

Awarding Posthumous Degrees

- Keywords: death, degree, awarding degree, posthumous
- Policy Number: KC-ACA-3108
- Originally Issued: Fall 2010
- Revised: None
- Effective Catalog Cycle: Fall 2010
- Approved by: Provost
- Executive Sponsor: Provost
- Responsible Office: Registration and Records

Policy Statement

The University may grant undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees posthumously. If an Academic Unit determines that a deceased student was academically eligible at the time and had completed sufficient coursework to earn a degree the Unit may recommend the awarding of a posthumous degree.

Students who completed all Degree Requirements:

The diploma for the degree that the student was pursuing will be prepared in the same manner as if the student had graduated. This diploma may be presented to the family of the deceased in a special ceremony, at Commencement or in whatever manner is deemed appropriate.*

Student Did Not Yet Complete Degree Requirements:

If the student had not completed degree requirements but was making satisfactory progress at the time of death, a dean's certificate honoring the student may be provided by the appropriate academic unit(s). These certificates may be designed and presented in a manner that is fitting to the circumstances.*

*In some instances, presentation of the degree or certificate

to family members may be made at a remembrance ceremony.

Reason for Policy

This policy was developed to recognize the achievement of those students who were deceased and had completed enough of the degree program requirements to have their degree awarded.

Who Should Read this Policy?

Deans, directors, chairs and other department heads; Advisors

Instructions, Procedures and Related Information

Academic Units who have determined that a deceased student has completed sufficient coursework to earn a posthumous degree should follow the steps below:

1. The Academic Unit should fill out a graduation exception petition that can be found by visiting
2. Certificate of Death should be obtained through Public Records.
3. The reason for requesting the exception and detailed justification from the department
4. Recommendation for action by the department or division chair
5. Recommendation for action by the appropriate dean or program director
6. Recommendation for action by the Provost's office

The Academic Unit Dean will review the petition and related documentation and render a decision which will be communicated in writing to the Provost's Office and the Registrar. The degree or certificate will be awarded for the current term.

Definitions:

Posthumous: Following or occurring after one's death

Eligible Student: A deceased student who the Academic Unit designee recommends for a posthumous degree award

Contacts

UMKC Registrar's Office: Website:

Physical Location: 115 Administrative Center, 5115 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO 64110

Mailing Address: 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499;

Phone: 816-235-1125; **Fax:** 816-235-5513; **Email:** registrar@

Exclusions

None

History & Updates

None

Appendices

None

Graduate Application for Graduation Policy

- Keywords: Graduation, Degree, Commencement
- Policy Number: KC-ACA-3753
- Originally Issued: Prior to 2010
- Revised: Spring 2019

- Effective Catalog Cycle: AY 19-20
- Approved by: Graduate Council, SGS Dean, Provost
- Executive Sponsor: Provost
- Responsible Office: Registration and Records

Policy Statement

Students are required to file an application for graduation with the Registrar no later than the end of the fourth week of the semester in which the degree(s) will be completed. Students graduating at the end of the summer session must file an application for graduation no later than the end of the second week of the summer session. An approved program/plan of study must be on file with the registrar at the time the student makes the application to graduate. Filing an application for graduation initiates a degree check in the Registrar's Office. Any student found to be missing degree requirements, based on their program requirements and approved program/plan of study at the time of the degree check will be notified by the Registrar, and missing degree requirements must be completed before the student will be cleared for graduation.

The application for graduation places the student's name in the commencement program. Once the completion of degree requirements has been certified by the Registrar, the Registrar's Office will authorize the diploma order.

Reason for Policy

This policy was developed to support student academic success and to provide consistent, quality delivery of academic programs and services.

Who Should Read this Policy?

All faculty; Academic advisors; Registrar's office personnel.
All graduate students

Instructions, Procedures and Related Information

Contacts

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UMKC Office of the Provost:

Exclusions

History & Updates

Appendices

Graduate Dual Degree Policies

Dual-degree programs allow students to pursue simultaneously degrees at the master's level in two fields of study. Students must complete at least 80 percent (rounded up) of the credit hours required for each degree separately. Students must satisfy admission, course, and examination requirements of both degree programs.