

11.08.99.D1 Awarding of Posthumous Degrees

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Rule Summary

This rule provides guidance to identify the circumstances and establish criteria for awarding a degree posthumously.

The award of a posthumous degree may be an appropriate recognition of a student's academic achievement when that student's progress would have likely fulfilled the requirements of a degree except for the occurrence of death.

Rule

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Texas A&M University-Central Texas may award a graduate or undergraduate degree posthumously when a student has substantially completed all requirements for the degree and was in good academic standing at the time of death.
- 1.2 The president of the university must approve the awarding of a degree posthumously and notify the university registrar through the provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.
- 1.3 Degrees awarded posthumously will be noted on the commencement program and a member of the deceased student's family will be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony in which the deceased student is recognized.

2. CRITERIA FOR AWARDING DEGREES POSTHUMOUSLY

For a posthumous degree to be awarded, the following circumstances must have occurred:

- 2.1 The student was enrolled in courses that, upon successful completion, would have culminated in the awarding of the degree. Requirements for specific degrees are as follows:

- 2.1.1 Bachelor's Degree

- (a) The student was enrolled at the university in the final semester in which the degree was to be conferred. In case of summer graduation, enrollment in

the first summer term meets this requirement. If the student lacked only one summer term to complete his or her degree but was not enrolled during the first term, anticipated enrollment during the second term fulfils the enrollment requirement.

- (b) The student's grade point average must have been a minimum of a two on a four point scale.

2.1.2 Master's Degree

- (a) Enrollment requirements are the same as those set forth in section 2.1.1(a) above unless the student was writing a thesis.
- (b) If the student was writing a thesis, all coursework must have been completed with passing grades and the thesis proposal defense was scheduled.
- (c) The student must have had a minimum grade point average of three on a four point scale for his or her graduate work.

3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The dean of Student Affairs or designee receives a request from the student's family for a posthumous degree. If necessary, the dean seeks verification of the student's death.
- 3.2 The dean of Student Affairs notifies the registrar, who updates the student information system and generates a degree audit report. The degree audit report is forwarded to the academic college dean and, in the case of a graduate student, the dean of the graduate school, for review to ensure compliance with the posthumous degree rule.
- 3.3 The college dean reviews the student's degree audit report and verifies compliance with university requirements governing the awarding of a degree posthumously. The dean forwards the approved recommendation to the provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.
- 3.4 For a graduate student, the dean of the graduate school will also forward a recommendation to the provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.
- 3.5 The provost and vice president for academic and student affairs reviews the dean's recommendations and forwards the approved recommendation to the president for approval.
- 3.6 The Office of the President notifies the provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, of the decision to either approve or deny the award of the degree.
- 3.7 The provost and vice president for academic and student affairs notifies the dean of student affairs, the college dean, the dean of the graduate school, and the university registrar of the decision.

- 3.8 The college dean or designee notifies the family of the approval or disapproval of the degree and arranges for the family to attend the commencement ceremony. The university registrar prepares the diploma for the commencement ceremony.
- 3.9 The university registrar updates the student information system to reflect that the student was awarded the degree posthumously without meeting the requirements for the degree.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

System Policy [*11.08 Awarding of Posthumous Degrees*](#)

Contact Office

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