

## Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTCSOM)

**Statement:** Awarding Posthumous Degree

**Subject:** Student Affairs

**Administrator:** A. Knight

**Rev.:** 2

**Original date:** 9/1/2010

**Revision dates:** 12/14/2016

### 1 Purpose

Establishes guidelines and procedures governing the awarding of posthumous degrees to deceased students. To recognize the achievements of VTCSOM's students who have died where the student has completed enough of the planned degree program.

### 2 Policy

A degree conferred by the school to a deceased student.

### 3 Criteria

- a. The student was in good academic standing and would likely have completed all of the degree requirements by their anticipated graduation date had he/she not died.
- b. There were no disciplinary actions pending against the student.
- c. The death was not a result of illegal behavior on part of the student.

### 4 Procedures

#### Recommendation for Posthumous Degree.

- i. A formal request may be initiated by a family member, a faculty member or the Dean of VTCSOM. If the request is not made by the family member, the family should be contacted to ascertain their support for the possible award.
- ii. The Dean or his/her designee shall review the student's academic record and confirm whether the specified criteria have been met (each case will be determined on its own merits). If agreed, the request for awarding a posthumous degree shall be forwarded to the Medical Student Performance and Promotions Committee for approval.
- iii. As with the conferring of all VTCSOM degrees, the dean after having conferred with the VTCSOM Board of Directors must then give the final approval.
- iv. Degrees award posthumously will be so noted on the commencement program. A member of the deceased student's family will be permitted to participate, upon approval from the Dean/President of VTCSOM.
- v. A notation that the degree was awarded posthumously will be made in the commencement program and on the transcript, but not on the diploma.