I. POLICY STATEMENT

Northern Kentucky University (NKU) recognizes the importance of acknowledging significant student achievement at all times, including following the death of a student who has made substantial progress towards the completion of a degree at NKU or is enrolled as a student at NKU.

A. POSTHUMOUS DEGREE

1. A posthumous degree may be awarded if all of the following conditions are met:
   a. The student had been in good academic standing in their academic program of study at the time of death.
   b. The student is nominated by the Chair/School Director of the student’s major/program and then approved by the College Dean, giving consideration to the student's academic standing and success during their tenure at NKU.
   c. At the time of death, the student had achieved senior standing or was within one year of graduation in the case of a Bachelor's degree; fourth semester standing or within one semester of graduation in the case of an Associate's degree; or completed 75% of the program’s requirements.

2. Nominations for a posthumous degree should then approved by the appropriate Vice Provost, the Provost, and the President. Upon the President’s recommendation, final approval from the Board of Regents is required to award the posthumous degree.

3. The student’s family will be consulted, so as to best comply with their wishes. If desired by the student’s family, the appropriate degree diploma will be awarded at the commencement at which the student would otherwise have been recognized.

4. The posthumous degree will not be noted on the student’s academic transcript. Other documentation that a posthumous degree was awarded will be made by the University Registrar.
B. POSTHUMOUS CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

In the event that it is determined that a student did not meet the requirements for a degree, a “posthumous certificate of recognition” may be awarded, if appropriate, by the President. The certificate recognizes a student’s enrollment at NKU and progress toward the attainment of a degree.

1. A posthumous certificate of recognition can be issued if all of the following conditions are met:
   a. The student is enrolled at NKU but does not meet the requirements for awarding a posthumous degree, and the student is in good academic standing at the time of death.
   b. The student is nominated and approved in the same manner as described in section A “Posthumous Degree” above, except that there is no approval from the Board of Regents.

2. The certificate will not be noted in the student’s transcript.

II. ENTITIES AFFECTED

President, Provost, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, Vice Provost of Graduate Education Research & Outreach, College Deans, Department Chairs, School Directors, Program Directors, Associate Deans, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and Special Events

III. EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

REVISION HISTORY

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<th>REVISION TYPE</th>
<th>MONTH/YEAR APPROVED</th>
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