

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 granting and 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 (A&M-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 A&M-Central Texas 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 their 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 would have to be a minimum of a two on a four-point scale.
- (c) The degree must be recommended by the chair of the student's major department and the dean of the college in which the student was enrolled.

2.1.2 Graduate Degrees

- (a) Enrollment requirements would be the same as set forth in Section 2.1.1(a) above unless the student was writing a thesis.
- (b) If the student was writing a thesis or dissertation, all coursework must have been completed with passing grades and substantial progress toward the completion of the thesis or dissertation should have been made.
- (c) The student would have to have a grade point average of three on a four-point scale for their graduate work.
- (d) The degree must be recommended by the chair of the student's major department and the dean of the college in which the student was enrolled.

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 Department Chair, Academic College Dean, and the Dean of the Graduate School (if for a graduate student) for review to ensure compliance with the posthumous degree rule.
- 3.3 The Department Chair reviews the student's degree audit report, consults with the student's professors as needed, and verifies compliance with University requirements governing the awarding of a degree posthumously. The Department Chair will forward to the dean a written recommendation regarding the posthumous awarding of a degree. The Dean will review the recommendation along with the student's academic record and then forward their recommendation and that of the Department Chair 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 recommendations and forwards their 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.
- 3.10 Any exceptions to this rule or the process of awarding degrees posthumously must be approved by the President.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

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

Contact Office

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