

Policy Revision

Policy Title	Posthumous Degree & Posthumous Certificate of Achievement		
Policy URL	https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/program-graduation/student/posthumous-degree-certificate		
Suggested updates	-Implement Compassionate Certificate of Achievement for students with diagnoses that permanently prevent them from completing their degree.		
Rationale for updates	-Students with a terminal illness/diagnosis are not currently eligible to receive recognition unless they pass away.		
Contact Person for Questions	Abbie Sorg		
Responsible Unit	Office of the Registrar	URL	https://registrar.arizona.edu/
Career Applicability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterinary Medicine		
Approvals Granted <i>(for council use only)</i>	UGC Policies Subcommittee	Scheduled: 11/04/25, 12/02/25	Status: Approved with updates 12/02/25
	Undergraduate Council	Scheduled: 1/13/26	Status:
	Graduate Council	Scheduled:	Status:
	Undergraduate CAAC	Scheduled:	Status:
	Graduate CAAC	Scheduled:	Status:
	Faculty Senate Executive Committee	Scheduled:	Status:
	Faculty Senate	Scheduled:	Status:
	Provost	Scheduled:	Status:

Policy Revision Side by Side

Additions in Green – Deletions in Yellow

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit
<p>Posthumous Degree & Posthumous Certificate of Achievement</p> <p>The University of Arizona extends compassion and understanding to the families of students who pass away near the completion of their degrees. This policy outlines the criteria and procedure for requesting a posthumous degree or a certificate of achievement. In recognition of the student's achievements, students awarded a posthumous degree or certificate of achievement will be included in the next Commencement program.</p>	<p>Posthumous Degree, Posthumous Certificate of Achievement, and Compassionate Certificate of Achievement</p> <p>The University of Arizona extends compassion and understanding to students whose academic progress is permanently halted due to significant medical events. This policy outlines the criteria and procedure for requesting a certificate of achievement or posthumous degree when a student passes away or when an extraordinary circumstance, such as terminal illness, prevents them from completing their academic program.</p>

Existing Policy	Proposed Edit
<p>To be eligible for a posthumous degree, the student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in Eligible or Good Academic standing during the last completed term (Undergraduates: cumulative GPA of 2.0 or greater and major GPA of 2.0 or greater. Graduates: cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.) • Undergraduate: have reached Senior standing (90 completed units) • Graduate & Professional: have completed 75% of the coursework required for the respective degree • Have completed at least one semester at the University of Arizona <p>A student who does not meet the criteria for a posthumous degree may be awarded a Certificate of Achievement at the family's request and support of the College.</p> <p>A posthumous degree or certificate of achievement is awarded at the request of the student's family. To initiate a request, family members or a representative from the student's college should contact the <u>Dean of Students</u>.</p>	<p>Posthumous Degree & Posthumous Certificate of Achievement</p> <p>To be eligible for a posthumous degree, the student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in Eligible or Good Academic standing during the last completed term (Undergraduates: cumulative GPA of 2.0 or greater and major GPA of 2.0 or greater. Graduates: cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.) • Undergraduate: have reached Senior standing (90 completed units) • Graduate & Professional: have completed 75% of the coursework required for the respective degree • Have completed at least one semester at the University of Arizona <p>A deceased student who does not meet the criteria for a posthumous degree may be awarded a Certificate of Achievement at the family's request and support of the College.</p> <p>A posthumous degree or certificate of achievement is awarded at the request of the student's family, and may be included in the next Commencement program if requested. To initiate a request, family members or a representative from the student's college should contact the <u>Dean of Students</u>.</p> <p>Compassionate Certificate of Achievement</p> <p>Students facing extraordinary circumstances that permanently prevent the completion of a degree program, such as terminal illness, may be awarded a Certificate of Achievement at the University's discretion. To initiate the request, the student, family members, or a representative from the student's college should contact the <u>Dean of Students</u>.</p>