



University of Wyoming Posthumous Degree Criteria

- **Undergraduate students** - Requests for the award of a posthumous degree at the undergraduate level should be referred to the Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.
 - A posthumous degree may be awarded to a deceased undergraduate student who has completed all but thirty (30) credit hours of the requirements for graduation and has been enrolled as a student within the past two regular semesters. The remaining thirty (30) credit hours would complete their degree requirements and meet all university, college, and department GPA requirements.
 - The posthumous degree must be approved by the academic department and college.

The Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education will inform the Registrar that requirements for awarding of the posthumous degree have been met.

- **Graduate students** - Due to the nature of studies at the graduate level, requests for posthumous degrees for master, specialist, or doctoral-level students are referred to the Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education. The Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education in coordination with the academic department will determine whether a posthumous degree for a particular student will be considered. If so, the Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education will review the request with the appropriate academic department and college office. The Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education will inform the Registrar of the decision.
 - Posthumous degrees in non-thesis graduate programs or in the College of Law programs may be awarded to deceased graduate and law students who have completed 75% of the required coursework, were in good academic standing, were registered within the past two regular semesters, and would have likely finished the degree within one academic year.
 - Posthumous degrees in masters thesis or doctoral programs may be awarded to deceased graduate students who have completed all required coursework, have successfully defended a proposal of their research to their committee, are in good academic standings, and would have likely defended their thesis or dissertation within one academic year. Additionally, doctoral students must have been successfully advanced to candidacy.
- **Posthumous Scholar** – Should a request for posthumous degree not meet the above criteria, a request may be submitted for recognition as a University of Wyoming Posthumous Scholar. The request will be reviewed and approved as described above.

Application Procedures

- A request for a posthumous degree may be initiated by the family of the deceased or by the academic program. The request should be made in writing to the appropriate Associate Vice Provost as described above.
- The Associate Vice Provost will verify the deceased student meets the required criteria described above for the requested posthumous degree.
- If the student qualifies for the degree, the Associate Vice Provost will request a letter of support from the appropriate academic unit (e.g. department). The letter of support should indicate if the student was in good academic standing and the likelihood of the student completing degree requirements in a timely manner as described above. The letter of support should be routed through the appropriate academic dean (or equivalent) for review and approval.
- Upon receipt of the letter of support, the Associate Vice Provost will send a written recommendation to the Provost and President. The letter of support from the department and dean should be attached to the request. The Provost and President will forward the recommendation to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, the Associate Vice Provost will send a written request for awarding the posthumous degree to the Registrar for degree preparation.
- When the degree is available for award, the original posthumous degree requester will be notified and arrangements made with the home college to award the degree at an appropriate time and venue.
- For requests that do not qualify for a posthumous degree, a University of Wyoming Posthumous Scholar certificate will be provided to the requester.