

**Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures**  
**Policy 07.01.32**

Section: Student Policies	Responsible Vice President: Senior Vice President & Provost
Subject: Student	Responsible Entity: Student Affairs

**I. Title**

*Posthumous Degrees*

**II. Policy**

- A. The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB) provides opportunities for family members, university officials, and student organizations to request the awarding of a degree posthumously upon the death or terminal illness of a student in attendance at UTMB. This policy applies to undergraduate and graduate students whose deaths or terminal illnesses occur prior to graduation.
- B. When the death of a student occurs while the student is near graduation, this policy provides a procedure to award the student’s degree posthumously in recognition of the efforts expended by the student in the pursuit of a UTMB degree.
- C. A Posthumous Degree may be awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student who is in good academic and financial standing with the University and passes away in the final semester of attendance before graduation. Although grades in the final courses and applications and other arrangements for graduation may not have been completed, the University may in its sole discretion, as a courtesy to the student’s family, award the degree posthumously.

**III. Procedure**

A. Posthumous Degree:

1. A request to award a Posthumous Degree to a current student may be submitted by a family member of the student, authorized representative, or the dean of the school of the student’s program in the circumstances noted above.
2. The request must be submitted in writing within two semesters following the student’s death and must be accompanied by a copy of the student’s death notification (i.e., death certificate, newspaper article, funeral service program).
3. The Provost makes the final decision regarding whether a Posthumous Degree will be awarded.
4. For a student approved to be awarded a Posthumous Degree, there will be a routine announcement at graduation by calling out the name of the student and indicating that the award is being made posthumously in recognition of the effort expended while the student lived unless the student’s family expresses objection to such announcement. The deceased student’s name will be listed in the next commencement program parenthetically noted “Posthumous.” Posthumous Degrees will not be backdated.
5. On the diploma, the words “awarded posthumously” will be printed.
6. On the transcript, it will be noted that it is a Posthumous Degree.

**IV. Definitions**

Posthumous Degree – a degree that is awarded to a student after the student’s death.

**V. Dates Approved or Amended**

<i>Originated: 040925</i>	
<i>Reviewed with Changes</i>	<i>Reviewed without Changes</i>

**VI. Contact Information**

Council of Deans  
(409) 772-2664