

**Committee on Educational Policy**  
**Guidelines for Undergraduate Degrees and Certificates Awarded Posthumously**

**Purpose**

The University of California, Santa Cruz seeks to extend sympathy and compassion to the families of students who pass away near the completion of their degrees and to recognize the academic achievement of students who would have fulfilled the requirements of the degree. These actions must be balanced with attention to academic and institutional integrity.

**Criteria**

A. Depending on circumstances, a posthumous baccalaureate degree may be awarded if a student at the time of death fits all the below criteria:

- i. had 135 or more credits and had declared the major(s).
- ii. had completed at least 35 credits in residence at UCSC.
- iii. had attained a cumulative UC GPA of 2.00 or higher.

B. If, at the time of death, the conditions for award of a baccalaureate degree awarded posthumously are not satisfied, a certificate indicating progress toward the degree may be awarded if the student:

- i. had enrolled for a least one full-time quarter of work; and
- ii. had attained a UC GPA of 2.00 or higher.

C. If, at the time of death, the conditions for award of a baccalaureate certificate awarded posthumously or for students who do complete one full-time quarter of work or do not attain a UC GPA of 2.00, the University of Santa Cruz, California will upon request offer a Certificate of Attendance.

**Procedure**

A formal request for the awarding of the degree or certificate may be initiated by any of the following: a family member, a faculty member, a dean, a provost or a fellow student. If the request is not made by a family member, the family should be contacted, if possible, and consulted about the possible award.

Recommendations which fit the above criteria should be forwarded to CEP through the Academic Senate Office. CEP will review proposals ad hoc for the awarding of posthumous undergraduate degrees or certificates. The posthumous nature of the award will be indicated on the diploma and in the student's official transcript. When a posthumous certificate is awarded, the Registrar's Office provides the certificate in accordance with CEP's approved format. (See sample.) The student's diploma or certificate will be sent to the College Provost Office to be released or mailed to the person legally authorized to manage the deceased student's affairs. Normally, any fees associated with the administration of the posthumous degree or certificate of attendance will be waived.

For those students who do not fit the above criterion, CEP recommends that some kind of recognition be given by the college.

Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy on April 11, 1990 and revised February 14, March 23, 2007, May 4, 2016 and November 7, 2018.

Sample Certificate

The University of California, Santa Cruz  
**Stevenson College**

RECOGNIZES THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF

**STUDENT NAME**

A SENIOR IN GOOD STANDING IN THE  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
MOLECULAR, CELL, AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY PROGRAM

GIVEN POSTHUMOUSLY

FALL 2006



PROVOST OF THE COLLEGE