Degrees Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office of Accountability:</th>
<th>Provost and Vice-President (Academic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Administrative Responsibility:</td>
<td>Registrar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approver:</td>
<td>General Faculties Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scope:</td>
<td>Compliance with University policy extends to all members of the University community.</td>
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Overview
The Post-Secondary Learning Act of Alberta gives General Faculties Council (GFC) responsibility, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors, over “academic affairs” (section 26 (1)), over “programs of study” for any “degree or diploma” (26(1)(b) and (c)), and to “provide for the granting and conferring of degrees other than honorary degrees” (26(1)(f)). The Post-Secondary Learning Act gives the responsibility for granting honorary degrees to the Chancellor, under the authority of the Senate (107(1)).

Purpose
To establish statements of responsibility relating to the degrees offered by the University of Alberta.

POLICY
1. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
   a. Granting of Degrees

      The responsibility of GFC relating to the granting of degrees will be delegated to the individual Faculty Councils.

      Degrees are granted based on completion of program requirements. As program requirements are continually revised, it is advantageous that the degree be granted as soon after completion of program requirements as possible, contingent on the student applying for the degree.

   b. Awarding of Degrees

      The Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office in the Office of the Registrar will be responsible for changing the student’s record to reflect that a degree has been awarded. The students’ record will only be changed after the official list of graduating students for a Faculty has been approved by the Faculty and signed by the Dean of the Faculty.

   c. Conferral of Degrees

      The Postsecondary Learning Act of Alberta lists, among the duties of the University Chancellor, to “preside over all degree-conferring ceremonies of the university and confer the degrees” (Section 9(1)). The Postsecondary Learning Act also states that where the Chancellor is unable to perform these duties, the Vice-Chancellor will perform them instead (9(2)).

      The responsibility of GFC relating to providing for the conferral of degrees will be delegated to the President, who will oversee all matters pertaining to convocation ceremonies in accordance with established practice.

2. AD EUNDEM DEGREES
The University of Alberta will not grant degrees ‘ad eundem statum’, or based on admission with equivalent standing from another university.

3. POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

The decision whether or not to grant a posthumous degree will be the responsibility of the Faculty Council. Each case will be determined on its own merits. Information on this procedure can be found in the Posthumous Degrees Procedure.

DEFINITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>The term “degree” will be understood to include all GFC-approved degrees, diplomas and certificates offered by the University of Alberta.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Degrees</td>
<td>Honorary degrees are intended to honour individuals whose extraordinary intellectual or artistic achievements or significant service to society set a standard of excellence and merit the University's highest honour. In accepting an honorary degree, the recipient also honours the spirit of the university.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Granting of Degrees</td>
<td>Granting of degrees refers to the responsibility of a Faculty Council to approve a student’s application for graduation by affirming the student has completed the necessary requirements to receive the degree sought, and to recommend to the Office of the Registrar that the degree be awarded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarding of Degrees</td>
<td>Awarding of degrees refers to the responsibility of the Office of the Registrar, Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office, to attribute to the record of a student recommended by the Faculty the degree earned and all the rights and responsibilities that accompany it. Only the Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office may update a student's record to reflect that a degree has been awarded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferral of Degrees</td>
<td>Conferral of Degrees refers to the ceremonial act associated with the awarding of degrees. Conferrals normally only occur at convocation ceremonies. Attending a conferral ceremony is not a requirement for having the degree awarded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ad Eundem Statum</td>
<td>“With equivalent standing”</td>
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</table>

RELATED LINKS

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Academic Standing Policy (UAPPOL)
Office of the Registrar (University of Alberta)
Post-Secondary Learning Act (Government of Alberta)
Senate (University of Alberta)
PUBLISHED PROCEDURES OF THIS POLICY

Convocation Procedure

Degrees Procedure

Parchment Procedure

Posthumous Degrees Procedure