

UNIVERSITY RULE

11.08.99.M1 Award of Posthumous Degrees

Approved March 23, 2000

Reviewed April 9, 2019

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Next scheduled review: June 9, 2028

Rule Statement

Texas A&M University has a long standing 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.

Official Rule/Responsibilities/Process

1. POSTHUMOUS BACHELOR'S DEGREES

If at the time of death, a candidate for a bachelor's degree is enrolled in courses that would complete the degree requirements, the appropriate degree may be awarded posthumously on the recommendation of the student's academic department, on the approval of the student's college, the Faculty Senate and the President of the University. Exceptional cases will be referred to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate for review and recommendation to the President.

2. POSTHUMOUS GRADUATE DEGREES

2.1 Any request for a posthumous degree award for a candidate for a graduate degree must be initiated by the chair of the student's advisory committee and contain a positive recommendation from the student's academic department. The Student's advisory committee must certify that it believes that all requirements for the degree would have been completed by the anticipated graduation date under normal circumstances. The award request must be approved by the student's college, the Faculty Senate, and the President.

2.2 For graduate degrees requiring a research product (dissertation, record of study, thesis, or research paper) the research proposal, at the time of the student's death,

must have been signed by each committee member and a significant portion of the dissertation, record of study, thesis or research paper must have been reviewed by the committee and found to be acceptable. Ph.D. students must have been admitted to candidacy.

- 2.3 For graduate degrees not requiring a research product, the student must have been enrolled in courses at the time of death that would have completed the degree requirements. Exceptional cases will be referred to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate for review and recommendation to the President.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

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

Contact Office

[Office of the Provost & Executive Vice President](#)