death, and if the family wishes, the Vice President for Student Affairs shall recommend that the University President authorize the posthumous issuance of the degree.

Exclusions and Special Situations:

Exceptions to the policy will be based on a recommendation by the Provost to the University President.

Procedures:

I. Undergraduate: Baccalaureate Degree Candidate

- A. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall inquire of the University Registrar.
 - 1. At the time of death, was the student a) officially enrolled or b) actively pursuing degree completion within one term of graduation?
 - 2. Would the student have met all general education requirements for a degree, had s/he had the opportunity to a) complete the course work for which s/he was registered at the time of death or b) to complete coursework within one additional term?
- B. If the answers to the two questions above are both yes, the University Registrar shall ask the student's major department(s) to evaluate the student's academic record to determine if satisfactory completion of current course enrollment(s) and/or completion of one additional term would have satisfied all major course requirements as required by the major department(s).
- C. If all the above conditions are met, the University Registrar shall notify the Vice President for Student Affairs who, with appropriate input from Academic Affairs, shall consult with the University President. At the University President's direction, the Vice President for Student Affairs shall contact the deceased student's immediate family to determine whether the family is receptive to the University's granting a posthumous degree.
- D. If affirmative, the University President may then direct the University Registrar to record final grades of "P" in classes in which the student was enrolled, record the award of the degree, order the appropriate diploma, and arrange for the appropriate listing in the commencement program and official degree lists.
- E. The University President shall write a letter to the appropriate family member(s) announcing the honor of the posthumous degree and the date of the commencement ceremony at which the degree will be granted.

II. Graduate: Graduate or Law Degree Candidate

- A. In consultation with Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Student Affairs shall inquire of the major department and Dean of the Graduate School or Dean of the School of Law whether the student, upon satisfactory completion of current course enrollments or one additional term of enrollment, would have satisfied requirements for the degree, and whether a thesis or dissertation would have been required for graduation.
- B. If a thesis or dissertation would have been required, the Dean of the Graduate School or Dean of the School of Law shall consult with the chair and members of the thesis or dissertation committee to determine whether the student could have completed and defended the thesis or dissertation during the current or subsequent term or semester. The Dean of the Graduate School or Dean of the School of Law shall be informed of the determination.
- C. If the student reasonably could have completed all requirements for the degree, then the Vice President for Student Affairs shall proceed according to I.C. et seq. above.

III. Exceptions to the policy will be based on a recommendation by the Provost to the University President.

RELATED RESOURCES

Provide links to forms, external pages, implementation guides, etc. if applicable. Leave blank if not.