

# Bethel University Degree Conferrals

July 1, 2025

## Purpose

This policy defines the standards and procedures for the conferral of academic degrees at Bethel University. It ensures clarity and consistency in recognizing student academic achievements.

## Scope

This policy applies to all undergraduate, graduate, professional degree programs, and certificates offered by the university.

## Eligibility for Degree Conferral

To be eligible for degree conferral, a student must successfully complete all requirements for their program including:

- Required coursework
- GPA minimums
- Residency requirement minimums
- Minimum credit requirements for the degree
- Submission of official transcripts from previous and current institutions if not already submitted.
- PSEO/Early College students must submit an official high transcript showing completed high school graduation date
- Successful completion of thesis or dissertation and any comprehensive exams, if applicable
- Any other program specific requirements

**Degree Awarding:** The act of awarding a degree. The action is accomplished by the registrar's office once all degree requirements are met for the student's academic program. The action involves assignment of a degree date, updating relevant data fields, and the ordering of a diploma.

**Degree Date** is also known as the Degree Conferral Date: The date shown on the student record as the date of the degree. This date is shown as the "degree date" on the student transcript, and as the "graduation date" on the student degree record in the student information system. It also shows on the diploma. The conferral date is only determined when all requirements for the degree have been met. Based on the date when the last unmet requirement of the student's program is successfully completed, the closest upcoming conferral date will be assigned.

## Degree Conferral dates for 2025-2026 Academic Year:

- July 10, 2025
- August 18, 2025
- October 1, 2025
- December 21, 2025
- March 1, 2026
- May 25, 2026

Note: Participation in a **commencement ceremony** does not constitute an official degree conferral.

**Service Standards:**

Students can expect that their degree will show on their transcript and the diploma issued, within 3 to 5 weeks after the conferral date. Factors that influence this timeline include faculty timely submissions of grades, receipt of outstanding documents (e.g. transcripts, approved petitions, etc.), quantity of degrees to be conferred, and technology. Programs that lead to licensure (e.g. Teacher Education, Nursing, Social Work) are given priority in processing).

**Backdated or Early Conferral**

Degrees will not be backdated or conferred prior to the official degree conferral dates, regardless of when requirements are completed.

**Verification of Completion prior to Degree Conferral**

If students need verification that requirements have been completed prior to the conferral date for a job or college application, please contact the Registrar's office at [registrar-data@bethel.edu](mailto:registrar-data@bethel.edu). Note: This type of letter is typically not accepted for licensure or certification purposes. It is important that students work with their advisor to plan their program of study with this in mind.