

# Posthumous Degrees and Recognitions

Policy Number  
3660  
Executive Responsibility  
Provost  
Faculty Senate

## 3660.1 Posthumous Degree Definition

Posthumous degrees represent a recognition of completion of degree requirements by individuals who had been enrolled at Wright State University continuously for at least one year prior to their deaths, and who pass away having completed at least 75% of their degree completion requirements.

## 3660.2 Procedure for Applying for Posthumous degree

The application process may be initiated by a fulltime professional employee of Wright State University, a family member of the deceased, or legal representative. The process may be initiated for an individual whose death has not yet occurred, but for whom there is a high probability that death will occur before the next scheduled commencement. All applications will go through the following procedure described below:

- All initiations for consideration for posthumous degrees will first be forwarded to the dean of the appropriate college or school.
- The dean will then request the Office of the Registrar and the relevant degree program or college to verify that the student meets the requirements for a posthumous degree.
- Following verification from the registrar and the degree program faculty, the dean will forward the written recommendation for awarding the degree to the Provost.
- Posthumous degrees will be awarded at the next appropriate graduation ceremony in the twelve-month period following the death of the student, with special attention being given to allowing for the proper and timely notification of the family or next of kin.

## 3660.3 Certificate of Recognition

For applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria for a posthumous degree, those individuals will be eligible for a certificate of recognition in lieu of a posthumous degree.

## 3660.4 Exceptions

In the event that the deceased does not meet one or more of the components of the definition outlined in 3660.1, or an abrupt or untimely death occurs that makes it difficult to complete the procedure outlined in 3660.2 in a timely way, the Provost may accept a petition to expedite or

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the person is deceased;, or documentation will be provided that the recipient is in a near terminal state.

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the person was a recently enrolled a student in academic good standing at the time of death; .

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if at the associate degree level, the student was at least within 10 semester credit hours of meeting all degree requirements, in work already completed;

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if at the baccalaureate degree level, the student was at least within 20 semester credit hours of meeting all degree requirements, in work already completed; .

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if at the master's degree level, the student was at least within 8 semester credit hours of meeting all degree requirements, in work already completed.

~~Deleted: <#>~~In addition to (The credit requirements specified in item 2 above, for all posthumous degree requirements aboves must be approved verified by the relevant degree program and college.¶

~~Deleted: <#>~~approval by

~~Deleted: <#>~~chief academic officer

**Commented [GRO3]:** This comes from Kent State Policy. The idea is that someone who doesn't meet the requirements for the posthumous degree will still get a recognition. This is not meant as a veto of a posthumous degree.  
We would have to discuss how such a certificate can be created.

~~Deleted:~~ The Provost or President may, at their discretion, also recommend issuing a posthumous

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**Commented [w4]:** Change to fit with Cert of Recognition and PostH degree

grant an exception to any of the criteria, with notification to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.