

02-22-00 Posthumous Degrees and Certificates

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for awarding an academic credential posthumously.

POLICY/GUIDELINE

- I. Nashville State Community College may grant degrees or certificates posthumously in the unfortunate event of a student's death during an academic term in which it may reasonably be assumed that the student would have completed all academic credential requirements.
 - A. The student must have been enrolled at the time of death, or their continuous enrollment must have been interrupted by an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, deployment, etc.).
 - B. The student must have been in good academic and disciplinary standing.
- II. Upon learning of the death of a Nashville State student, the dean of the student's academic program will determine the academic qualifications of the student to receive a posthumous degree or certificate and submit a recommendation to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.
- III. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will consider all information relative to the case and will submit a recommendation to the president. The president will ultimately determine whether the deceased student is eligible to receive a posthumous degree or certificate.
- IV. Upon approval by the president, the Vice President of Student Affairs will notify the family of the deceased of the approval. The degree or certificate will be conferred at the next regularly scheduled commencement exercise.
- V. The posthumous degree will be printed in the commencement program and the family may participate in the commencement exercise on behalf of the student.
- VI. The special nature of the award will be reflected on all pertinent records.

SOURCES

- [TBR Policy 2.01.00.02](#)

Approved by Cabinet 1/27/25