



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
121 BLAKE ROAD
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-1300

USNAINST 1531.58
28/SUPE
19 Apr 2021

USNA INSTRUCTION 1531.58

From: Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy

Subj: POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

Ref: (a) DIRATHINST 6100.1
(b) COMDTMIDNINST 1610.2K

1. Purpose. To establish U.S. Naval Academy's (USNA) policy and procedures for the posthumous conferring of a baccalaureate degree.
2. Background. In order to appropriately recognize the academic achievement of midshipmen who have made significant progress toward the requirements of their degree at the time of their death, USNA may elect to posthumously confer baccalaureate degrees. It is critical, however, that these actions are balanced appropriately with attention to academic and institutional integrity.
3. Discussion. Midshipmen who pass away prior to the successful completion of their degree may be posthumously awarded a degree by USNA under the following circumstances.
 - a. Should the surviving family member(s) of the deceased midshipman wish to pursue the awarding of the degree, they must initiate the request in writing to USNA senior leadership for consideration. There will be no automatic initiation/granting of posthumous degrees.
 - b. The USNA Academic Board determines that the first class midshipman had successfully completed at least six semesters; was satisfactorily progressing to meet the necessary academic, military, physical, and character development programs required to graduate; and was in good standing at the time of death; to include:
 - (1) On track with their academic matrix, including a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00.
 - (2) Satisfactory completion of Physical Education requirements through the second class year, per reference (a), and a passing grade on their most recent Physical Fitness Assessment.
 - (3) An aptitude grade of "C" or higher on their most recent Midshipman Development Report and within career demerit allowance limits as defined by reference (b).

(4) Not under investigation for violation of the Honor Concept, significant misconduct, or immorality; or the subject of an administrative action that could result in separation.

4. Posthumous Conferment of Degree. Upon the recommendation of the Academic Board to posthumously confer a degree, and with the concurrence of the Superintendent:

a. The Office of the Registrar will record the award of a Bachelor of Science degree on the midshipman's transcript and annotate that it was conferred posthumously.

b. A diploma will be crafted and signed by the Provost and Superintendent, however a major will not be listed unless the midshipman's matrix was complete at the time of death. Similarly, the designation "With Distinction" will not be included.

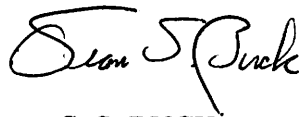
c. The Superintendent will invite the family to send a representative to participate in the graduation and commissioning ceremony and receive the diploma on behalf of the deceased midshipman. If a family member does not attend the graduation and commissioning ceremony, the diploma will be mailed to the family.

5. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned for the standard subject identification codes (SSIC) 1000 through 13000 series per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy/ Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at <https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact the USNA records manager or the DON/AA DRMD program office.

6. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, the USNA Directives Manager will review this instruction annually on the anniversary of its effective date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, DoD, SECNAV, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction.



S. S. BUCK

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