

**Proposed Revision to University Handbook, Section F150- Posthumous Degrees
Proposed Addition to Handbook, Section F151 – ‘In Memoriam’ Recognition
Approved by CAPP (Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures)
Approved by Academic Affairs on October 4, 2022
Approved by Faculty Senate on November 8, 2022**

Rationale: Update posthumous degree policy to address base guidelines for the consideration of a posthumous degree as well as add a recognition option for those students who do not meet the criteria for a posthumous degree recognition.

Effective Published Catalog: 2022-2023

{will apply retroactively for all students regardless of catalog year/requirement term}

Posthumous Degrees

University Handbook, F150: <https://www.k-state.edu/provost/universityhb/fhsecf.html#F150>

Current Policy Statement:

F150 A student who dies while actively pursuing a degree at Kansas State University may be considered for a posthumous degree. The dean may nominate the student for consideration by the Academic Affairs Committee and the Faculty Senate. If approved, it will be noted on the transcript and the diploma that it is a posthumous degree.

Proposal:

Posthumous Degrees [and ‘In Memoriam’ Recognition](#)

F150 [Posthumous Degree](#)

- [Kansas State University seeks to extend sympathy and compassion to families of deceased students nearing completion of their degrees, to recognize the academic achievement of students who would have fulfilled the requirements of the degree, as well as to honor the memory of deceased students whose degrees were in process. These actions must also balance the need to uphold academic and institutional integrity in the awarding of degrees. Students who die while actively pursuing a degree are eligible for a posthumous degree if they are in the last year of their program.](#)
 - [The last year of the program includes but is not limited to undergraduate students in their senior/5th year standing; graduate students within 1-2 semesters of completion; or students with a minimum threshold within 75% of degree completion.](#)

- Due to the close cohort nature of the DVM professional program, College of Veterinary Medicine students who die while actively pursuing a degree in any year of the program, and who were in good academic standing at the time of death, are eligible for consideration for award of a posthumous DVM degree.
- In good standing, both academically (e.g., a minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA for undergraduate students and a minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA for graduate students), and with respect to conduct (e.g., academic integrity violations, student conduct violations, etc.).
- For doctoral degrees, in addition to the requirements above, successfully completed a preliminary exam, proposal defense, and/or a practicum requirement (if applicable).

Recommendation for the award of an undergraduate degree shall be approved by the department head/chair, school/college dean, and then submitted for consideration/approval by the appropriate Academic Affairs Committees and Faculty Senate. Recommendation for the award of a graduate degree shall be approved by the school/college dean and Graduate School and then forwarded to Faculty Senate. Recommendation for award of a posthumous DVM degree shall be approved by the CVM Dean and majority vote of the CVM faculty and then forwarded to Faculty Senate. If approved, the posthumous degree will be eligible for recognition at a commencement ceremony and will be noted on the transcript and diploma as a posthumous degree. at Kansas State University may be considered for a posthumous degree. The dean may nominate the student for consideration by the Academic Affairs Committee and the Faculty Senate.

Exceptions to the eligibility list above may include but are not limited to 1) an interruption in the student's continuous enrollment or withdrawal due to injury, illness, and/or service in the armed forces, or 2) on university approved leave (i.e., Undergraduate Planned Leave, Graduate Leave: Graduate Handbook, Chapter 1; DVM Student/Faculty Handbook; etc.).

F151 'In Memoriam' Recognition

An 'In Memoriam' recognition is issued to acknowledge a deceased student's progress toward the degree and to honor the student's memory as a member of the K-State community. Any student who was enrolled at the University at the time of their death and who does not meet the requirements necessary to be awarded a posthumous degree may be awarded an in-memoriam recognition.

To be considered, a student must have been enrolled in a program at the time of their death and be deemed to have been in good standing or warning, both academically and with respect to conduct. The university may choose to give this award to other deceased previously enrolled students. A recommendation for recognition may be initiated by a friend or family member upon confirmation of a student's passing. The request must be sent to the Office of the Registrar for review and approval.

'In Memoriam' recognitions for students are not included in the official count of degrees and shall not be considered a conferral of a degree, and students are not typically recognized at a commencement ceremony.