

Policy on Awarding a Posthumous Degree

(as approved by Senate on November 22, 2010)

A posthumous degree may be awarded to a deceased student under the following circumstances.

The student must have:

- a. Died while a student, or within 12 months of the last registration;
- b. Been in good academic standing of a high enough standard that eventual graduation was expected;
- c. For an undergraduate student in a program requiring 20 credits, completed at least 15 credits;
- d. For an undergraduate student in a program requiring 15 credits, completed at least 12 credits;
- e. For a graduate student in a course-based Master's program, completed 75% of the course work;
- f. For a graduate student in a thesis-based Master's program, completed all course work and submitted a draft of the thesis deemed satisfactory by the supervisor and one other committee member; and
- g. For a graduate student in a Ph.D. programs, completed all course work, comprehensive examination (or equivalent) and thesis proposal, and submitted a complete draft of the thesis approved by the committee and an external examiner.

A student who was in an Honours or 20-credit undergraduate program at the time of death, but is not eligible for a posthumous Honours or 20 credit-degree, may be recommended for the corresponding 15 credit degree, if the criteria for that degree are met.

Procedures:

- a. On receiving notice of the death of a student, the Registrar, in consultation with the department or school and the Dean(s), shall determine if the deceased student is eligible for a posthumous degree and communicates this information to the Chair of Senate, the Provost and the President.
- b. Upon agreement from all the parties, the Registrar will communicate with the next of kin to confirm whether the family wishes to have a posthumous degree conferred and to discuss possible arrangements for the awarding of the degree.
- c. The posthumous degree will be noted as such in the list of graduands approved by Senate in the Convocation program and on the transcript, but not on the parchment.
- d. If the family wishes, a representative may cross the stage during Convocation in place of the deceased student to receive the degree parchment.