

Subject: Conferring Posthumous Awards

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the college’s standards and procedures for conferring posthumous awards.

2. Policy

Tidewater Community College shall confer a posthumous award for a deceased student based upon the recommendation of the Program Head, the Academic Dean, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, with final approval by the President.

The following criteria must be met:

- Official enrollment status was “active student” at the time of death.
- At least 75% of all course requirements for the degree or certificate must have been completed, or “in progress” status.
- Cumulative grade point average earned for all courses included in the degree or certificate must be 2.50 or higher.

3. Responsibilities

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer (“Vice President”) shall be responsible for developing and maintaining procedures that are consistent with this policy and that comply with the policies and principles of the VCCS, SACSCOC, and SCHEV.

4. **Procedures**

Procedures related to proposing, reviewing, selecting and conferring posthumous awards are detailed at

The procedures outlined in this policy are to be followed when conferring posthumous awards.

- 4.1 The Program Head and the Academic Dean who oversees the degree or certificate program in which the deceased student was enrolled shall initiate the process by requesting in writing that the College Registrar conduct a posthumous award review. The process must be initiated within two academic terms (includes summer) following a student's death.

A request to confer a posthumous award may be submitted to the Program Head and/or the Academic Dean by a family member, former instructor, or classmate of a deceased student. If a request is not initiated by a family member, the Program Head or the Academic Dean shall consult with the family before requesting a review by the College Registrar.

- 4.2 The College Registrar shall review the request to determine if the student is eligible for consideration and notify the Vice President. If the student is not eligible, the Vice President will respond in writing to the Program Head and the Academic Dean who submitted the request specifying the reason(s) why the request for a posthumous award is denied.
- 4.3 The Vice President, upon recognition and recommendation of an eligible candidate for a posthumous award, shall forward her/his recommendation to the President.
- 4.4 The President will review the recommendation from the Vice President and make a final decision on the posthumous award request.
- 4.5 If approved by the President, the student's name will appear in the commencement program with an appropriate notation. The student's family will receive an invitation to the commencement ceremony from the President's office. At the appropriate point in the ceremony, the award will be announced and the family will be asked to stand and be recognized.
- 4.6 The College Registrar shall ensure the diploma bears the notation: "Awarded Posthumously."

5. **Definition**

Active Student: A student who was enrolled at the college at the time of her/his death.

Posthumous Award: A degree or certificate awarded to a deceased student who was actively pursuing her/his award at the time of death, and who meets the college's criteria for conferring the degree or certificate posthumously.

6. **References**

[Virginia Community College System Policy Manual Section 5.1.7](#)

7. Review Periodicity and Responsibility

The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall review this policy at the anniversary of its approval and, if necessary, recommend revisions.

8. Effective Date and Approval

The revision of this policy is effective upon its approval by the College President on March 15, 2021.

Policy Approved:

Procedure Developed:

Dr. Marcia Conston
President

Dr. Michelle Woodhouse
Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Chief Academic Officer

9. Review and Revision History

The initial version of this policy was approved on August 6, 2015.

- Revision 1 changes the wording to include degrees, diplomas, and certificates.

Revision 1 approved on March 29, 2018 by President Edna V. Baehre-Kolovani, Ph.D.

- Revision 2 updates position titles and adds “in progress” to the policy statement for criteria to be met.