

**Academic Council Policy**

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Posthumous Degrees

# 1032

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**Description:**

Degrees may be awarded posthumously to undergraduate students at the discretion of the Dean of the student's Faculty and to graduate students at the discretion of the Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies.

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**Approvals:**

Approved by Academic Council: March 1, 2010  
Effective: March 2010

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**Approval Authority:** Academic Council

**Signature:** Archie Graham, Chair

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**Policy:**

On the recommendation of the student's Chair or Graduate Program Director and at the discretion of the student's Dean or the Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies and with the approval of the next of kin, a degree may be awarded posthumously to a student in good academic standing. Each case is determined on its own merits. The notation 'Degree Awarded Posthumously' will be recorded on the student's academic record and in the graduation program.

As well, the Dean/Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies may approve the awarding of a degree to a student who is in hospital or palliative care and not expected to survive.

**1. Eligibility for Posthumous Undergraduate Degree:**

- a) The student must have registered for one or more OCAD courses within the previous two years.
- b) The student must have completed at least 75% of her/his program.
- c) The academic record of the student must demonstrate that the student would have been expected to successfully complete remaining graduation requirements.

**2. Eligibility for Posthumous Graduate Degree**

- a) For degree not requiring a research product:
  - i) The student must have registered for final courses.
  - ii) The academic record must demonstrate that the student would likely have achieved a minimum 75% final cumulative grade point average and would have fulfilled the requirements of the degree.

- b) For degree requiring a research and/or exhibition product:
  - i) The student must have completed all course requirements and be near completion of thesis and/or exhibition plan.
  - ii) The student's supervisory committee must have found the student's thesis proposal and preliminary draft of the thesis or exhibition plan to be of substantial work and worthy of the degree.

### 3. Procedures

- a) The name of a student who may be eligible for a posthumous degree must be forwarded to the Registrar, who will determine eligibility. If the student is eligible, this information is sent to the student's Chair or Graduate Program Director.
- b) The Chair/Graduate Program Director of the student's program makes a recommendation to the Dean/ Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies that a degree be awarded for the student.
- c) If approved by the Dean/Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies, the name will be forwarded to the Registrar for inclusion with the list of graduates to be approved by Academic Council.
- d) The Dean/Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies or the Registrar will contact the family and make arrangements regarding the presentation of the certificate.
- e) The degree will be conferred at the next regularly scheduled convocation ceremony.
- f) The notation 'Degree Awarded Posthumously' will be recorded on the student's academic record, on the diploma and in the graduation program.