

**Office of the Registrar
Proposed Catalog Changes
Effective Summer 2020**

POSTHUMOUS DEGREES. In the instance of a student's death prior to degree completion, it is important that the university recognize the effort made toward degree achievement.

A-1. Undergraduate Posthumous Degrees. Requests for the award of a posthumous degree at the undergraduate level should be referred to the Registrar's Office.

A-2. Criteria.

- a. Posthumous degrees may be awarded to deceased undergraduate students who have completed all but thirty (30) credit hours of the requirements for graduation and have been enrolled as a student within the past two regular semesters. The remaining thirty (30) credit hours would complete their degree requirements and meet all university, college, and department GPA requirements.
- b. Posthumous degree must be approved by the academic department and college.

A-3. Appeal. If the student could not have reasonably completed all requirements in the final thirty (30) credits of attendance, but the request has the support of the academic department and college office, the request must be reviewed and approved by the Academic Petitions Committee. In instances where the award of the degree posthumously is not appropriate due to remaining requirements, the college may wish to grant a certificate acknowledging a student's course of study in a particular discipline.

B-1. Graduate Posthumous Degrees. Due to the nature of studies at the graduate level, requests for posthumous degrees for master, specialist, or doctoral-level students are referred to the College of Graduate Studies. The College of Graduate Studies determines whether a posthumous degree for a particular student will be considered. If so, the College of Graduate Studies will review the request with the appropriate academic department and college office. The College of Graduate Studies will inform the Registrar of the decision.

B-2. Criteria.

- a. Posthumous degrees in non-thesis graduate programs or in College of Law programs may be awarded to deceased graduate and law student who have completed 75% of the required coursework, were in good academic standing, were registered within the last year, and would have likely finished the degree within one academic year.
- b. Posthumous degrees in masters thesis or doctoral programs may be awarded to deceased graduate students who have completed all required coursework, have successfully defended a proposal of their research to their committee, are in good academic standings, and would have likely defended their thesis or dissertation within one academic year. Additionally, doctoral students must have been successfully advanced to candidacy.

B-3. Appeal. If the student could not have reasonably completed all requirements in an academic year, but the request has the support of the academic department and college the request must be petitioned for consideration to the University Graduate Council for approval. If the student does not meet the criteria for a posthumous degree or in instances where the award of the degree posthumously is not appropriate due to remaining requirements, the college may wish to grant a certificate acknowledging a student's course of study in a particular discipline.

C-1. Transcript Notation. Upon posting of the degree, the transcript will be annotated to indicate that the degree was awarded posthumously.