

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Posthumous and Extraordinary Degrees Policy

Approved by Faculty Senate 10/2/2025.

The awarding of a degree is the pinnacle of the college experience and is an honor bestowed upon those who satisfactorily complete a course of study. Occasionally events take place where the need to consider additional degree options arise.

The goal of this policy is to honor those who have contributed to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and/or to extend sympathy and compassion to the families and friends of deceased or incapacitated students. Below is a means of addressing different circumstances surrounding the awarding of Posthumous and Extraordinary Degrees.

Posthumous Degrees

Posthumous Degrees may be awarded to students who are deceased prior to formal completion of all degree requirements of the undergraduate or graduate program being pursued.

Criteria:

A Posthumous Degree may be awarded to a person who satisfies the following:

- The student was a current student at UWL at the time of death.
- The proposal is endorsed by the major/program department and by the student's college (or, if undeclared, the Provost).

Extraordinary Degrees

Extraordinary Degrees may be awarded to students who are unable to complete a college degree due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., permanently physically or cognitively incapacitated during their course of study). Awarding of an Extraordinary Degree recognizes the contribution of the student while at UWL and acknowledges the extraordinary circumstances of the student's situation. The award allows the UWL community and the student's family and friends to share in the success of the student.

Criteria:

An Extraordinary Degree may be awarded to a person who satisfies the following:

- The student had been enrolled at UWL and contributed to the life of the university.
- The proposal is endorsed by the major/program department and by the student's college (or, if undeclared, the Provost).