

University of St. Thomas Policies

POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

Policy Number: A.04.02

Scope: All students

Purpose: Students who have made significant contributions to the department, field, or University and/or have demonstrated character exemplifying the values and standards of the University and discipline may be eligible for the award of a posthumous degree or certificate of attendance if death occurs prior to completion of the degree.

1. Eligibility for Posthumous Degree

- a. At the time of death, student must be in good standing and either actively attending or on authorized leave of absence.
- b. Student positively contributed to the campus community beyond the classroom, especially showing unusual commitment to university, department, and program values and/or exceptional scholarship.
- c. Undergraduate and course-based graduate degrees: At least 80% of degree requirements have been completed.
- d. Dissertation-based graduate degrees: Student must be in candidacy status and a draft of the dissertation must be available demonstrating that substantive research and preparation has occurred. The student's dissertation committee will make this determination.
- e. Thesis-track graduate degrees: no more than 6 units of coursework may be remaining and a draft of the thesis must be available demonstrating that substantive research and preparation had occurred. The student's thesis committee will make this determination.
- f. The request must be put forward by the department chair in the form of a written justification that fully explains circumstances warranting issuance of the degree.
- g. VPAA must approve request.

2) Submitting a Request for Posthumous Degree

Request is submitted in the form of a memo from the department chair to the chief academic officer.

If approved, the diploma will be issued by the Registrar's Office effective as of the next available conferral date.

Transcripts would reflect the degree conferral with the words "Issued Posthumously" below the degree awarded. Student will be marked as *Deceased* on their official record.

APPROVED: Dr. Richard Ludwick

Date of Original Formation:

Revision Number:

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