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(Approved by the Board of Regents, December 1, 2006; Amended June 19, 2015)

I. Purpose

The University System of Maryland recognizes that its degree-granting institutions may seek to extend sympathy and compassion to families of deceased students near completion of their degrees and to recognize the academic achievement of these students who have made significant progress toward the requirements of the degree. It is critical, however, that these actions are balanced appropriately with attention to academic and institutional integrity.

II. Policy

No institution in the USM is required to award posthumous degrees. Those that do, however, will make decisions regarding such awards on a case-by-case basis using the following criteria.

A. For the Posthumous Baccalaureate Degree

At the time of death, the student had completed at least 75% (i.e., 90 of 120 hours) of the required credit hours toward the degree requirements, at least 30 of which were taken at the degree-granting institution, and in all likelihood the student would have passed present or future courses with an acceptable grade and fulfilled the requirements of the degree.

B. For the Posthumous Graduate Degree

1. For graduate degrees not requiring a thesis or dissertation, at the time of death, the student had completed at least 75% of the required credit hours toward the degree requirements, and in all likelihood the student would have passed present or future courses with an acceptable grade and fulfilled the requirements of the degree.

2. For graduate degrees requiring a thesis or dissertation, the student was near completion of the thesis or dissertation. The student's committee has reviewed the materials being prepared for defense and has found the work to be worthy of the degree. These include graduate degrees such as the master of fine arts (MFA) or the doctor of musical arts (DMA) requiring a thesis or dissertation that may include artistic, performance, and design components.

C. Posthumous Certificate

In the event that the student does not meet the degree requirements described above, a posthumous certificate can be given. The posthumous certificate is prepared at the request of

