

11.08.99.01 Award of Posthumous Degrees

Revised: July 9, 2019

Next Scheduled Review: July 9, 2024

RULE STATEMENT

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-San Antonio or University) recognizes that the death of an enrolled student represents a loss to family, friends, and the University. A&M-San Antonio may honor a deceased student's academic achievement by awarding a posthumous degree in accordance with the criteria and process set forth in this rule.

REASON FOR RULE

The Texas A&M University System Policy *11.08*, [Awarding of Posthumous Degrees](#) requires this rule because A&M-San Antonio elects to award posthumous degrees.

OFFICIAL RULE

I. CRITERIA

I.I. A&M-San Antonio may award a posthumous graduate or undergraduate degree to a student who at the time of death had substantially completed the requirements for the degree and was in good academic standing. For a posthumous degree to be awarded, one of the following must have occurred:

I.I.I. The student completed all academic requirements for the degree, but died prior to certification of degree completion.

I.I.2. The student was enrolled in courses that, upon successful completion, would have culminated in the awarding of the degree within 6 months. Guidelines for specific degrees are as follows:

I.I.2.I. Bachelor's degree

I.I.2.I.I. The student must have been enrolled in one of the semesters in which the degree would have been conferred. In the case of summer graduation, enrollment in the first summer term

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

- 1.1.2.1.2. The student held a minimum grade point average of two on a four point scale.
- 1.1.2.1.3. The degree must be recommended by the Chair of the student's major department and the Dean of the college the student was enrolled in.

1.1.2.2. Graduate degree

- 1.1.2.2.1. The enrollment requirement is the same as that for the bachelor's degree, unless the student was writing a thesis or had an internship or practicum to complete at the conclusion of coursework.
- 1.1.2.2.2. If the student was writing a thesis at the time of death, the student must have completed all courses with passing grades and must have made substantial progress toward completion of the thesis.
- 1.1.2.2.3. For a culminating practicum or internship, the student must have been enrolled in the practicum or internship or must have been in the final semester of coursework preceding the practicum or internship.
- 1.1.2.2.4. The student held a minimum grade point average of three on a four-point scale for graduate work.
- 1.1.2.2.5. The degree must be recommended by the Department Chair and the Dean of the College the student was enrolled in.

2. PROCESS

- 2.1. The Chair of the department in which the student was pursuing the degree at the time of death is responsible for ensuring that the process set forth below is followed.
- 2.2. The Chair of the department in which the student was pursuing the degree (or, for a college-wide degree, the Chair of the college's committee in charge of student

advancement) shall review the student's academic record, standing, and progress and consult with the student's professors. The Chair shall forward to the Dean a written recommendation regarding whether to award the student a posthumous degree along with the student's academic record. Recommendations provided by the student's professors shall also be forwarded to the Dean.

- 2.3. The Dean will review the materials, recommend whether to award a posthumous degree, and forward the completed package to the Provost, who will also review the materials and make a recommendation regarding whether to award the degree.
- 2.4. The Provost will present the materials and his recommendation to the President, who shall determine whether to award a posthumous degree.
- 2.5. The President may approve exceptions to the criteria and process for awarding a posthumous degree.
- 2.6. A posthumous degree will customarily be noted on the commencement program and a member of the deceased student's family may be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony in which the deceased student would have been eligible to participate.
- 2.7. A diploma issued posthumously shall be mailed to the person legally authorized to manage the deceased student's affairs.

RELATED AUTHORITIES

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

CONTACT OFFICE

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