Procedures for Awarding Posthumous Degrees
USSS-03

About This Policy

Effective Dates:
12-25-1110

Responsible University Administrator:
Executive Vice President for University Academic Affairs

Policy Contact:
Jeff Johnston
University Registrar
jjohnsto@iusb.edu

Scope

Policy Statement

A candidate must have completed 85% of credit hour requirements and most of the requirements for the major.

Requests to award a posthumous degree should emanate from the dean's office and must receive the approval of
the campus vice chancellor for academic affairs, and the campus chancellor or provost.

Copies of the written request, plus the requisite approvals, should be sent to the student's school recorder, the
registrar, the campus alumni director and University Ceremonies.

Generally, posthumous degrees are conferred during Commencement season, but not at the main graduation
ceremonies. The intent is to honor the student and to celebrate his or her accomplishments in a meaningful way
while avoiding an awkward public event that may not be of comfort to the family.

Several campuses have found that a small and dignified conferral before or after the main ceremony provides
the right mix of celebration and condolence. At IU South Bend, for example, a degree was presented to a family
in a private room before the start of Commencement. The president spoke and presented the degree and the
chancellor greeting the family. It took about 10 minutes, and was extremely moving. The family then attended the
main ceremony. Their student was listed in the program and, in this case, was mentioned by the chancellor in her
remarks.

Posthumous degree conferrals vary case by case. Thus, each campus will be responsible for working with the
family to determine the time and place for the conferral and for providing pertinent information about the candidate
to University Ceremonies, which will write a brief script. Generally, the president will preside, with the chancellor
and appropriate dean in attendance. The president, chancellor and dean should robe. There may be occasions
when the president is not able to attend. In those cases the chancellor or provost may confer the degree with
advance approval of the president.

History

-