Texas A&M University-San Antonio

11.08.99.O1 Award of Posthumous Degrees
Approved: October 21, 2011
Last Reviewed: April, 2013
Next Scheduled Review: April, 2015

Rule Statement

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (TAMU-SA) establishes a tradition of awarding posthumous degrees that recognizes the loss to the University, family, and friends when a student is deceased while enrolled at the University. 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.

Reason for Rule

This Rule will outline the requirements and process for awarding a degree posthumously. This Rule is required by System Policy 11.08 Award of Posthumous Degrees.

Official Rule

1. CRITERIA FOR AWARDING POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

1.1. TAMU-SA 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. For a posthumous degree to be awarded, one of the following circumstances must have occurred:

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

1.1.2. The student had been 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:

1.1.2.1. Bachelor's Degrees

1.1.2.1.1. 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 would meet this requirement. If the student lacked only one summer term to complete his/her degree but was not enrolled during the first term, anticipated enrollment during the second term would be taken as fulfilling the enrollment requirement.

1.1.2.1.2. The student's grade point average must be a minimum of a two on a four point scale.

1.1.2.1.3. The degree must be recommended by the student's major department and the School Head.

1.1.2.2. Master's Degrees

1.1.2.2.1. Enrollment requirements are the same as for the bachelor's degree unless the student was writing a thesis or has an internship or practicum to complete at the conclusion of all coursework.

1.1.2.2.2. If the student was writing a thesis, all course work must have been completed with passing grades. Substantial progress toward the completion of the thesis should have been made.

1.1.2.2.3. In the case of a culminating practicum or internship, the student must be enrolled in the practicum or internship or in the last semester of coursework preceding the practicum or internship.

1.1.2.2.4. The student must have a grade point average of three on a four-point scale for his/her graduate work.

1.1.2.2.5. The degree must be recommended by the student's department head and School Head.

2. PROCEDURES

2.1. The School Head, from the school in which the student was pursuing the degree at the time of death, is responsible for ensuring that the procedures below are followed.

2.2. Any exceptions to the rule on awarding of degrees posthumously must be approved by the President.

2.3. The chair of the department in which the student was pursuing the degree (or the chair of the college's committee in charge of student advancement in college-wide degrees) is responsible for reviewing the student's academic record and consulting with the student's professors. This responsible official shall forward his/her written recommendation, along with the academic record, to the School Head. Any recommendations provided by the student's professors shall also be forwarded to the School Head.

2.4. The Provost will review the materials and decide whether or not to include the individual on the list of degree recipients. He will present his recommendations to the President. The President approves all posthumous degrees.
2.5. Customarily, degrees awarded posthumously will be noted on the commencement program and a member of the deceased student's family will be permitted to participate, upon approval, in the commencement in which the deceased student would have been eligible to participate. The student's diploma will be mailed to the person legally authorized to manage the deceased student's affairs.

### Related Policies

- System Policy [11.08 Award of Posthumous Degree](#)

### Contact Office

Office of the Provost- (210) 784-1200

### System Approvals*

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

Ray Bomilla  
General Counsel

Approved:

John Sharp  
Chancellor

*System approvals are contingent upon incorporation of any and all System-required changes in the rule’s final posting.*