

Policy Title:	Posthumous Degrees	Effective Date:	February 10, 2015
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Statement	In appropriate recognition of a student’s academic achievement when the student’s progress would have likely fulfilled the requirements of a degree at Eastern Michigan University, this policy/process is established to identify the requirements and procedures for awarding a posthumous baccalaureate or graduate degree or a degree in memoriam.
Philosophy	This policy provides for the university to acknowledge the accomplishments of students who are prevented from completing their degrees due to circumstances resulting in their untimely death.
Procedures	<p>I. Awarding of a Posthumous Degree</p> <p>The request for a posthumous degree to be awarded to a deceased student may originate from a family member, or a member of the university community. A written request should be sent to the Office of the Provost, and should include the student’s name, and if possible, EMU identification number and academic standing.</p> <p>a. Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>General requirements:</u> At the time of the onset of a terminal illness, injury, or death, the student must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Been actively pursuing a degree at Eastern Michigan University. 2. Been in good academic standing. 3. Completed coursework within the year prior. 4. Not been subject to any disciplinary sanctions. ii. <u>Baccalaureate Degrees:</u> The student has completed 90 credit hours, and at least 30 of those hours were completed at EMU. iii. <u>Graduate Non-Doctoral Degrees:</u> The thesis/dissertation student has no more than eight (8) credit hours remaining to completion of his or her program, and submitted a suitable draft of the thesis/dissertation. The non-thesis student is in the last semester of course work, and pending successful completion would be eligible to take comprehensive exams. iv. <u>Graduate Doctoral Degrees:</u> The student must have defended the dissertation and submitted a first draft. Possible consideration may be made for the awarding of a Master’s degree in lieu of a doctoral degree if qualifications are not met. v. <u>Graduate Certificates:</u> The student is enrolled in the last semester of course work and would be eligible to graduate pending successful completion of that semester. vi. <u>Post-Baccalaureate Certificates:</u> The student has completed all coursework but student teaching and would be eligible to graduate pending successful completion. <p>b. Process</p> <p>If approved by the Provost’s Office, the Registrar’s Office shall post the degree to the student’s transcript and produce the diploma at no cost to the family. The diploma may be presented to the family of the deceased student at the next appropriate commencement ceremony, or may be mailed to the family of the deceased student. The decision to participate in commencement will rest with the family.</p>

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	<p>At the discretion of the President in consultation with the Provost, a posthumous degree may be awarded to a student who has not met the criteria.</p> <p>II. Awarding of Academic Recognition in Memoriam</p> <p>The University may also award a degree in memoriam to a student whose academic history does not meet the requirements necessary to be awarded a posthumous degree, but who fulfills the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Good academic standing, and was not subject to any disciplinary sanctions at the time of the onset of a terminal illness, an injury, or death. ii. Undergraduate student with at least thirty credit hours earned at EMU, or a graduate student with at least fifteen credit hours earned at EMU. <p>The request for academic recognition in memoriam to be awarded to a deceased student may originate from a family member, or a member of the university community. A written request should be sent to the Office of the Provost, and should include the student’s name, and if possible, the following: EMU identification number, academic standing. The student must have been actively pursuing a degree at Eastern Michigan University until the time of the onset of a terminal illness, an injury, or death.</p> <p>If approved, the Office of the Provost shall produce the certificate of recognition at no cost to the family.</p>		
Responsibility	The Provost’s Office and the Registrar.		
Resources	None.		