

Pennsylvania College of Technology

Policy Statement

Title: Posthumous Degrees

Number: P 4.56

Approved by:
Presidential Action

Approved Date: 06/2014
Implementation Date: 07/2014
Last Review Date: 11/2024
Last Revision Date: 11/2024

Persons/Departments Affected:

Student Affairs, Academic Schools, Registrar's Office, and departments College-wide

Responsible Department:

Academic Affairs

Definitions:

Posthumous degrees – Degree awarded to a deceased student.

Good Academic Standing - Good standing is defined as not having any of the following statuses: academic probation, academic suspension, academic dismissal, disciplinary suspension or expulsion.

Policy:

- I. Posthumous degrees may be awarded following the steps outlined in Procedure [PR4.56](#). The credential awarded may be a certificate, associate's degree, baccalaureate degree, master's degree, or post-master's certificate.
- II. Requirements - A deceased student may be considered a candidate for a posthumous degree when the following requirements are met.
 - a. Official obituary is submitted to the Registrar's Office.
 - b. The student must have been in good academic standing with Pennsylvania College of Technology at the time of death.
 - c. The student must have been enrolled at time of death or their continuous enrollment was interrupted by their injury, illness, or other extenuating circumstance. Consideration will also be given to students who completed course requirements at another institution (intended for transfer back to Penn College) after leaving the College.
 - d. The student must have been within 15 credits (or one semester as prescribed on the curriculum sequence, as set forth in the official College

Catalog) of completion of a certificate or associate degree, within 30 credits (or two semesters) of completion of a baccalaureate degree, or successfully completed at least 75% of the requirements for a master's degree or post-master's certificate. Consideration for fewer credits may be made where extenuating circumstances exist.

- e. If the student does not meet the minimum credit requirement of the declared major, awarding of a related degree or certificate may be considered if the deceased student has met the minimum credit requirements of that curriculum.
- III. The statement “*awarded posthumously*” will be printed on the student’s academic record but not on the diploma.
- IV. The student’s name will not be released with other graduate names to the hometown newspaper.

Revision History:

- Date: 11/2024 Revised to update language from “profile” to “curriculum sequence” due to student information system conversion.
- Date: 08/2023 Revised to define eligibility for deceased students enrolled in post-master’s certificate and align eligibility for master’s degrees.
- Date: 06/2019 Periodic review along with associated procedure. No changes.
- Date: 07/2017 Revised to define eligibility for deceased students enrolled in master-degree majors.
- Date: 07/2014 Implementation of policy

Cross References:

- Posthumous Degrees Procedure, [PR4.56](#)
- Deceased Student Procedure, [PR4.05](#)