



In the event a student dies prior to completing the coursework in their major and earning the required credit hours for graduation, the following criteria will be used to determine whether the student is eligible for a posthumous degree or certificate.

Posthumous Degree: A posthumous degree is a degree that is awarded to a student who has died prior to completing all requirements for graduation, provided that the student had satisfied the **following criteria for the degree** listed below:

Undergraduate

- ❖ The student was enrolled at the time of death and had successfully earned 105 credit hours (at least 30 of which were at Salem State College) and had a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00.
- ❖ The student was in good academic standing and successfully progressing toward completion of requirements for the degree to be awarded.

Graduate

- ❖ The student was matriculated at the time of death and was nearing successful completion of the work required for the degree.
- ❖ The student was in good academic standing.

Procedures

A request should be submitted to the office of the Provost which will verify the student's enrollment status and academic standing.

Any member of the College community or member of the deceased immediate family may recommend a student for consideration for posthumous degree.

If the request does not initiate with the deceased immediate family, the College must notify the family and receive their approval.

Awarding the Posthumous Degree

- ❖ If criteria are satisfied and the President approves, the posthumous degree may be awarded based on the next commencement ceremony, or if desired by the family the degree may be presented in a private gathering as a special gesture to the family.
- ❖ Transcripts will receive the added notation: "Degree Awarded Posthumously."
- ❖ Diplomas will list the word "Posthumously" below the College seal.

Certificate in Recognition of Scholarship in Pursuit of a Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree: If the Registrar determines that the deceased student has not satisfied the criteria for the posthumous degree, the Registrar shall forward the student's achievement record to the President for pending approval of issuing a certificate to the student's family entitled "Recognition of Scholarship In Pursuit of a Baccalaureate Degree (Graduate Degree)."

Note: If the death of the student is determined by law enforcement officials to be the result of illegal activity by the deceased student(s), or is determined by College authorities to have been the result of a violation of the College's Code of Student Conduct by the deceased student(s), the President shall reserve the right not to award either an official certificate or posthumous degree.