**Posthumous Degrees Policy**

**Purpose**

A posthumous degree is a University of Colorado Boulder (“CU Boulder”) degree that is awarded to a deceased student in recognition of the student’s academic progress and achievement. This policy establishes minimum eligibility criteria for a posthumous degree in order to uphold academic and institutional integrity.

**Policy**

Regent Law Article 4.B. provides that upon the recommendation of the faculty of a school or college, the Board of Regents shall award the appropriate academic degrees to students who have successfully completed an approved course of study. In accordance with Regent Law, it is the policy of CU Boulder that a posthumous degree may be recommended for a student who, at the time of death, was in good academic standing and had completed sufficient academic work.

Requirements for eligibility for a posthumous degree award include:

* Current enrollment at the time of death (summer excluded) unless enrollment was interrupted by injury, illness, military deployment or similar circumstance
* Good academic standing
* Completion of 75% of requirements toward a degree

A deceased student ineligible for a posthumous degree award may be otherwise recognized, memorialized or commemorated by a department or program at the discretion of the chair or director.

**Procedures**

1. Upon learning of the death of a current student, the dean of students informs the dean of the college/school in which the student was last enrolled. In the case of a graduate student, the student’s college/school is the Graduate School.
2. The dean of the college/school or the dean’s designee (“dean”) conducts a review of the student’s academic record and progress toward degree (see eligibility criteria).
3. If the student’s record indicates eligibility, the dean notifies the department chair or program director of eligibility.
4. If the department or program elects to pursue a posthumous degree for the student, the chair or director submits a formal request for the dean to recommend a posthumous degree. The request includes the student’s name, degree and major and the term for which the posthumous degree may be awarded. It also details the student's standing in the program and progress toward degree requirements.
5. A request for a posthumous degree recommendation for a student who had more than one major may be submitted by one of the major departments/programs, or jointly by more than one of the major departments/programs. The posthumous degree is eligible to be awarded in only the major(s) proposing the degree. The eligibility requirements must be met in each of the majors for which the degree may be awarded.
6. After the dean has approved a recommendation request, the dean notifies the requesting department or program, along with the Office of the Registrar.
7. If the request is not approved, the dean informs the requesting department/program of the reason for the denial. The dean's decision not to approve a request for recommending a posthumous degree is final and may not be appealed.
8. After a recommendation by the dean, the Board of Regents may award the degree. The family (or other designated contact) of the deceased student may be notified of the posthumous degree award. Notification is typically handled by a faculty member in the department/program or college/school or by another university official who knew the student.
9. The Office of the Registrar posts the posthumous degree award to the student’s academic record and orders an official diploma. Posthumous degree awards typically are included in the commencement program.
10. The diploma is mailed to the family (or other designated contact) of the student unless arrangements have been made by the college/school or a commencement coordinator for the family (or a designee) to accept the diploma during a recognition or commencement ceremony.

**Effective Date**

June 1, 2020

**Original X\_\_ Revised \_\_\_**

**Approved by**

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University Registrar