

# 11.08.99.H1 Award of Posthumous Degrees



Approved: April 17, 2017  
Reviewed: March 26, 2019  
Next Scheduled Review: March, 2024

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## Rule Statement

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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.

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## Reason for Rule

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Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) may award an undergraduate or graduate degree posthumously when a student has substantially completed all requirements for the degree and was in good academic standing at the time of death

This rule complies with [System Policy 11.08, Award of Posthumous Degrees](#) and provides a consistent and equitable process for awarding degrees posthumously.

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## Procedures and Responsibilities

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### 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 A&M-Texarkana may award a graduate or undergraduate degree posthumously when a student has substantially completed all requirements for the degree and was in good academic standing at the time of death.
- 1.2 The President of the university must approve the awarding of a degree posthumously and notify the Registrar through the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- 1.3 Degrees awarded posthumously will be noted on the commencement program and a member of the deceased student's family will be permitted to participate in the commencement in which the deceased student is recognized. The student's diploma will be mailed to the person legally authorized to manage the deceased student's affairs.

### 2. CRITERIA FOR AWARDING DEGREES POSTHUMOUSLY

- 2.1 A degree may be awarded posthumously if:
  - 2.1.1 The student had completed all academic requirements for the degree, but the student died prior to certification of degree completion and;

2.1.2 The student had been enrolled in courses that, upon successful completion, would have culminated in the awarding of the degree.

2.2 Any exceptions to these criteria will be referred to the faculty senate and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for review and recommendation to the President. All exceptions must be approved by the President.

### **3. POSTHUMOUS BACHELOR'S DEGREES**

3.1 The student should have been enrolled at A&M–Texarkana 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 his or her degree but was not enrolled during the first term, anticipated enrollment during the second term may be judged as fulfilling the enrollment requirement.

3.2 In each case the degree requirements would have been completed during the semester in which the student's death occurred.

3.3 The student's grade point average would have to be a minimum of a two on a four point scale.

3.4 The department chair of the deceased student's major should present the academic record and recommendation for awarding the posthumous degree to the dean of the college.

3.5 The award request must be approved by the dean, faculty senate, Provost and the President.

### **4. POSTHUMOUS GRADUATE DEGREES**

4.1 Enrollment requirements are the same as for the bachelor's degree unless the student's graduate degree requires a research product (thesis, dissertation, research paper, etc.)

4.2 If a research product is required, all course work must have been completed with passing grades. Substantial progress toward completion of the research product should have been made.

4.3 Doctoral students must have been admitted to candidacy.

4.4 The student's grade point average would have to be a minimum of a three on a four point scale.

4.5 The department chair of the deceased student's major should present the academic record and recommendation for awarding the posthumous degree to the dean of the college.

4.6 The award request must be approved by the dean, faculty senate, Provost and the President.

**5. PROCEDURES**

- 5.1 The department chair of a student recommended for a posthumous degree shall present the academic record and his or her recommendation for awarding the degree to the college dean.
- 5.2 The dean shall forward his or her recommendation in writing, along with supporting documentation to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- 5.3 The Provost will transmit to the Registrar the file and request a review. After consulting with the faculty senate, the Provost will make a recommendation in writing to the President.
- 5.4 The President makes the final decision on the posthumous awarding of the degree and notifies the Registrar through the Provost.

**Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**


[System Policy 11.08, Award of Posthumous Degrees](#)

**Contact Office**

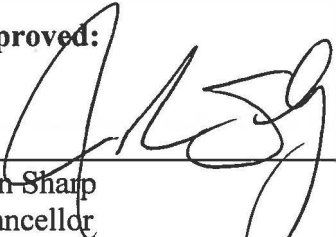
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
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**System Approvals\***

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

  
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 Ray Bonilla  
 General Counsel

4/17/17  
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 Date

**Approved:**  
  
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 John Sharp  
 Chancellor

4/17/17  
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 Date

**\*System approvals are contingent upon incorporation of any and all System-required changes in the rule's final posting.**