

Snippet from Senate Rules 5.4.5

**C. In Memoriam Posthumous Degrees [US: 2/10/2014]**

**1. Purpose.** Pursuant to Senate Rule 5.4.5.A, the University of Kentucky Senate seeks to provide the families of deceased students who had not completed requirements for a degree with a meaningful acknowledgment of the achievements and legacy of the student and, at the same time, uphold academic and institutional integrity. To meet these goals, the UK Board of Trustees has established a new category and title of Honorary Degree, *In Memoriam* Posthumous Degree (hereafter *In Memoriam* degree), to be conferred upon final action by the Board of Trustees.

**2. Conditions for Conferral of *In Memoriam* Degrees**

- a. **Eligibility.** An *In Memoriam* degree allows for recognition of a student's connection to the University of Kentucky regardless of their progress toward completion of degree requirements. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional students who were registered in a degree program at the time of their death, but did not complete degree requirements, are eligible for an *In Memoriam* degree.
- b. **Procedures.** A proposal for conferral of an *In Memoriam* degree shall be initiated and processed as follows:
  - i. Upon being made aware of the deceased student by either the family or chair of the student's home department, the Dean's Office of the student's college shall consult with the student's degree program, the Dean of Students Office, the Senate Council office, and the Office of the Registrar to review the student's academic and disciplinary record to confirm that at the time of death:
    1. The student was in a UK degree-seeking status, and
    2. The student was in good academic standing.
  - ii. The Dean's office shall forward the request for an *In Memoriam* degree to the Office of the University Registrar. The University Registrar shall process the request and place the deceased student's name on an *In Memoriam* degree list for Senate action.
  - iii. In the likely event that the elected Faculty Senators approve the recommendation of each *In Memoriam* degree along with other degrees, the Senate Council office shall forward the recommendation to the University President for transmittal to the Board of Trustees for final action. In the rare event that the elected Faculty Senators do not approve recommendation of the *In Memoriam* degree candidate, the elected Faculty Senators will provide, through the Senate Council, a written justification of the disapproval to the President (Chair of the Senate).
  - iv. Upon final approval by the Board of Trustees, the University Registrar shall prepare an *In Memoriam* degree diploma for the student's family. The diploma document for this honorary degree title will be structured the same as for other honorary degrees (SR 5.4.5.B).