

11.08.99.R1 Awarding of Posthumous Degrees



Revised: March 6, 2024

Next Scheduled Review: March 6, 2029

Rule Summary

East Texas A&M University (the University) has a long-standing tradition of awarding posthumous degrees that recognizes the loss to the university, family, and friends when a student passes away.

This rule provides the process by which the University may award a posthumous degree in accordance with System Policy *11.08, Award of Posthumous Degrees*.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 The University may award a graduate or undergraduate degree posthumously when a student is in good academic standing as defined by University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.13 and not the subject of disciplinary actions at the time of death.
- 1.2 Degrees awarded posthumously will be noted on the commencement program and a loved one of the deceased student will be permitted to participate, upon approval, in the commencement ceremony. The student's diploma will be mailed to the person legally authorized to manage the deceased student's affairs.

2 POSTHUMOUS BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- 2.1 A bachelor's degree may be awarded based on the following: the student must have completed at least one semester at the university within the three years prior to their death and be in good standing, academically. If the student had declared a major prior to their death, the bachelor's degree conferred may be in that major. If the student had not declared a major prior to their death, the student will be awarded a bachelor's degree in general studies.

3 POSTHUMOUS GRADUATE DEGREE

- 3.1 A graduate degree may be awarded posthumously based on the following: the student must have completed at least one semester in a graduate program at the university within the three years prior to their death and be in good standing, academically. The degree conferred will be the graduate degree that the student was pursuing at the time of their death.

4 PROCEDURES

- 4.1 The Dean of the College in which the student was pursuing the degree at the time of death is responsible for making sure that the procedures in this section are followed.
- 4.2 Within five business days after receiving a request to have a degree posthumously awarded, the department head of the applicable department in which the student was pursuing a degree will contact the Registrar's Office to verify that the student had completed at least one semester in the three years prior to their death, and was in good standing, academically, and the department head will verify that the student was not subject to any disciplinary action at the time of their death. The faculty in that department will be asked to notify the department head if they are aware of any reason why a degree should not be posthumously conferred to the student.
 - 4.2.1 If the student had not completed a semester at the university in the three years prior to their death, was not in good academic standing, or was subject to disciplinary action at the time of their death, the department head will inform the deceased student's family that the student is not eligible to have a degree posthumously awarded.
 - 4.2.2 If the student had completed a semester at the university in the three years prior to their death, was in good academic standing, and was not subject to disciplinary action, the department head will forward their written recommendation, including any information provided by the faculty in the department, to the dean of their college. The written recommendation will include verification that the student was not subject to any disciplinary action at the time of death.
- 4.3 Within 48 hours of receiving the recommendation from the department head, the dean of the applicable college will simultaneously inform the Faculty Senate president and the graduate dean (if applicable) of the request and the recommendation of the department head, including all information related to eligibility and any information shared by faculty in the department. The members of the Faculty Senate will be asked to inform the Faculty Senate president in writing of any reason they are aware of that the student should not have the degree posthumously awarded, and to vote on whether to award the degree posthumously. No later than 48 hours after receiving notification from the college's dean, the Faculty Senate president and the graduate dean will provide any information they are aware of that the student should not have the degree posthumously awarded and the Faculty Senate president will notify the college's dean of that body's vote.
- 4.4 Following receipt of any information from the Faculty Senate president or graduate dean, and the vote from the Faculty Senate, the college dean will forward to the president and provost a written recommendation, including any information gathered in accordance with Sections 4.2 and 4.3 above, regarding whether to posthumously confer the degree upon the student.
- 4.5 The President, with input from the provost, makes the final decision on the posthumous awarding of the degree and notifies the Registrar through the provost.

4.6 It will be noted on the student's transcript that the degree was awarded posthumously.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

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

University Procedure [*13.99.99.R0.13 Good Academic Standing*](#)

Suspends University Procedure *11.08.99.R1.01 Awarding Degrees Posthumously Procedure*

Revision History

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