

11.08.99.K1 Awarding of Posthumous Degrees



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Rule Statement

This document supplements information in System Policy *11.08, Awarding of Posthumous Degrees*.

Reason for Rule

Texas A&M University-Kingsville awards posthumous degrees according to the provisions stated in this rule. This rule is required by System Policy *11.08* for institutions opting to award posthumous degrees.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. CRITERIA FOR AWARDING DEGREES

Texas A&M University-Kingsville (“TAMUK”) may award an undergraduate or graduate degree posthumously when a student has substantially completed all requirements for the degree and was in good academic and citizenship standing at the time of death. For a posthumous degree to be awarded, one of the following must have occurred.

- 1.1 The student had completed all academic requirements for the degree, but the student died prior to certification of the degree completion
- 1.2 The student had been enrolled in courses that, upon successful completion, would have culminated in the awarding of the degree. Requirements for specific degrees follow.

1.2.1 Bachelor’s Degree

- (1) The student had been enrolled at TAMUK in the semester in which the degree would have been conferred. In the case of summer graduation, enrollment in the first summer term meets this requirement. If the

student lacked only one summer term to complete the degree, but was not enrolled during the first term, anticipated enrollment during the second term fulfills the enrollment requirement; and,

- (2) the student's grade point average at TAMUK must be at least 2.0; and,
- (3) the degree must be recommended by the department chair in the student's major and dean of that college.

1.2.2 Master's Degree

- (1) Enrollment requirements are the same as for the bachelor's degree; and,
- (2) all course work and comprehensive exams must have been completed satisfactorily. Substantial progress toward the completion of the thesis or research project should have been made; and,
- (3) the student's graduate grade point average at TAMUK must be at least 3.0; and,
- (4) the degree must be recommended by the chair of the department, the department graduate coordinator, and the dean of the college in the student's major field. In addition, the graduate committee and the graduate dean must recommend the degree.

1.2.3 Doctoral Degree

- (1) Enrollment requirements are the same as for bachelor's and master's degrees; and,
- (2) all course work and qualifying exams must have been completed satisfactorily; and,
- (3) substantial progress should have been made toward the completion of the dissertation; and,
- (4) the student's graduate grade point average at TAMUK must be at least 3.0; and,
- (5) there should be a reasonable expectation that the degree would have been conferred by the end of the fall or spring semester following the semester in which the student died; and,
- (6) the degree must be recommended by the chair of the department, the department graduate coordinator, and the dean of the college in the student's major field. In addition, the graduate committee and the graduate dean must recommend the degree.

- 1.3 The student was in the final year of his or her studies and was representing the University in an institutional-sponsored activity at the time of death.

2. PROCEDURES

- 2.1 Any exception to the rule or the following procedure for awarding posthumous degrees must be approved by the President.
- 2.2 The dean of the college in which the student was pursuing the degree at the time of death is responsible for ensuring that the procedures below are followed.
- 2.3 The chair of the department in which the student was pursuing the degree is responsible for reviewing the student's academic record and consulting with the student's professors or, if applicable, the student's graduate committee. The department chair should forward his/her written recommendation, along with the academic record, to the dean of the college. Any recommendations provided by the student's professors or the graduate committee should also be forwarded to the dean.
- 2.4 The dean of the college for the student's major reviews the recommendations and confers with the graduate dean (if appropriate). The dean of the college forwards his/her written recommendation and the written recommendation of the graduate dean (if appropriate), along with supporting documentation (academic audit, proof of death, and other relevant materials) to the Senior Vice President and Provost.
- 2.5 The Provost reviews the materials and decides whether or not to include the individual on the list of degree recipients.
- 2.6 Customarily, degrees awarded posthumously will be noted on the commencement program and a member of the deceased student's family will be permitted to participate, upon approval, in the commencement in which the deceased student would have been eligible to participate. The student's diploma will be mailed to the person legally authorized to manage the deceased student's affairs.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[System Policy 11.08, Awarding Posthumous Degrees](#)

Contact Office

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