

Posthumous Degree Policy

Approved by President's Cabinet 5/27/14

Revisions Adopted by President's Cabinet 7/25/17

In appropriate circumstances, East Georgia State College (EGSC) may honor an undergraduate student or former student within two semesters of last attendance, by granting a degree posthumously. This status will be reserved for those students who have made substantial progress toward completion of degree requirements as indicated below. The process for granting the posthumous degree will begin with the Student Affairs – Records Office upon notification and confirmation the student's death. If, at the time of death:

1. The student is within 15 credit hours of completing their degree requirements.
2. Student has earned a minimum of 25 earned hours completed with EGSC.
3. The student's EGSC (cumulative) grade point average was at least 2.0.
4. The President will have been notified via the 'Institutional Response to Student Death Policy' concerning deceased student's eligibility to receive posthumous degree and immediate family's preference for receipt of posthumous degree and desire to participate in upcoming graduation ceremony.
5. Immediate family is defined for the purposes of this policy to include in contact priority order: emergency contact as defined by deceased student on Banner record, spouse, domestic partner, maternal parent, paternal parent, and child of legal age in order of earliest birth.
6. If permission is granted by the President to award the degree, the Registrar will ensure that the student's name is included in the next commencement program or the ceremony of the family's choosing.
7. The President will notify the student's immediate family of the granting of the degree and invited to attend the next upcoming ceremony (confirmation by the family is necessary). If the family is unable to attend due to the close proximity of the ceremony and the date of the student's death, the family will be invited to the next available graduation ceremony.
8. The President's Office will notify the Registrar of the family's decision.
9. In cases where the family chooses not to attend the commencement exercise, the diploma and commencement program will be mailed to the deceased student's last permanent address.

A letter of condolences shall be issued to the families of deceased students who have attended EGSC but do not meet the qualifications for a posthumous degree.

On the transcript the degree name and program appears with "Awarded Posthumously" but will not appear on the diploma.

For an up-to-date copy, go to the Policies and Procedures page on the EGSC website.