

Mansfield University
Policy on Awarding a Posthumous Degree

In the event of a death of a Mansfield University student, the University may grant a posthumous degree to the family under the following circumstances:

- a. At the time of passing, the student was an active student in good academic standing.
- b. The student earned at least 45 credits (associate's degree), 90 credits (baccalaureate degree) or 21 credits (graduate degree) towards a Mansfield University degree.
- c. The major department recommends the awarding of the posthumous degree.
- d. No disciplinary actions were pending.

If all conditions are met except B, but the student successfully completed the equivalent of one year of full-time coursework, the University may grant an associate's degree posthumously to the family.

Procedure

1. If the death occurred during the term's withdrawal period, the student will be withdrawn from all courses by the Registrar's Office.
2. If the death occurred after the term's withdrawal period, the Registrar's Office will contact the respective faculty member(s) to determine if they are willing to assign a final grade to the student. This grade will then be posted to the students' record. If the faculty member feels insufficient course work was completed to warrant awarding of a grade, a withdrawal will be posted for those classes.
3. The request for a posthumous degree must be made in writing to the Registrar's Office by a member of the student's immediate family or by a person or group, such as an academic department that has the permission of the student's immediate family to request the degree.
4. The Registrar's Office will notify the appropriate academic Dean to determine whether the student meets the criteria described above. The Dean may recommend to the Provost that a degree be awarded posthumously.
5. The Provost will review the Dean's recommendation and recommend to the President whether a degree will be granted. If so, the Registrar's Office will be directed to print the appropriate diploma and waive any associated fees. The diploma is awarded in recognition only and is not transcribed on the student's record.
6. The Provost will contact the requesting party informing them a posthumous degree will be granted by Mansfield University. The family will be given the option of receiving the degree at graduation, in a small, private ceremony or having the degree mailed to them.

Approved by President's Cabinet 2-22-17