

Posthumous/in Memoriam Degree Policy

Undergraduates

(Approved by the Wake Forest College Faculty on 11 April, 2016)

To honor an undergraduate student who has met an untimely death and to help the student's family cope with the loss, a degree may be awarded posthumously.

A **Degree of Bachelor of Arts or Science** is awarded to a deceased student who has completed all degree requirements at the time of death.

The University may award a **Degree in Memoriam** to a student who had not completed all degree requirements at the time of death and was a member of an undergraduate class.

For a deceased student who had selected a major/degree to pursue, the Diploma will read:

The Trustees have conferred upon
Student's Name
The Degree of
Bachelor of Arts/Science in Memoriam

For a student who had **not** selected a major/degree, the Diploma will read:

The Trustees have conferred upon
Student's Name
The Degree in Memoriam

In Memoriam Degree Procedure

The University will maintain records of students who are deceased during their Wake Forest career and to which class they are associated. The University will initiate the in Memoriam Degree process no later than January, as the student's class approaches May graduation. The process begins with a review of the student's records by the student's dean or designate. If there is no question about the appropriateness of awarding the in Memoriam Degree, the process will go forward. If there is some question about whether awarding the in Memoriam Degree is appropriate, the Committee on Academic Affairs will consider the matter. If the dean or Committee approves, the student's Dean or the University Chaplin will inform the family about the awarding of the in Memoriam Degree. The Diploma will be awarded to the family in May of the year the deceased

student's class graduates. The Diploma will be award either

- during the May Undergraduate Diploma Ceremony, or
- in a special private ceremony on campus or off, or
- by simply delivering the Diploma to the family without ceremony.

Any of these options are available to the deceased student's family. It will often be a member of the University Chaplin's staff who will discuss these options with the family and then inform the student's Dean and the University Registrar of the family's decision. In each case, the actual printed Diploma will be presented to the family and the deceased student's name will appear in the Commencement Program.