

11.08.99.W1/AA Award of Posthumous Degree
Approved 05/07/01
Supplements System Policy 11.08

1. AWARD OF POSTHUMOUS DEGREE

West Texas A&M University is governed by The Texas A&M University System's *System Policies and Regulations Manual (SPRM)*. The University has a rule on award of posthumous degrees that governs the University in local matters not detailed in *SPRM*.

West Texas A&M University may award a graduate or undergraduate degree posthumously when a student had substantially completed all requirements for the degree and was in good academic and citizenship standing at the time of death.

For a posthumous degree to be awarded, the student should be enrolled at West Texas A&M University in the semester in which the degree would have been conferred. For graduate degrees requiring a research proposal, the proposal, at the time of the student's death, must have been signed by each committee member and a significant portion of the research proposal must have been reviewed by the committee and found to be acceptable. The degree would be awarded only upon the recommendation of the student's major department. The dean of the school or college, including the graduate dean if for a graduate student, where the student was pursuing the degree at the time of his/her death is responsible for ensuring that the procedures below are followed. The President must approve any exceptions to the rule or procedure on awarding of posthumous degrees.

2. APPLICATION

- 2.1 The division/department head of the deceased student's major should present the academic record and recommendation for awarding the posthumous degree to the dean of the college. The student must have been enrolled in courses that would fulfill degree requirements at the time of death.
- 2.2 If the dean concurs with the recommendation that a degree be awarded posthumously, the dean should forward the recommendation in writing, along with supporting documentation (academic audit and proof of the student's demise) to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- 2.3 The Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs would transmit the request to the Registrar and the Vice President for Student Services for review and for recommendation to "Award" or "Do Not Award."
- 2.4 The Provost/VPAA would review the recommendations and recommend "Award" or "Do Not Award" to the President.

- 2.5 The President would make the final decision on awarding the posthumous degree. The Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs would notify the Registrar and the Vice President for Student Services of the President's decision.
- 2.6 Customarily, degrees awarded posthumously would be noted on the commencement program, and upon approval, a member of the deceased student's family would be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony in which the deceased student would have been eligible to participate. All degrees, including those awarded posthumously, are noted on a transcript, which may be obtained from the Registrar's office or may be mailed to the person legally authorized to manage the deceased student's affairs.

CONTACT FOR INTERPRETATION: Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs