

POSTHUMOUS ACADEMIC DEGREES

PERTINENT INFORMATION

Occasionally, a student may die prior to completing degree requirements. Although the dean has the discretion to waive degree requirements, consistency is important to ensure the quality and integrity of the UTHSCSA degree and meet accreditation standards. This policy sets forth guidelines for awarding posthumous academic degree to deceased UTHSCSA students.

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Upon recommendation from the appropriate department or academic program, approval by the appropriate dean and the VPAFSA, academic degrees may be awarded posthumously. The normal guidelines and conditions for awarding the posthumous degree are outlined below.

UNIVERSITY PROCEDURE

Posthumous Baccalaureate Degrees

Unfulfilled graduation requirements shall be waived, and a posthumous baccalaureate degree awarded, if the following conditions are met at the time of a student's death:

1. The student was making progress toward the degree when last enrolled and had attained a cumulative UTHSCSA grade point average of 2.00 or higher; and,
2. The student either (a) was within fifteen semester credit hours of completing all requirements for the degree, or (b) was in the final semester leading to completion, or (c) there is sufficient evidence that the deceased student would likely have completed all requirements and receive the degree.

Posthumous Master's Degrees

Unfulfilled graduation requirements shall be waived, and a posthumous master's degree awarded, if the following conditions are met at the time of a student's death:

1. The student was making progress toward the degree when last enrolled and had attained a cumulative UTHSCSA grade point average of 3.00 or higher; and,
2. The student either (a) was within nine semester credit hours of completing all requirements for the degree, or (b) was in the final semester leading to completion, or (c) there is sufficient evidence that the deceased student would likely have completed all requirements and receive the degree.

Posthumous Doctoral or Professional Degrees

Unfulfilled graduation requirements shall be waived, and a posthumous doctoral or professional degree awarded, if the following conditions are met at the time of a student's death:

1. The student had completed all course requirements for the degree, was making progress toward the degree, and had attained a cumulative UTHSCSA grade point average of 3.00 or higher; and,
2. The student was enrolled for dissertation hours when last enrolled; and,
3. The student either was within six semester credit hours of completing all dissertation requirements, or there is sufficient evidence that the

deceased student would most likely have fulfilled all dissertation requirements and received the degree.

Awarding of Posthumous Degrees

The posthumous degree will be announced publicly. Family member's may attend the commencement ceremony in honor of the student. The Office of the University Registrar will mail the diploma to a family member designated in the student's official student record.

Posthumous Degrees with Special Circumstances

In rare instances, the president may consider awarding a posthumous degree for circumstances that fall outside these policy guidelines. The president will provide a written statement of special circumstances.

Contact List

Office of the President

Mary Delay- 210-567-2010; Delay@uthscsa.edu

VP-Academic, Faculty, and Student Affairs

Jacqueline Mok- 210-567-2004; Mok@uthscsa.edu

Assistant Deans of Students

Joshua Hanson, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Leadership Training, Long School of Medicine- 210-567-5656; Hansonj4@uthscsa.edu

Stefanie Seitz, Assistant Dean for Students and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, School of Dentistry- 210-567-3180; Seitz@uthscsa.edu

David Henzi, Associate for Academic and Student Affairs- 210-567-4818; Henzi@uthscsa.edu

Vanessa Meling, Associate Dean for Admissions, Student Success, and Engagement, School of Nursing

Jessica Nute, Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Office of Student Life

Le'Keisha Johnson- 210-567-2651; Johnsonld@uthscsa.edu

Student Counseling Service

Mia Veve- 210-567-2648; Veve@uthscsa.edu

Student Health Center

Cindy Sickora- 210-567-5889; Sickora@uthscsa.edu

Office of the Bursar

Diana Gonzalez- 210-567-0635; Gonzalezd5@uthscsa.edu

Office of the Registrar

Blanca Guerra- 210-567-2629; Guerrabe@uthscsa.edu

Office of Veteran Services & Financial Aid

Ellen Nystrom- 210-567-2640; Nystrom@uthscsa.edu