

Proposal for a Posthumous Degree Policy At CCSU

Whereas the granting of academic recognition to students who pass away before earning their degree is common practice at universities nationwide, and

Whereas CCSU has no policy to guide the granting of such recognition,

Be it resolved that CCSU adopts the following policy on the granting of posthumous academic recognition.

Posthumous Degree Policy

- Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at the time of their death in the courses or other credit-bearing activities that would allow them to complete their degree are eligible for the posthumous awarding of the degree appropriate to their course of study.
- Undergraduates who do not meet the standard above but have senior standing are eligible for the awarding of a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment.
- Graduate students who do not meet the standard above but have completed 75% of the credits required to earn their degree are eligible for the awarding of a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment.
- Any student receiving either a posthumous degree or a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment must be in good academic standing at the time of their death.
- The granting of either a posthumous degree or a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment is initiated by the recommendation of the department in which the grantee is a student.
- The department's recommendation must be approved by the dean of the school in which the department is housed and, in the case of graduate students, by the Dean of Graduate Studies as well. The Provost must then approve the dean's recommendation.
- If the Provost approves the granting of a posthumous degree or Certificate of Academic Accomplishment, the decision must be approved by the Faculty Senate, which has authority over the granting of all degrees.
- Departments with deceased students who do not meet the above criteria for unusual or unanticipated reasons may recommend to the appropriate dean the granting of a posthumous degree or a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment, accompanying their recommendation with an explanation of the relevant circumstances.
- The family of the deceased student shall be offered the choice of receiving the diploma or certificate at the first commencement ceremony following the student's death, or in a private meeting with the President of the university or her/his designee.