

NPC PROCEDURE

Policy

6.220

Honorary or Posthumous Degrees

Original Adoption: March 28, 2018

Revised: NA

Next Scheduled Review: 2020

Responsible Cabinet Member: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Department/Office: Registrar's Office

Granting Honorary Degrees

Honorary degrees are awarded to distinguished individuals who merit special recognition for outstanding contributions, achievement, or leadership in a field or activity consistent with the mission and vision of the College.

1. The Board of Trustees, the National Park College Foundation, faculty, staff, students, and any other members of the College community may recommend individuals to the Vice President for Academic Affairs no later than March 15th.
2. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will relay nominations to the President, the President's Cabinet, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees for consideration.
3. The President will make official recommendations to the Board of Trustees for the conferment of honorary degrees.
4. The Board of Trustees will vote to approve the recommendation to confer an honorary degree to qualified recipients prior to Spring Commencement.

Awarding an honorary degree to individuals approved by the Board of Trustees is subject to the individual's acceptance of the terms of the offer for the degree (e.g., attending the Commencement ceremony) as established by the President and/or the President's designees. Approved individuals who are not awarded an honorary degree will remain eligible to receive an honorary degree at a later time subject to the requirements listed above.

Granting Posthumous Degrees

Posthumous degrees in Arkansas are recommended based on the Michael Lawdon Branscum Act. These degrees are awarded to students who were enrolled at the College at the time of death.

1. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will receive requests for granting posthumous degrees.
2. The Vice President for Academic Affairs, the President, and the Cabinet will make a determination to grant a posthumous degree based upon the following criteria:
 - a. The student was within one semester of successful completion of a degree
 - b. The student's grade point average (GPA) met or exceeded the requirements for graduation
 - c. The student did not commit a felony at the time of death

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3. The Registrar will be notified to issue the posthumous degree to a verified family member.

The President reserves the right to make exceptions to these posthumous degree guidelines as warranted by specific circumstances.