

## **POLICY FOR AWARDING POSTHUMOUS DEGREES**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to extend sympathy and compassion to the families and friends of deceased students near completion of their degrees. Awarding of a degree posthumously recognizes the academic achievement of the deceased student. In addition, the policy acknowledges the loss to the College, family and friends, and extends to them the opportunity to share in the academic success of the deceased student.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

To be eligible for a posthumous associate degree, the student should be within 12 semester credits of meeting the requirements of the degree program. To be eligible for a posthumous certificate, the student should be within 6 semester credits of meeting the requirements of the certificate program. Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with the College. The student must have at least a 2.0 GPA. The death must not be a result of illegal behavior on the part of the student.

A posthumous degree should be awarded in accordance with the following procedure:

1. It is appropriate for any interested party to initiate consideration of awarding the degree. The interested party will contact the Provost to recommend such a person for this honor.
2. The Provost will work with the Assistant Registrar to review the deceased student's progress toward his/her degree or certificate objective (degree audit).
3. If the Provost concludes the deceased student qualifies for the award posthumously, the recommendation will be forwarded to the President for final approval.
4. Upon prior approval of the family, the name of the deceased student will be included in the commencement program and announced at Commencement. The diploma and holder will be mailed to the spouse or parents or other identified relative of the student after commencement ceremonies are concluded.
5. The registrar or designee will update the student's record to reflect that the student was awarded the credential posthumously without meeting the requirements of the degree.

### **PERSONS AFFECTED**

All Edison State Community College students.

### **DEFINITIONS**

#### **POSTHUMOUS**

Awarded after the death of the student.