



To: Interim VCAA and Provost Elisha Baker,  
University of Alaska Anchorage

Fr: Kimberly Swiantek,  
UAA Governance Office

Re: Posthumous Degrees

On November 2, 2012 the Faculty Senate approved the following joint motion from UAB and GAB:

**Motion: To accept the Posthumous Degree Policy:** University of Alaska Anchorage may confer posthumous degrees and certificates upon students who are deceased prior to but nearing formal completion of all degree/certificate requirements of the programs being pursued. Students who are not considered "nearing completion" as outlined may still be considered for a Certificate of Attendance.

Please see the attached document for more information.

If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

**Provost**

Approved     Disapproved

Comments:

06/11/2012

Elisha Baker, Interim VCAA and Provost

Date

**Chancellor**

Approved     Disapproved

Comments:

7 Nov 2012

Tom Case, Chancellor

Date

# DRAFT

## AWARD OF POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

University of Alaska Anchorage may confer posthumous degrees and certificates upon students who are deceased prior to but nearing formal completion of all degree/certificate requirements of the programs being pursued. Students who are not considered “nearing completion” as outlined below may still be considered for a Certificate of Attendance\*.

### A. Eligibility

To be eligible for the award of a University of Alaska Anchorage degree posthumously the student generally must have met the following conditions:

1. At the time of death, the student was nearing completion of work required for award of the degree. “Nearing completion” is defined as being registered in the final coursework required for degree. For graduate students in thesis programs, significant coursework should have been completed and the student should have commenced the research process. Graduate students in non-thesis programs should have completed a substantial portion of the required coursework.
2. The student was in good academic standing and was successfully progressing toward completion of requirements for the degree to be awarded. Put another way it is reasonable to assume that they would have graduated at the end of the semester.
3. Recommendation for award of the degree was made by faculty in the student’s major department, and approved by the department head, school or college dean and Provost, and, in the case of graduate students, the Dean of the Graduate School.

Final approval for awarding of posthumous degrees shall rest with the Provost.

### B. Approval Process

The process for identifying and considering candidates for the award of degrees posthumously shall be as follows:

1. The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Provost, or the Dean of the Graduate School, upon learning of the death of a University of Alaska Anchorage student, shall ascertain the relative academic standing of the student, as specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Section A above.
2. If the deceased student is determined to be eligible as a candidate for posthumous award of the degree being pursued, the Vice Chancellor for

Student Affairs, of the Dean of the Graduate School, will so certify to the Provost.

3. Upon learning that the deceased student is eligible for consideration for the award of a posthumous degree, the Provost will communicate this information to the appropriate school or college dean.
4. The departmental faculty, department head and dean will determine if the student's overall record merits further consideration and recommendation that the posthumous award be granted; such information will be communicated to the Provost.
5. The Provost will weigh all information relating to each case independently. The Provost's will communicate a decision to posthumously confer a degree to the deceased student's family and to the University Registrar.

C. Awarding of Posthumous Degrees

Upon approval by the Provost the following procedure will be followed:

1. The Provost will notify the family of the deceased student.
2. The degree will be conferred at the next regularly scheduled commencement exercise.
3. The University Registrar will note the posthumous nature of the award on the diploma, the student's permanent record and in the commencement program.

D. Extraordinary Circumstances

Cases that do not meet the above specified criteria may be considered when extraordinary circumstances prevail. In such cases, the appropriate faculty, department head, dean, and the Registrar will be consulted prior to a recommendation being prepared for the Provost's consideration.

**\*CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE**

University of Alaska Anchorage may present a certificate of attendance upon students who are deceased who have attended the university but were unable to complete degree/certificate requirements of the program(s) being pursued.