

POLICY ON THE POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE

Purpose

The University of California, Riverside seeks to extend sympathy and compassion to the families of students who pass away near the completion of their degrees and to recognize the academic achievement of students who would have fulfilled the requirements of the degree. These actions must also be balanced with attention to academic and institutional integrity.

Criteria

Normally, the posthumous degree is conferred on students currently enrolled or on leave at the time of death. To be eligible for a posthumous BA/BS degree, the deceased student must have earned at least 135 units (i.e., senior-level standing) and have a 2.0 GPA. For students who pass away before achieving the requisite number of units or who do not possess the requisite 2.0 GPA, the University of California, Riverside will offer a Certificate of Attendance.

To be eligible for a posthumous MA/MS degree, the deceased student must have been in the final quarter of coursework or enrolled in courses, which upon successful completion would have culminated in the awarding of the degree. For a MS thesis, the deceased student must have completed a draft of the thesis and had it approved by the thesis committee.

To be eligible for a posthumous Ph.D. degree, the deceased student must have completed a draft of the dissertation and had it approved by the dissertation committee.

Procedure

The process for identifying and considering candidates for the award of posthumous undergraduate degrees shall be:

1. A formal request may be initiated by any of the following: a family member, a faculty member, a dean, or a fellow student. If the request is not made by a family member, the family should be contacted and found to be receptive to the possible award.
2. The Office of Student Affairs in the appropriate college will be responsible for reviewing the student's academic record, confirming with the Registrar whether the specified criteria are met, and forwarding the request to the Executive Committee of the College who, on behalf of the Chair of the Division, will then instruct the Registrar to issue the designated degree or certificate.
3. Ordinarily, degrees awarded posthumously will be noted on the commencement program. The student's diploma or certificate will be released or mailed to the person legally authorized to manage the deceased student's affairs. The posthumous nature of the award will be indicated on the diploma and in the student's official transcript. Any fees associated with the administration of the posthumous degree or certificate of attendance shall be waived.

The procedure for identifying and considering candidates for the award of posthumous graduate degrees shall be:

1. A formal request may be initiated by any of the following: a family member, a faculty member, a dean, or a fellow student. If the request is not made by a family member, the family member should be contacted and found to be receptive to the possible award.
2. The Graduate Division and the Department will be responsible for reviewing the student's academic record, confirming with the Registrar whether the specified criteria are met, and forwarding the request to the Graduate Council who, on behalf of the Chair of the Division, will then instruct the Registrar to issue the designated degree or certificate.
3. Ordinarily, degrees awarded posthumously will be noted on the commencement program. The student's diploma or certificate will be released or mailed to the person legally authorized to manage the deceased student's affairs. The posthumous nature of the award will be indicated on the diploma and in the student's official transcript. Any fees associated with the administration of the posthumous degree or certificate of attendance shall be waived.

Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: **July 3, 2006**

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction finds the wording consistent with the Code of the Academic Senate: **October 19, 2006**

Approved by the Graduate Council: **November 22, 2006**

Approved by the CHASS Executive Committee: **November 20, 2006**

Approved by the CNAS Executive Committee: **November 17, 2006**

Approved by the GSOE Executive Committee: **November 16, 2006**

Approved by the AGSM Executive Committee: **October 20, 2006**

Approved by the BCOE Executive Committee: **February 6, 2007**

Endorsed by the Advisory Committee: **February 12, 2007**