



Policy Type (choose one): New or Existing

Recommended By: Dr. Peggy De Cooke, Provost/VP, Academic Affairs – February, 24, 2020

Approved By: Zvi Szafran, President – April 28, 2020

Effective Date: April 28, 2020

Last Review Date: April 27, 2020 EC; April 9, 2020 FA; February 27, 2020

Policy Contact: Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Contact Phone: (315) 386-7202

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## Posthumous Degree Policy

### I. SCOPE

All students at SUNY Canton

### II. POLICY STATEMENT

In the unfortunate circumstance that a student dies before completing all degree requirements, an honorary posthumous degree or certificate may be awarded if the conditions in this policy have been met.

### III. POLICY

SUNY Canton will award a posthumous degree when the following conditions have been met:

- 75% of the credits required by the degree have been completed (90 credits for a bachelor's degree; 45 credits for an associate's degree)
- Good standing at SUNY Canton with regard to academics and conduct
- Recommendation of the department in which the major program is housed

If a student has not met the requirements to award a posthumous degree, SUNY Canton will award a posthumous certificate when the following conditions have been met:

- 50-74% of the credits required by the degree have been completed (between 60-89 credits for a bachelor's degree; between 30-44 credits for an associate's degree)
- Good standing at SUNY Canton with regard to academics and conduct
- Recommendation of the department in which the major program is housed

### IV. DEFINITIONS

None

### V. OTHER RELATED INFORMATION

None

### VI. PROCEDURES

Requests for a posthumous degree or certificate should be submitted to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs' Office for review.

The Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs will determine if the requirements listed in Section III have been met; their determination will be in consultation with the Vice President

for Student Affairs/Dean of Students and the Department Chair or Program Director of the student's major.

If these requirements have been met, the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs will submit a written recommendation to the President for final approval.

If approved, the Special Events Coordinator will be brought into the process. They will invite the student's family to the next graduation ceremony at SUNY Canton and will offer VIP seating. A designated member of the family will be invited to march in the ceremony to receive the degree or certificate. If the family would prefer a private ceremony, one will be held at a mutually acceptable time for the conferral of the degree or certificate.

Following the awarding of a posthumous degree/certificate, transcripts will include the notation "Posthumous honorary degree/certificate awarded" and the date.

**VII. FORMS**

None

**VIII. AUTHORITY**

None

**IX. HISTORY**

This document is based on similar policies at SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Ulster


**X. APPENDICES**

None

**XI. FREQUENCY OF REVIEW AND UPDATE**

April 28, 2025

**XII. SIGNATURE, TITLE, AND DATE OF APPROVAL**

Zvi Szafran  
Policy Approver – Printed Name  
  
Policy Approver – Signature

President  
Title  
4/28/20  
Date of Approval