

POLICY

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their death, and to commemorate those achievements for the benefit of their families. This policy is designed to establish consistently administered criteria and procedures under which posthumous degrees may be awarded.

Applicability of the Policy

This policy applies solely to the award of degrees to students enrolled in degree programs at the University of Vermont at the time of their death. It does not apply to honorary degrees, which may be awarded under applicable criteria and procedures; [Honorary Degrees; Candidate Selection Guidelines and Criteria](#), Board of Trustees Policies, Procedures, and Planning Manual.

Definitions

None

Procedures

Any member of the University community or member of the family of the deceased may recommend a student enrolled in a University of Vermont degree program at the time of the student's death for consideration for posthumous award of the degree. If the request for consideration is initiated by someone who is not a member of the family of the deceased, the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President must obtain from the student's family approval of the request for consideration.

The request must be submitted to the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President, which will first verify the death of the student and next ascertain his or her enrollment status and academic standing. Once these steps are completed, the Provost and Senior Vice President will initiate and oversee the progress of the consideration and approvals required below.

The Provost and Senior Vice President will advise the individual who made the request of its final disposition. If the final decision is favorable, and the request was initiated from the family of the deceased, the Provost and Senior Vice President will also notify the family.

A posthumous degree will customarily be conferred at the next regularly scheduled commencement exercise and presented to a member of the student's family or their representative. The commencement program will note that the degree was presented posthumously. The graduation application fee shall be waived. A posthumous degree may also be presented by an appropriate University official to the family at a private gathering.

The Office of the Registrar shall post the notice of the award of the posthumous degree to the student's transcript.

A. Undergraduate degrees

An undergraduate degree may be awarded posthumously if:

1. At the time of death, the student was enrolled in courses required for completion of the degree and nearing completion of work required for award of the degree.;
2. The student was in good academic standing and successfully progressing toward completion of requirements for the degree to be awarded;
3. A favorable recommendation for award of the degree is made by the student's major department and college dean, and is then referred through normal channels to the Faculty Senate for approval; and
4. The President awards the degree in due course.

B. Graduate degrees

A graduate degree may be awarded posthumously if:

1. At the time of death, the graduate student was nearing successful completion of the work required for the degree;
2. The student was in good standing;
3. A favorable recommendation for award of the degree is made by the student's graduate committee, the Graduate College Executive Committee, and the Provost and Senior Vice President.

3. A favorable recommendation for award of the degree is made by the Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and the Dean of the College of Medicine and is then referred through normal channels to the Faculty Senate for approval; and
4. The President awards the degree in due course.

D. Extraordinary Circumstances

University of Vermont Policies and Operating Procedures are subject to amendment. For the official, approved, and current version, please visit UVM's [Institutional Policies Website](#)