

Revision of Board of Governors' Statute 2.43.62 on Academic Recognition of Deceased or Critically Ill Students

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors revise Statute 2.43.62 on Academic Recognition of Deceased or Critically Ill Students effective fall semester 2022. This statute outlines the requirements for bestowing a degree to either a critically ill student, or, posthumously to a deceased student. Specifically, it is recommended that the threshold for minimum completion of requirements be reduced to 75 percent for all students, with the exception of those enrolled in the School of Medicine.

Rationale for Proposed Changes

As a practical matter, the current statute limits administrative award of posthumous degrees to students who were missing one course at most. This necessitates Board action to grant the degree through a waiver of statute requirements, which the Board has generously done in numerous instances over the last few years. The proposed change will allow the university to grant these degrees in a more streamlined manner with the general requirements that the board has adopted in practice without resorting to waiving statutory requirements.

Current Statute Language

The current Board of Governors statute 2.43.62 outlines guidelines for Academic Recognition of Deceased or Critically Ill Students. These guidelines include that a student must have completed at least 90 percent of degree requirements in each curricular category for baccalaureate, juris doctor, and doctor of pharmacy degrees. For master degree students, they must have completed comprehensive exams, 90 percent of requirements in every published curricular category where a thesis is not required, and 100 percent of credit hours in addition to faculty acceptance of a thesis topic and demonstrable progress on a thesis in programs where a thesis is required. For doctoral students, excluding those in Law, Medicine, and Pharmacy, they currently must complete 100 percent of requirements in every published category, preliminary or comprehensive exams, acceptance of a dissertation topic, and demonstrable progress on dissertation research.

Proposed Statute Revision

The recommended revised text of the statute is presented in its entirety below:

2.43.62.010

Wayne State University reserves the award of academic degrees to persons who have met all requirements for the completion of those degrees, except in the instances of Honorary Degrees that are awarded solely upon the authority of the Board of Governors of the University, under such rules as the Board may prescribe.

2.43.62.020

It may be requested of the University occasionally that academic recognition be bestowed posthumously to a deceased student who did not complete degree requirements and who did not meet the prescribed criteria for an honorary degree. In such a circumstance, the University may, upon request of the family of the subject student and upon approval of the appropriate faculty, confer a degree, if the deceased student had met the requirements as set forth below.

2.43.62.030

Similarly, it may be requested of the University occasionally that academic recognition be bestowed upon a critically ill student who, according to the best available medical advice, has no significant probability of being able to resume studies toward an earned degree. In such an instance, the University, may, upon request of the family of the subject student and upon approval of the appropriate faculty, confer a ~~Certificate of Academic Achievement degree~~ in commencement ceremonies, if the student has met the requirements as set forth below.

2.43.62.040

BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS: To be eligible for these University recognitions, a deceased or critically ill student who, at the time of termination of study, was pursuing a Bachelor Degree, shall have met a minimum of ~~90~~ 75 percent of the degree requirements in each published category: general education, departmental, collegiate, University. ~~and the awarding of the degree has the support of the student's school or college and the department.~~

2.43.62.050

MASTER DEGREE STUDENT: To be eligible for these University recognitions, a deceased or critically ill student who, at the time of termination of study, was pursuing a Master Degree, shall have met a minimum of successful completion, when applicable, of comprehensive examinations, 75 percent of required credit hours in every published curricular category, enrollment in thesis credits in programs requiring a master degree thesis, and he support of the student's school or college and the department (if applicable) for the awarding of the degree.

a) ~~Successful completion, when applicable, of comprehensive examinations, and 90 percent of required credit hours in every published curricular category in programs that do not require a master degree thesis; or,~~

b) ~~Successful completion, when applicable, of comprehensive examinations, 100 percent of credit hours in every published curricular category, faculty acceptance of a thesis topic, and demonstrable progress on thesis research in programs requiring a thesis.~~

2.43.62.060

DOCTORAL DEGREE STUDENTS: To be eligible for these University recognitions, a deceased or critically ill student who, at the time of termination of study, was pursuing a doctor's degree, other than Juris Doctor, Doctor of Medicine, or Doctor of Pharmacy, shall have met a minimum of successful completion, when applicable, of 100 percent of requirements in every published category, preliminary or comprehensive examinations, 75 percent of requirements in every published curricular category, enrollment in dissertation credits, and the awarding of the degree has the support of the student's school or college and the department. ~~faculty acceptance of dissertation topic, and demonstrable progress on dissertation research.~~

2.43.62.070

STUDENTS IN THE JURIS DOCTOR AND DOCTOR OF PHARMACY PROGRAMS: To be eligible for these University recognitions, a deceased or critically ill student who, at the time of termination of study, was pursuing a Juris Doctor or a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree, shall have met a minimum of ~~90~~ 75 percent of requirements in each published curricular category.

2.43.62.080

STUDENTS IN THE DOCTOR OF MEDICINE PROGRAM: To be eligible for these University recognitions, a deceased or critically ill student who, at the time of termination of study, was pursuing a Doctor of Medicine degree, shall have met a minimum of 100 percent of the published basic science (pre-clinical) requirements and the equivalent of 75 percent of the published clinical requirements.

2.43.62.090

In instances in which the minimum requirements have not been met, college or department faculty may present collegiate or departmental awards of recognition at ceremonies other than commencement, subject to compliance with ~~Executive Order 85-7~~ Policy 06-1, "University Awards".

Approvals

This recommendation was approved by the Academic Senate, the Graduate Council, the Law School, the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the Provost.