

POSTHUMOUS CREDENTIALS

Approval Authority	Senate
Responsible Executive	Provost and Vice-President, Academic; Registrar
Related Policies / Legislation	Credentials (64) Subsequent and Concurrent Degree (98) <i>University Act, s. 35.2 (5)(b)</i>

PURPOSE

This policy establishes principles and criteria for awarding credentials to deceased students who have completed a substantial portion of a program at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV).

SCOPE

This policy applies to awarding any credential to a deceased student who was enrolled at UFV at the time of death and had completed most but not all the requirements for their program

DEFINITIONS

In this policy, the following definitions apply:

Credential: A formal qualification awarded for completion of a prescribed program of study.

Program: A set of courses and associated requirements offered as a credential (e.g., a certificate, diploma, degree, etc.) or as a defined area of study within a credential (e.g., a major, minor, honours, specialization, etc.).

Posthumous credential: A credential awarded to a student who has died before completing all graduation requirements. A credential is not considered to be a posthumous credential under this policy if the student dies following completion of the program requirements but prior to formal approval or conferral of the credential.

POLICY

A posthumous credential is awarded to recognize the achievement of a UFV student who has died after completion of a substantial portion of a credential but before completing all graduation requirements.

- Posthumous credentials shall be awarded to students who, at the time of their death, were enrolled at UFV or had been enrolled within the 12 months prior to death and who had successfully completed a minimum of 75% of their program requirements unless otherwise determined by resolution of Senate.

REGULATIONS

Awarding posthumous credentials involves some relaxation of graduation requirements while maintaining the academic integrity of the university.

When the death of a UFV student is confirmed, the Office of the Registrar will determine that the student was registered or had been registered within the 12 months prior to death, was in good academic standing at UFV, and would have been expected to graduate. If so, the Office of the Registrar will contact the head of the academic unit responsible for the student's program.

The head of the academic unit will determine whether, at the time of death, the student

- had completed at least 75% of the program requirements, including 75% of the requirements of any defined area of study within the program (see definition of Program, above),
- was enrolled in courses applicable to the final 25% of the program or in their final semester within the last 12 months, and
- based on their previous record at UFV, was meeting the program continuance requirements, was in good academic standing at the university, and would have been expected to meet graduation requirements.

If the head of the academic unit deems the student has met the above criteria, he or she will recommend the credential be granted.

If the student has not met the criteria for the program and/or the defined area of study in which they were enrolled, the following may be considered:

- an alternate credential, such as a diploma or associate degree rather than a bachelor's degree, a general degree rather than an honours degree, or a minor rather than a major, may be recommended if the student meets the criteria for that credential; or
- if the student was close to meeting the criteria for his or her program and there is a strong rationale for special consideration supported by the head of the department/school, the dean may recommend that the credential be awarded.

A recommendation for a credential under this policy shall be submitted to the UFV Senate for approval as a posthumous award.

When a posthumous credential is approved, a notation will be placed on the student's permanent record stating the credential was awarded posthumously.

Those responsible for convocation will, in consultation with the student's family or next of kin, determine how to award the credential.
