

## UF Academic Policy Committee

Posthumous Degree Policy/Practice – peer review

12/5/2011 — submitted by Maria Rogal, Member

Policies and practices from selected institutions.

School	Highlights	Policy
ASU	Use 100 total earned semester hours (which include 30 hours completed in residence at ASU) as a minimum guideline.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A degree may be awarded for a deceased student upon the recommendation of the college in which the student was pursuing a degree, with the approval of the provost.</li> <li>2. Dean or Designee: Review the student's record in consultation with the school/department of the student's major to determine if the student was in a degree program and qualifies for the awarding of a posthumous degree.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Note: Completion of an Undergraduate or Graduate Program of Study or Declaration of Graduation by the college, if one is not already on file, is optional. If required by the college, the Program of Study or Declaration of Graduation should be completed by a member of the college staff.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Undergraduates: Use 100 total earned semester hours (which include 30 hours completed in residence at ASU) as a minimum guideline.</li> <li>4. Post the degree to the student's transcript and order the diploma at no cost to the family.</li> <li>5. Verify that an administrative hold is posted to the student's record.</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm204-07.html">http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm204-07.html</a></p>
UVA	Final year	<p>Upon the recommendation of the faculty of the appropriate school, the General Faculty of the University may make a posthumous award of the degree or degrees the student was pursuing if all requirements were likely to have been completed during the final year for which the student was registered had it not been for the intervention of death.</p> <p><a href="https://policy.itc.virginia.edu/policy/policydisplay?id=PROV-002">https://policy.itc.virginia.edu/policy/policydisplay?id=PROV-002</a></p>
The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA)	In last 30 hours of degree plan or awards posthumous certificate of recognition. The certificate recognizes a	<p>POSTHUMOUS DEGREE/CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION POLICY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enrolled students whose untimely death prevents degree completion may be awarded a posthumous degree. Posthumous degrees may be awarded to deceased undergraduate students who are registered in the last year (thirty credit hours) of their degree plan and meet all university, college, and department GPA requirements.</li> <li>2. Posthumous degrees must be requested by the deceased student's family, recommended by the faculty of the</li> </ol>

School	Highlights	Policy
	student's progress toward the attainment of a degree. The certificate will be noted on the student's transcript.	<p>major department and the Academic Dean and approved by the President.</p> <p>3. In cases where it is determined that an undergraduate student did not meet the above requirements for a degree, a "posthumous certificate of recognition" may be awarded, if appropriate, by the Registrar's Office. The certificate recognizes a student's progress toward the attainment of a degree. The certificate will be noted on the student's transcript.</p> <p><a href="http://www.iaia.edu/academics/academic-policies/posthumous-degreecertificate-of-recognition-policy/">http://www.iaia.edu/academics/academic-policies/posthumous-degreecertificate-of-recognition-policy/</a></p>
University of Minnesota	has completed sufficient coursework to earn a degree	<p>The University may grant undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees posthumously. If a college determines that a deceased student has completed sufficient coursework to earn a degree, the college (Twin Cities only) or chief academic officer (or designee) on each coordinate campus has the authority to grant the degree posthumously. Graduate students must have completed enough work toward the thesis or dissertation, if required for the degree.</p> <p><a href="http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/POSTHUMOUS.html">http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/POSTHUMOUS.html</a></p>
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under special circumstances, the President or designee may grant the awarding of a posthumous degree or certificate for a student who has completed less than two-thirds (2/3) of the degree coursework.</li> <li>See academic senate resolution</li> </ol>	<p>Cal Poly has had a long history of compassionate interaction with families and friends of students who died while enrolled at the University and, that this compassionate interaction is in the best interest of the families and the University. The awarding of a posthumous degree has frequently brought closure to a tragic situation for the family and friends of the deceased student as well as the University. The family or other interested parties of the deceased student may initiate a request for a posthumous degree through the student's major department.</p> <p>The majority of the faculty in the department of the student's major may recommend to the President the award of a posthumous degree to the family of a deceased student when that student has satisfactorily completed at least two-thirds (2/3) of all coursework towards a degree. Under special circumstances, the President or designee may grant the awarding of a posthumous degree or certificate for a student who has completed less than two-thirds (2/3) of the degree coursework.</p> <p><a href="http://www.academicprograms.calpoly.edu/content/academicpolicies/Posthumous-degrees">http://www.academicprograms.calpoly.edu/content/academicpolicies/Posthumous-degrees</a></p>
Auburn	"Nearing completion"	<p>To be eligible for the award of an Auburn University degree posthumously, the student generally must have met the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the time of death, the student was nearing completion of work required for award of the degree. "Nearing completion" is defined as being enrolled in the senior year (or fifth year for five-year curricula) for undergraduate students.</li> <li>For graduate students in thesis programs, significant coursework should have been completed, and the student</li> </ol>

School	Highlights	Policy
		<p>should have commenced the research process. Graduate students in nonthesis programs should have completed a substantial portion of the required coursework.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The student was in good academic standing and was successfully progressing toward completion of requirements for the degree to be awarded.</li> <li>4. Recommendation for award of the degree was made by the faculty in the student's major department and approved by the department head, school or college dean, and Provost; and, in the case of graduate students, the Dean of the Graduate School.</li> </ol> <p>* Final approval for awarding posthumous degrees shall rest with the Board of Trustees, which will act upon the recommendation of the President of Auburn University. Cases that do not meet the above specified criteria may be considered when extraordinary circumstances prevail. In such cases, the appropriate faculty, department head, dean, and the Provost will be consulted prior to a recommendation being prepared for Board of Trustees consideration</p> <p><a href="https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universypolicies/Policies/AwardofPosthumousDegreesPolicy.pdf">https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universypolicies/Policies/AwardofPosthumousDegreesPolicy.pdf</a></p>
University of Vermont	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. enrolled in courses required for completion of the degree and nearing completion of work required for award of the degree</li> <li>2. Requests for consideration that do not meet the above criteria may also be considered when extraordinary circumstances, such as outstanding service to the University, prevail.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The University of Vermont seeks to recognize the academic achievements of students who were enrolled at the University at the time of their death, and to commemorate those achievements for the benefit of their families and the community. This goal must be achieved with due attention to academic and institutional integrity. Posthumous degrees may therefore be awarded under the criteria and procedures set forth in this statement.</li> <li>2. Any member of the University community or member of the family of the deceased may recommend a student enrolled in a University of Vermont degree program at the time of the student's death for consideration for posthumous award of the degree. If the request for consideration is initiated by someone who is not a member of the family of the deceased, the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President must obtain from the student's family approval of the request for consideration. The request must be submitted to the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President, which will first verify the death of the student and next ascertain his or her enrollment status and academic standing. Once these steps are completed, the Provost and Senior Vice President will initiate and oversee the progress of the consideration and approvals required below.</li> <li>3. Undergraduate degrees / An undergraduate degree may be awarded posthumously if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. At the time of death, the student was enrolled in courses required for completion of the degree and nearing completion of work required for award of the degree.;</li> <li>b. The student was in good academic standing and successfully progressing toward completion of requirements for the degree to be awarded;</li> <li>c. A favorable recommendation for award of the degree is made by the student's major department and</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

School	Highlights	Policy
		<p>college dean, and is then referred through normal channels to the Faculty Senate for approval; and</p> <p>d. The President awards the degree in due course.</p> <p>4. Requests for consideration that do not meet the above criteria may also be considered when extraordinary circumstances, such as outstanding service to the University, prevail. In these situations, a request for award of the degree must be reviewed and favorably recommended by the appropriate department and/or dean or, as applicable, the Graduate College Executive Committee and Graduate College Dean, or the Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and the Dean of the College of Medicine, and the Provost. If these recommendations are favorable, the request will be referred through normal channels to the Faculty Senate for approval and subsequently to the Board of Trustees to award the degree in due course.</p> <p><a href="http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/posthumous.pdf">http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/posthumous.pdf</a></p>
UMass Dartmouth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Empower the Colleges and Provost to award a diploma when appropriate.</li> <li>2. Undergraduate students should have entered their senior year.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rationale: The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth is a caring and humane institution that takes special responsibility to recognize our students' achievements. This is especially true for students who have died. This policy is meant to make clear the University's position, avoid confusion, and empower the Colleges and Provost to award a diploma when appropriate. They are in the best situation to determine if a student has completed enough of the planned degree program to warrant granting a degree from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.</li> <li>2. Policy: The University may grant undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees posthumously. If a College determines that a deceased student was in good standing and had completed enough credits towards a degree, the Chancellor has the authority to grant the degree posthumously, on the recommendation of the dean of the college and in the case of graduate or professional degree students also the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs/Graduate Studies, and then approval by the provost. Undergraduate students should have entered their senior year. Graduate students should have completed enough work toward the thesis or dissertation, if required for the degree, for there to be a draft that the thesis/dissertation committee can review. Other graduate and professional degree candidates should have substantially completed requirements. The request should give in writing the rationale for awarding the degree posthumously, and it must indicate the Dean's approval on behalf of the faculty in the student's major department that any remaining credits required for the degree are waived. The award of a posthumous degree does not require Board of Trustees action.</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://www.umassd.edu/policies/activepolicylist/academicaffairs/policyonconferralofposthumousdegrees/">http://www.umassd.edu/policies/activepolicylist/academicaffairs/policyonconferralofposthumousdegrees/</a></p>
DePauw	posthumous certificate may be awarded / did not meet the above	When a student dies in the senior year, that event will be recognized at commencement with the consent of the family. If a student has completed seven semesters and is registered in courses that would complete all degree requirements, a posthumous degree may be awarded.

School	Highlights	Policy
	requirements for a degree but was in good standing	<p>Posthumous Degree Policy:  Students who die while actively pursuing a degree may be considered for a posthumous degree based on the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Progressing satisfactorily and registered in the last semester of the degree program.</li> <li>2. In good academic and social standing.</li> <li>3. Completed or nearly completed all coursework and other degree requirements.</li> <li>4. If all coursework has not been completed, approval is required by special faculty vote that the student should receive a degree posthumously.</li> </ol> <p>In cases where it is determined that the student did not meet the above requirements for a degree but was in good standing while attending DePauw, a posthumous certificate may be awarded (if the family wishes). Consent for certificates will be given with the approval of the Dean of Students.  <a href="http://www.depauw.edu/univ/handbooks/dpuhandbooks.asp?ID=325&amp;parentid=300">http://www.depauw.edu/univ/handbooks/dpuhandbooks.asp?ID=325&amp;parentid=300</a></p>
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa seeks to extend sympathy and compassion to families of deceased students near completion of their degrees and to recognize the academic achievement of these students who would have fulfilled the requirements of the degree. These actions must also be balanced with attention to academic and institutional integrity.</li> <li>2. Criteria: Decisions on awarding of posthumous degrees will be made on a case-by-case basis using the following criteria. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. For the Posthumous Baccalaureate Degree: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The student was a senior in his/her final semester of coursework.</li> <li>ii. The deceased student was enrolled in courses that would have completed the degree requirements at the time of death.</li> <li>iii. The student would have passed the courses with an acceptable grade, and would likely have fulfilled the requirements of the degree.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. For the Posthumous Graduate Degree: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. For graduate degrees not requiring a research product, the student was enrolled in courses that would have completed the degree requirements at the time of death; would have passed the courses with an acceptable grade, and would likely have fulfilled the requirements of the degree.</li> <li>ii. For graduate degrees requiring a research product, the student had completed all course and mastery requirements pursuant to the degree and was near completion of his/her dissertation, thesis, or Plan B work; and the student's committee found his/her paper to be of substantial work and worthy of the degree.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>

School	Highlights	Policy
		<p><a href="http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/planning_approval/pdf/posthumous_degree.pdf">http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/planning_approval/pdf/posthumous_degree.pdf</a></p>
Ohio University	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Senior year or</li> <li>2. An associate degree may be awarded posthumously to the student in good academic standing who had entered the second year of the associate degree program and had completed at least 64 quarter hours of credit.</li> </ol>	<p>At the request of a parent, guardian, spouse, or child of the decedent, Ohio University will award a baccalaureate degree posthumously to a student providing the student was in good academic standing at the time of death, in a degree program, and, for a baccalaureate degree, had entered his or her senior year at the time of death. An associate degree may be awarded posthumously to the student in good academic standing who had entered the second year of the associate degree program and had completed at least 64 quarter hours of credit.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ohio.edu/policy/12-001.html">http://www.ohio.edu/policy/12-001.html</a></p>
York University	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. were required to withdraw from studies prior to the illness/accident)</li> <li>2. normally, the student has completed 3/4 of the degree requirements</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the student had active status at the University at the time of the illness/accident (ie: they had not voluntarily withdrawn or were required to withdraw from studies prior to the illness/accident)</li> <li>2. normally, the student has completed 3/4 of the degree requirements</li> <li>3. all necessary medical documentation is submitted</li> <li>4. aegrotat standing is used for courses where possible and the waiver of remaining requirements used in other circumstances (pronounced <i>aegrotat</i>, is a <a href="#">medical certificate of illness</a> excusing student's sickness)</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=163">http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=163</a></p>
Wisconsin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Current policy delegates to the college dean of the deceased student the authority to recommend a posthumous</li> <li>2. posthumous</li> </ol>	<p>Current policy delegates to the college dean of the deceased student the authority to recommend a posthumous degree. No restrictions are placed on that authority. In order to clarify the central role of the faculty in establishing requirements for graduation and titles of conferred degrees, the Faculty Senate identifies the following posthumous degrees and the conditions for conferral. By state statute the faculty have primary responsibility for the academic and educational activities of the institution, as codified in Faculty Policies and Procedures. Among these responsibilities, the faculty have the authority for establishing the requirements for graduation and the title of the degree to be conferred upon completion of any course of study. Sadly, students</p>

School	Highlights	Policy
	<p>degree. No restrictions are placed on that authority.</p> <p>3. The student was a senior in his/her final semester of course work or had earned at least 90 credits.</p> <p>4. The student was enrolled in a degree program at the time of death and was in good academic standing.</p>	<p>sometimes die prior to completing requirements for their degrees. In all cases, the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty wish to extend sympathy and compassion to the student's family.</p> <p>Schools and colleges may be interested in conferring posthumously a degree to a student who is near completion of her/his degree so as to recognize the academic achievement of that student who, in all likelihood, would have fulfilled the requirements of the degree. In all such cases, conferral of a degree must also be balanced with attention to academic and institutional integrity.</p> <p>Decisions on awarding of posthumous degrees will be made using the following criteria:</p> <p>For award of a posthumous baccalaureate degree in memoriam:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The student was a senior in his/her final semester of course work or had earned at least 90 credits.</li> <li>2. The student was enrolled in a degree program at the time of death and was in good academic standing.</li> </ol> <p>For award of a posthumous graduate degree in memoriam:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For graduate degrees not requiring a research product, the student was enrolled in courses that would have completed the degree requirements at the time of death, and he/she would have passed the courses with an acceptable grade.</li> <li>2. For graduate degrees requiring a research product, the student had completed all course and other requirements pursuant to the degree and was near completion of his/her dissertation/thesis; and the</li> <li>3. student's committee determines his/her scholarship to be substantial work and worthy of the degree.</li> </ol> <p>For award of a posthumous commendation in memoriam:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A continuously enrolled student who dies before meeting the criteria listed above may be nominated for a posthumous commendation. Such a nomination would be appropriate for a student who has made substantial progress toward a degree or has achieved particular distinction during her/his tenure at the university.</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://www.secfac.wisc.edu/senate/2009/1005/2146.pdf">http://www.secfac.wisc.edu/senate/2009/1005/2146.pdf</a></p>
Illinois	Posthumous Citation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Awarding of Posthumous Citations for undergraduate and graduate students should be initiated by the department or college in which the student is enrolled.</li> <li>2. The Citation will not take the form of the conferring of a posthumous "degree" unless the student had completed all degree requirements.</li> <li>3. In all other cases, the award will take the form of a testimonial to the nature and significance of the individual's scholarly endeavor, to the esteem in which the individual was held by faculty members and fellow students, and</li> </ol>

School	Highlights	Policy
		<p>to any special personal qualities that might be considered suitable for inclusion in such a citation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Undergraduate and graduate (including professional) students who have maintained registration towards a degree are eligible for the citation, without regard to the question of whether he or she was "in residence."</li> <li>5. The awarding of the citation should be initiated by the department or college in which the student was enrolled, and the recommendation forwarded to the principal campus academic officer should include reference to demonstrated excellence and to the length of time enrolled (there is no required minimum length of time).</li> <li>6. The exact nature of the citation and ceremony to be held (if any) will be determined by the campus administration and in coordination with the department or college in which the student was enrolled.</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://cam.illinois.edu/ii/ii-19.htm">http://cam.illinois.edu/ii/ii-19.htm</a></p>
	Final semester of work	<p>No institution in the USM is required to award posthumous degrees. Those that do, however, will make decisions regarding such awards on a case-by-case basis using the following criteria.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For the Posthumous Baccalaureate Degree. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The student was a senior in his/her final semester of coursework. At the time of death, the student was enrolled in courses that would have completed the degree requirements. It is likely that the student would have passed the courses with an acceptable grade and would likely have fulfilled the requirements of the degree.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. For the Posthumous Graduate Degree. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. For graduate degrees not requiring a thesis or dissertation, the student was at the time of death enrolled in courses that would have completed the degree requirements. It is likely that the student would have passed the courses with an acceptable grade and would likely have fulfilled the requirements of the degree.</li> <li>b. For graduate degrees requiring a thesis or dissertation, the student had completed all course requirements and was near completion of the thesis or dissertation. The student's committee has reviewed the most recent draft of the thesis or dissertation and has found it to be worthy of the degree. These include graduate degrees such as the master of fine arts (MFA) or the doctor of musical arts (DMA) requiring a thesis or dissertation that may include artistic, performance, and design components.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>In addition, the institution shall take into account whether the student has engaged in serious criminal activity or misconduct.</p> <p><a href="http://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionIII/iii730.html">http://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionIII/iii730.html</a></p>



School	Highlights	Policy
Oklahoma State University	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advanced standing</li> <li>2. Exceptions to this guideline may be made when the student's death occurred during or as a result of participation in university sponsored activities, or in the case where chronic illness prevented current enrollment</li> </ol>	<p>Institutions in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education are authorized to confer posthumous degrees granted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Such degrees shall generally be unearned, nonacademic degrees recognizing the meritorious but incomplete earned work of a deceased student, generally a student who was deceased in his/her last semester of work. In the case of doctoral students, the degree shall generally be awarded to a student who was deceased after admission to doctoral candidacy. Requests to confer a posthumous degree must be made by the institution, approved by the governing board, and considered by the State Regents, along with diploma design, on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Exceptions to this guideline may be made when the student's death occurred during or as a result of participation in university sponsored activities, or in the case where chronic illness prevented current enrollment.</p> <p><a href="https://stillwater.sharepoint.okstate.edu/Policies/Shared%20Documents/Awarding%20Posthumous%20Degrees.pdf">https://stillwater.sharepoint.okstate.edu/Policies/Shared%20Documents/Awarding%20Posthumous%20Degrees.pdf</a></p>
Ohio State	<p>The majority of the faculty of the degree granting department in which the student was enrolled must vote in favor of awarding the posthumous degree.</p>	<p>College of Engineering Policy: Based upon CCAA's authority to certify the list of students who have fulfilled the requirements for a degree the following policy on posthumous degrees is established.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The majority of the faculty of the degree granting department in which the student was enrolled must vote in favor of awarding the posthumous degree.</li> <li>2. A letter from the Department Chair stating that the majority of the department's faculty voted in favor of the posthumous degree and the academic status of the student in question will be sent to the Secretary CCAA.</li> <li>3. The Secretary of CCAA will contact the CCAA Chair and determine if the Chair is willing to endorse the letter. If the Chair is willing to endorse the letter then the degree will be granted. If the Chair is not willing to endorse the letter the Department has the option of appealing to the full committee at its next scheduled meeting.</li> <li>4. If the CCAA Chair is unavailable and will not be available within a reasonable period of time, the decision of endorsing or not endorsing the letter will evolve upon the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://engineering.osu.edu/sites/eng.web.engadmin.ohio-state.edu/files/uploads/CCAHandbook.pdf">http://engineering.osu.edu/sites/eng.web.engadmin.ohio-state.edu/files/uploads/CCAHandbook.pdf</a></p>