



## **Awarding of Posthumous Degrees/Certificates of Commendation**

### **Purpose**

This policy outlines the parameters for awarding a deceased student a posthumous degree or certificate of commendation.

### **Persons Affected**

This policy applies to university students, the Division of Academic Affairs, Registrar's Office, and Dean of Students Office.

### **Definitions**

None

### **Policy**

A deceased student may be eligible for award of a posthumous baccalaureate or graduate degree under the following conditions as confirmed by Academic Dean, Provost/Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs, and as approved by the President of the University:

- A. The student is deceased; and
- B. The Academic Dean determines the student has completed sufficient coursework to be awarded the degree. For graduate/doctoral students, the student must have completed sufficient work towards their thesis or dissertation (if required by the degree).

If the deceased student had not completed sufficient coursework to be awarded a degree, he/she may be eligible for award of a posthumous Certificate of Commendation as confirmed by the Academic Dean, Provost/Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs, and approved by the President.

### **Procedures**

The Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students will notify the deceased student's Academic Dean of the student's eligibility for awarding of a posthumous degree or certificate of commendation. The Academic Dean will determine whether a deceased student is eligible for award of a posthumous degree or certificate of commendation based on the conditions above and will make their recommendation to the Provost/Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs. The Provost/Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs will review the Academic Dean's recommendation and make their recommendation to the President. Upon the President's approval, the Provost/Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs will notify the Academic Dean, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students and the Registrar's office regarding the action to take.



Upon approval by the President, the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students will notify the family of the student to be awarded a posthumous degree or certificate of commendation. The Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students will additionally determine if the family receiving a posthumous degree wishes for it to be conferred at a regularly scheduled commencement. Certificates are not eligible for award at commencement.

The posthumous nature of the degree will be indicated on the awarded diploma, the student's permanent academic transcript and, if time allows, in the commencement program. Certificates are not noted on the transcript or in the commencement program.

Exceptions to this policy may be approved by the President, upon recommendation from the Academic Dean and Provost/Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

### **Related Statutes or Regulations, Rules, Policies, or Standards**

None

### **Responsible Executive**

Provost & Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; Vice President for Enrollment Management; Vice President for Student Affairs

### **Forms**

None

### **Revision History**

None