

## **Awarding of Credentials Posthumously or for Terminally Ill Students Policy**

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| <b>Policy Category</b> | Academic  |
| <b>Policy Sponsor</b>  | Provost, Vice-President Academic  |
| <b>Policy Contact</b>  | Associate Registrar, Transfer Credit Services,<br>Office of the Registrar |
| <b>Effective Date:</b> | January 30, 2025  |
| <b>Review Date:</b>    | January 30, 2030  |

### **1. Purpose**

Working toward a credential is an important endeavour in an individual's life. Where a student is faced with a terminal diagnosis or who becomes deceased before they receive their credential, Athabasca University will ensure that those who have completed the requirements or substantially completed their requirements have an opportunity to be recognized for that hard work and that they and their families may celebrate their achievements.

### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all students who are enrolled in a credential program at Athabasca University.

### **3. Definitions**

| <b>Term</b>        | <b>Definition</b>  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Credentials</b> | Degrees, diplomas, or certificates awarded on successful completion of a program of study. Credential regulations specify the requirements that a student must meet in order to be awarded a credential. |
| <b>Next of Kin</b> | A person's closest living relative or relatives (e.g. spouse, interdependent partner, parent, adult child, sibling).   |
| <b>Posthumous</b>  | Occurring after one's death.   |

## 4. Principles

- 4.1** The University will posthumously award a degree, university certificate, diploma, or other academic credential to a deceased student who has fulfilled all the published requirements of their credential.
- 4.2** The University may consider awarding credentials to students who are deceased or terminally ill, but who have not completed all the published requirements of their credential if they have completed a minimum of 75 per cent of their program.
- a. This will be done by exception and must be approved in accordance with the procedures.
  - b. All necessary documentation and consents must be submitted as outlined in the procedures before considering awarding a credential by exception.

## 5. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

[\*Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act\*](#)

## 6. Related Policy, Procedures and Documents

[Awarding of Credentials Posthumously or for Terminally Ill Students Procedure](#)

[Application for Graduation Policy](#)

[Application for Graduation Procedures](#)

### Document History

| <i>Date</i>      | <i>Action</i>  |
|------------------|--|
| January 30, 2025 | Revised Policy Approved by GFC, Motion# 090-04                         |
| Dec. 4, 2012     | Approved by GFC – Academic Planning and Policy Committee, Motion 08-05 |
| Dec. 6, 2000     | Athabasca University Academic Council, Motion 160.08                   |
| November 1996    | Reviewed   |
| March 15, 1988   | Approved by Athabasca University Academic Council, Motion 64.3         |