UPS 330.164

POSTHUMOUS DEGREE AND RECOGNITION

Students who, at the time of their death, had completed a “substantial portion” of the requirements for graduation may be awarded a posthumous degree by the President. When determining whether to grant a degree under this policy, the President will consider recommendations from faculty designated by the Chair of the Department or Division for which the degree is being conferred.

Guidelines for Awarding a Posthumous Bachelor’s Degree

The President, upon consideration of the recommendations of the faculty within the deceased student’s major or concentration, that college’s dean and the Provost, may confer a posthumous bachelor’s degree to a student who, at the time of death, had completed a “substantial portion” of the requirements for graduation. A “substantial portion” means that at the time of death, the student:

1. was enrolled at the university;
2. was within 15 semester units of completing the minimum number of semester units required for a bachelor’s degree in the chosen major and/or had satisfactorily completed at least 120 semester units of coursework;
3. had satisfactorily completed at least 30 semester units of coursework at California State University, Fullerton, of which at least 21 semester units were upper-division coursework;
4. had satisfactorily completed at California State University, Fullerton at least 12 upper-division semester units in the declared major;
5. had a grade-point average of 2.0 or higher for all units used in calculating the student’s grade-point average, including those grades received at California State University, Fullerton and grades accepted by California State University from other institutions;
6. all course grade requirements for the declared major must be met;

Under exceptional circumstances, such as outstanding service to the university, the President may, upon consideration of the recommendations of the faculty within the deceased student’s major or concentration, that college’s dean, the Provost and the President’s Administrative Board, confer a posthumous bachelor’s degree to a student who, at the time of death, had not completed the requirements set forth above.

Guidelines for Awarding a Posthumous Master’s Degree

The President, upon consideration of the recommendations of the departmental graduate adviser, the department graduate committee, the Director of Graduate Studies, the Associate Vice President for Graduate Programs and Research and the Provost, may confer a posthumous master’s degree to a student who, at the time of death, had completed a “substantial portion” of the requirements for graduation. A “substantial portion” means that at the time of death, the student:
1. was enrolled at the university;
2. had completed the university’s writing requirement;
3. was within 9 semester units of completing the number of semester units necessary for completion of an approved master’s degree study plan;
4. had satisfactorily completed at least 21 semester units of coursework at California State University, Fullerton, not including any courses taken to satisfy prerequisite requirements;
5. had satisfactorily completed at least 15 semester units of graduate coursework;
6. had a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher in all courses attempted to satisfy requirements for the degree; and
7. had received no grade on the study plan below a C.

Under exceptional circumstances, such as outstanding service to the university, the President may, upon consideration of the recommendation of the department graduate advisor, the department graduate committee, the Director of Graduate Studies, the Associate Vice President for Graduate Programs and Research, the Provost and the President’s Administrative Board, confer a posthumous master’s degree to a student who, at the time of death, had not completed the guidelines set forth above.

**Presentation of the Degree**

At the President’s discretion, the posthumous bachelor’s or master’s degree will be awarded either at a private ceremony or at the appropriate commencement exercise. The diploma will state that the degree awarded was a posthumous degree.

**Commencement Program Recognition**

The commencement program will note that the degree was presented posthumously.

**Honors at Graduation**

Students receiving a posthumous bachelor’s degree under this Policy will be awarded honors at graduation for which their academic performance qualifies.

Source: Academic Standards Committee

**EFFECTIVE DATE: April 26, 2013**

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