

UAB Requirements for Awarding Posthumous Degrees and Recognition
November 30, 2005

According to Rule 204 of The University of Alabama Board of Trustees, "It shall be the policy of the Board of Trustees, upon recommendations of the President, to award posthumous degrees for students who have successfully completed a substantial portion of their academic programs...." In accordance with that policy, UAB has established the following requirements and procedures for the awarding of posthumous degrees to recognize the achievements of students who have died while enrolled at UAB.

Requirements for Awarding an Undergraduate Degree

An undergraduate degree may be awarded if, at the time of death, the student was in good standing with the University and was within 12 semester hours of having completed all degree requirements.

Requirements for Awarding a Graduate Degree

Master's Degree

The master's degree may be awarded if, at the time of death, the student was in good standing with the University and would have successfully completed all degree requirements upon completion of the semester in which death occurred.

Doctoral Degree

The doctoral degree may be awarded if, at the time of death, the student was in good standing with the University and had completed all degree-related course work, passed qualifying examinations, been accepted for candidacy, and would have successfully defended the dissertation during the semester in which death occurred.

Certificate of Recognition

If a student was in good standing with the University at the time of death but had not progressed to a level that would warrant consideration for awarding a degree posthumously, the institution may award a Certificate of Recognition to commemorate the student's standing and accomplishments at UAB.

Process for Recommending the Award of a Degree or Other Recognition

A recommendation to award a degree or to give other recognition to a deceased student must be made within 12 months of the student's death. It may be made by any of the following persons: a faculty member, the chair of the department, the dean of the school, a graduate student mentor, the graduate committee or a member of the student's family. The recommendation must be made to the chair of the department in which the student was enrolled at the time of death, with subsequent approval by the school's dean. In the case of a graduate student, the dean of the school will forward the recommendation to the dean of the Graduate School. The dean of the school or Graduate School, as appropriate, will forward the request to the Provost and President for approval.

Once the University has approved the recommendation to award a degree or to give other recognition to a deceased student, the family of the student will be contacted to seek their approval in the event the family did not make the initial request. The occasion for honoring the student, either by awarding a degree or by giving other recognition, shall be determined by the University, in consultation with the family of the deceased student.

Approved:


Carol Z. Garrison, President