

Posthumous Degree Policy

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Current Policy	Proposed Policy
<p>Posthumous Degrees and Certificates of Attendance</p> <p>If a deceased student was very close to earning their degree at the time of their passing (e.g., within 18 credits for an undergraduate degree), the degree can be awarded posthumously. In the case of a student pursuing a graduate degree that requires the completion of a research project and the writing of a thesis or dissertation, the project must be substantially completed and a draft version of the thesis or dissertation must be passed upon by the Program of Study Committee.</p> <p>Inquiries relative to the possibility of a posthumous degree for a deceased student should be referred to the Dean of the student's college. If the Dean supports awarding the posthumous degree, the recommendation must be forwarded to the Provost for consideration and final decision.</p> <p>In some cases the department and/or college may wish to recognize the attendance and/or contributions of a deceased student who is not close to graduating by presenting a posthumous Certificate of Attendance to the family of the deceased student. The request to present a posthumous Certificate of Attendance should be referred to the Dean of the student's college for approval and recommendation to the Provost for consideration and final decision.</p> <p>Certificates of Attendance do not require a minimum period of attendance, and academic degree requirements are not relevant.</p>	<p>Posthumous Degrees and Certificates of Attendance</p> <p>To provide survivors of deceased students with a meaningful acknowledgement of the student's accomplishments and legacy at Iowa State University, the University may grant degrees or certificates of attendance posthumously.</p> <p>Consideration for a posthumous degree or certificate of attendance may be initiated by student's department/graduate program, by the Office of Student Assistance and Outreach, or by family members or other survivors. The student's death should be reasonably proximate to their enrollment at Iowa State; special consideration should be granted for circumstances such as departure due to military deployment or critical illness or injury.</p> <p>In some cases, it may be appropriate to recognize the enrollment and/or contributions of a deceased student who is not seeking a degree by presenting a posthumous Certificate of Attendance. Certificates of Attendance do not require a minimum period of attendance, and academic degree requirements are not relevant.</p> <p>For undergraduate and professional students, the student's College may recommend conferral of the posthumous degree or certificate of attendance, which will be forwarded to the Provost for consideration and a final decision.</p> <p>For graduate students, their department or interdepartmental graduate program may recommend conferral of the posthumous degree or certificate of attendance to the Graduate College. The Graduate College will review the request with the disciplinary college of the student and forward the</p>

	<p>request to the Provost for consideration and a final decision.</p> <p>After a request is approved, the University can issue the diploma or certificate of attendance to the survivors of the deceased student. The student's permanent record, and the commencement program, will indicate the degree was conferred posthumously, but no notation that the degree was awarded posthumously will be made on the diploma.</p>
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Approved ASAC (4-0-0) – July 20, 2022

{The Graduate College Handbook should be consulted regarding the granting of posthumous degrees for students that were enrolled in graduate and professional programs.}

Amended by Faculty Senate to remove credit and gpa requirement – October 18, 2022

Amended by representatives of Academic Affairs Council, FS-Academic Standards and Admissions Committee and the Graduate College to reflect policies for both undergraduate and graduate students.

For Reference – Proposed wording from Graduate College

To provide the survivors of deceased graduate students with a meaningful acknowledgement of the student's accomplishments and legacy at Iowa State University, the University may grant graduate degrees posthumously.

Consideration for a posthumous degree may be initiated by student's department/graduate program, by the Office of Student Assistance and Outreach, or by survivors. The student's death should be reasonably proximate to their enrollment at Iowa State; special consideration should be granted for circumstances such as departure due to military deployment or critical illness or injury.

After considering the program-specific progress/milestones achieved by the student, their department or interdepartmental graduate program may recommend conferral of the posthumous degree to the Graduate College. The Graduate College will review the request with the disciplinary college of the student and forward the request to the Provost for consideration and a final decision. When approved, the student's permanent record will indicate that the degree was conferred posthumously. No special notation will be made on the diploma.

In some cases, it may be appropriate to recognize the enrollment and/or contributions of a deceased student by issuing a posthumous Certificate of Attendance. Certificates of Attendance do not require a minimum period of attendance, and milestones toward earning the graduate degree are not relevant.

After a request is approved, the university will issue the diploma or certificate to the requestors. Posthumous graduate degrees are not announced at commencement ceremonies but may be recognized at college convocation events.