

## 2.10 Awarding of Posthumous Degree

*Policy 2.10*

*Volume 2: Academic Affairs*

*Chapter 10: Awarding of Posthumous Degree*

*Responsible Office: Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost*

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### Policy Statement

A posthumous degree may be awarded to a student enrolled at the time of death prior to completion of all requirements for the degree. For an undergraduate level degree, the student should have completed 85% of the requirements for the degree without any D or F grades, and must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average. For a graduate level degree, the student should have completed 85% of course work without any D or F grades, and must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average. For research-based graduate programs, the student should have all research for their thesis or dissertation completed.

A Program Chair, Dean, the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost, and President may recommend that a posthumous degree will be awarded.

All academic degree programs are eligible.

### Reason For Policy

The Georgia Health Sciences University recognizes that, on rare occasions, a student may die prior to the completion of a degree for which he/she was enrolled. This policy allows Georgia Health Sciences University to recognize the achievements of the deceased student and award the student a degree posthumously. This policy outlines the process for determining the criteria for awarding the posthumous degree.

### Entities Affected By This Policy

All colleges of Georgia Health Sciences University are affected by this policy.

### Who Should Read This Policy

All Deans, Department Chairs, and other program officials should observe this policy and follow its procedures.

### Contacts

| Contact   | Phone        | e-mail/URL  |
|---|--------------|---|
| Vice President for Instruction and Enrollment Management & Associate Provost for Academic Affairs | 706-721-3096 | <a href="http://www.georgiahealth.edu/aaffairs/associate/">http://www.georgiahealth.edu/aaffairs/associate/</a> |
| Senior Vice President for   | 706-721-4014 | <a href="http://www.georgiahealth.edu/aaffairs/">http://www.georgiahealth.edu/aaffairs/</a>                     |

|                            |              |   |
|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| Academic Affairs & Provost |              |   |
| President                  | 706-721-2301 | <a href="http://www.georgiahealth.edu/about/leadership/president/">http://www.georgiahealth.edu/about/leadership/president/</a> |

### Definitions

These definitions apply to these terms as they are used in this policy:

**Posthumous degree** Occurring or continuing after one's death

### Overview

Posthumous degrees may be awarded to undergraduate or graduate students at Georgia Health Sciences University under extenuating circumstances or those outlined in this policy. In all cases, students should have completed 85% of the course work required. Other requirements regarding grades, research, and thesis are delineated below. Other considerations may impact awarding of the degree.

For an undergraduate level degree, the student should have completed 85% of the degree requirements with no grades of D or F and must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0.

For a graduate level degree, the student should have completed 85% of course work without any D or F grades, and must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average. For research-based graduate programs, the student should have all research for their thesis or dissertation completed.

### Process/Procedures

The faculty will recommend to a department or program chair that such a degree be considered for award. The Chair will recommend on behalf of the faculty to the Dean the student be awarded a posthumous degree. The Dean may recommend in writing to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost that the student be awarded a posthumous degree. Determination of award will rest with the Provost and President.

All academic degree programs are eligible.

The degree can be given at a hooding or awards ceremony within the college and will read "degree awarded posthumously."

The program at graduation will read "degree awarded posthumously."

### Responsibilities

The responsibilities each party has in connection with Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Policy 2.10, Awarding of Posthumous Degree, are:

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Faculty, department or program chair, Dean, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost and President | Recommendation of a posthumous degree |
|--|---------------------------------------|

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