



Posthumous Degree Policy
RES 232404

AAC

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate adopt the “Posthumous Degrees” policy.

RATIONALE: Currently there is no policy for the granting of posthumous degrees, resulting in varying standards across schools, departments, and programs. The “Posthumous Degrees” policy provides clear and consistent standards for granting such honors.

Attachment:
Posthumous Degrees Policy_Final.docx

Distribution List:
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Approved by the Academic Senate: October 26, 2023

Sent to the President: November 13, 2023

President Approved: November 17, 2023



California State University, Bakersfield
Division of Academic Affairs

Policy Title: Posthumous Degrees

Policy Number: TBD

Policy Status: [Draft]

Affected Units

Cabinet

Deans

Academic Departments and Programs

Policy Statement Text

Students who, at the time of their death, had completed a "substantial portion" of the requirements for graduation may be awarded a posthumous degree by the President upon recommendation of the faculty.

Procedures for Considering and Granting the Posthumous Degree

Baccalaureate Degrees:

The President may, upon recommendation of the faculty, confer a posthumous bachelor's degree to a student who, at the time of death, had completed a "substantial portion" of the requirements for graduation. The request for consideration must come from the dean or associate dean of the student's major school upon the recommendation of the faculty of the student's major program. A "substantial portion" means that at the time of death, the student:

1. was actively matriculated or eligible to be matriculated at the California State University, Bakersfield;
2. was within 30 units of completing their degree;
3. had satisfactorily completed at least 20 semester units of coursework at the University;

4. had a grade-point average of 2.0 or higher for all units used in calculating the student's grade-point average, including those grades received at the University and grades accepted by California State University from other institutions.

Master's and Doctoral Degrees

The President may, upon recommendation of the faculty, confer a posthumous master's or doctoral degree to a student who, at the time of death, had completed a "substantial portion" of the requirements for graduation. The request for consideration must come from the dean or associate dean of the student's major school upon the recommendation of the faculty of the student's graduate program director and department chair. A "substantial portion" means that at the time of death, the student:

1. was actively matriculated or eligible to be matriculated at the California State University, Bakersfield;
2. had completed at least 75% of the required units for the formal program;
3. had a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher in all courses attempted to satisfy requirements for the degree.

Normal processing of requests:

In the case of a student's death, the request for consideration of the posthumous degree can be made by the faculty of the student's program or the family of the student.

Requests are routed through the Office of Academic Programs to the Associate Dean, Department Chair, and, if applicable, Graduate Program Coordinator of the student's program.

Once approved by the School and Department faculty and administration, the Office of Academic Programs notifies the President's Office of the approval. If the President also approves the awarding of the degree, the Office of Academic Programs notifies Enrollment Management and requests the awarding of the degree.

Exceptional Circumstances

In exceptional circumstances including when normal processing of requests has been denied, the President may confer a posthumous degree regardless of completion of the above requirements.

Presentation of the Degree

At the President's discretion, the posthumous bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree will be awarded either at a private ceremony or at the appropriate commencement exercise. If the student was eligible to graduate with honors (e.g., Helen Louise Hawk Honors program, cum laude, etc.), such honors may also be recognized.

Consultations

Cabinet

Academic Senate

Provost's Council

Policy Foundations and References

Title 5

Approved Date: TBD

Effective Date: TBD

Date Submitted to Policy Portal: TBD