



Version: DRAFT-0

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

1 **Policy Title:** Degree Revocation

2 **APS Number:** 1039

APS Functional Area: **ACADEMIC/RESEARCH**

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4 **Brief Description:** Affirms the right of the Board of Regents to revoke a previously awarded degree due to
5 subsequent discovery of academic misconduct or administrative error and outlines
6 procedures for degree revocation.

7 **Effective:** ~~March 27, 2019~~ TBD

8 **Approved by:** President ~~Bruce D. Benson~~ Todd Saliman

9 **Responsible University Officer:** Vice President for Academic Affairs

10 **Responsible Office:** Office of Academic Affairs

11 **Policy Contact:** Office of Academic Affairs

12 **Supersedes:** Degree Revocation, ~~January 1, 2018~~ March 27, 2019

13 **Last Reviewed/Updated:** ~~March 27, 2019~~ TBD

14 **Applies to:** All campuses

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16 **Reason for Policy:** This ~~policy~~ APS affirms the right of the Board of Regents to revoke a previously awarded degree (see
17 Regent Law, Article 4, Part B) due to subsequent discovery of academic misconduct or administrative error (see Regent Policy
18 4.B), ~~as stated in Regent Law, Article 4, Part B.~~ It and further outlines the procedures that must be followed for degree
19 revocation, as required by Regent Policy 4.B.6.

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21 22 I. INTRODUCTION

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24 A degree is evidence of student achievement. It certifies that a student has satisfied the academic requirements of a
25 degree program. In order to preserve the integrity of academic standards and the degrees granted by the University of
26 Colorado, the right to revoke degrees previously granted may be exercised by the Board of Regents.

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28 II. POLICY STATEMENT

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30 The university reserves the right to revoke a degree in cases of material *academic misconduct* discovered after the degree
31 was awarded. The university also reserves the right to revoke a degree if an *administrative error* resulted in a degree
32 being awarded without the degree recipient fulfilling all graduation requirements.

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34 Because the Board of Regents has the authority to award degrees, only the Board of Regents has the authority to revoke
35 degrees. Such actions will be taken only after the campus forwarding the request has conducted a thorough investigation
36 of circumstances leading to the recommendation and, if applicable, an appeals process has been completed.

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38 **III. JUSTIFICATION FOR DEGREE REVOCATION**

39 A degree may be revoked for any of the following reasons:

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42 A. Academic Misconduct

43 The degree was awarded based, in whole or in part, upon the degree recipient satisfying the academic requirements
44 of the degree through actions which:

- 45 1. constitute academic dishonesty; or
- 46 2. involve falsification, misrepresentation, fabrication or other mischaracterization of the nature of or number of
47 credit hours or degrees earned at the University of Colorado or at other institutions of higher education for
48 which the university has given credit; or
- 49 3. involve falsification, misrepresentation, fabrication or other mischaracterization of the reasons for a waiver of
50 academic requirements or the approval of a waiver of academic requirements; or
- 51 4. involves research misconduct; and
- 52 5. would have resulted in a failure to meet graduation requirements if discovered prior to awarding the degree.

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59 B. Administrative Error

60 The degree was awarded despite the degree recipient's failure to satisfy the applicable academic requirements, and
61 the erroneous award of the degree was not due to the degree recipient's conduct.

- 62 1. Administrative errors may be corrected at the campus level without pursuing degree revocation. Degree
63 revocation is only required if the issue cannot be resolved by the administration or the proposed solution is
64 contested by the degree recipient.

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69 **IV. PROCEDURES**

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71 A. Action Required for Degree Revocation

72 A recommendation to revoke a degree shall be forwarded by the campus chancellor to the university president with
73 documentation to support the recommendation. The review by the president shall be limited to a determination of
74 compliance with applicable campus process and procedures and adequacy of supporting materials.

- 75 1. If the president determines that campus policies and procedures have not been followed, or additional evidence
76 or explanation is needed, [he/she/they](#) may remand the matter to the campus for further action.
- 77 2. If the president finds that the revocation of the degree is warranted, [he/she/they](#) shall make a recommendation to
78 the Board of Regents to revoke the degree. Notice shall be sent to the degree recipient and [his/her/they](#) legal
79 representative. The degree recipient or his/her legal representative shall also be notified of the date of the board
80 meeting at which the matter will be considered as well as any evidentiary or procedural protocols.

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84 B. Time Limits

85 If the failure to satisfy degree requirements was due to any of the reasons identified in section III.A of this policy,
86 the right to revoke a degree may be exercised at any time upon discovery.

87 If administrative error resulted in the awarding of a degree despite the failure to satisfy degree requirements, as
88 identified in section III.B of this policy, the right to revoke a degree may only be exercised within two years of
89 granting the degree.

FEEDBACK (Due May 15, 2025)

C. Student Records

The date of degree revocation will appear on the official transcript and the individual will be asked to return the diploma.

If a degree is revoked due to administrative error and a corrected degree is awarded, the corrected degree will be mailed to the degree recipient and the transcript will be corrected.

When possible, a corrected transcript will be forwarded to all individuals and entities who were sent an official transcript after the degree was initially posted to the transcript.

V. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Academic Misconduct* is any action, intentional or not, that gives a student unearned or unfair advantage in academic work over other students. It includes actions such as cheating, plagiarism, falsification of academic records or application information, research misconduct, theft of intellectual property, and alteration of university documents.
- B. *Administrative error*, in the context of this policy, is a process error that results in the awarding of a degree to a student who did not fulfill all graduation requirements.

Commented [MD1]: Would like faculty shared governance to weigh in on this definition.

VI. RELATED POLICIES

- A. Laws of the Regents
1. [Board of Regents Law, Article 4, Part B: Degree Programs and Other Credentials](#)
 2. [Board of Regents Policy 4.B.6: Degree Revocation](#)
 3. [Board of Regents Law, Article 7, Part B: Standards of Conduct](#)
- B. [APS 1007: Misconduct in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities](#)
- C. Other Policies
1. CU Boulder
 - [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
 - [Student Honor Code Policy](#)
 2. CU Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus
 - [Academic Honor Code](#)
 3. CU Colorado Springs
 - [Student Academic Ethics Code](#)

Commented [MD2]: This link is broken. Will work on finding the update, maybe separated now, Denver from Anschutz.

VII. HISTORY

- Approved: [January-YYY 1, XXX2018](#).
- Revised: March 27, 2019.
- Last Reviewed: March 27, 2019.