

**Rancho Santiago Community College District**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION**  
**Chapter 4**  
**Academic Affairs**

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**AR 4110 Honorary & Posthumous Degrees**

**Reference(s):**

Education Code Section 72122

An honorary degree may be awarded to students who, at the time of death, have completed the residency requirements for an Associate Degree at Santiago Canyon College or Santa Ana College as listed in the College Catalog in effect at the time of death.

A posthumous degree may be conferred on students who, at the time of death, have initiated the graduation process at for an Associate Degree at Santiago Canyon College or Santa Ana College. The student's academic progress must fulfill the graduation requirements as listed in the College Catalog in effect at the time of death or a catalog year for which they have catalog rights. Coursework in-progress will be assumed to be satisfied.

**Procedure**

The process for identifying and considering candidates for the honorary and posthumous awards shall be:

1. A formal request may be initiated by any of the following: a family member, a faculty/staff member, an administrator, or a fellow student. If the request is not made by a family member, the family should be contacted and found to be receptive to the possible award. The request must be submitted in writing within six months following the student's death and must be accompanied by a copy of the student's death notification (i.e., death certificate, newspaper article, funeral service program). The request should be submitted to the Vice President of Student Services, or designee.
2. The Vice President of Student Services, or designee, will be responsible for reviewing the student's academic record, whether the specified criteria are met, and forwarding the request to the President of the College.
3. The President of the College will then recommend to the Board of Trustees that the student receive an honorary or posthumous award. This must be completed no later than March of every year to ensure that the student will have their name appear in the upcoming commencement program.
4. The Vice President of Student Services, or designee, notifies the individual who made the request of the Board of Trustees decision. If approved, an invitation will be made to the family to attend the College's upcoming commencement ceremony.

**Rancho Santiago Community College District**  
**BOARD POLICY**  
**Chapter 4**  
**Academic Affairs**

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**BP 4110 Honorary & Posthumous Degrees**

**Reference(s):**

Education Code Section 72122

Honorary and posthumous degrees may be awarded at commencement or some other equally appropriate time to recognize the academic achievement of a deceased student. The names of students receiving honorary and posthumous degrees must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Vice President of Student Services, or designee, shall establish procedures and criteria for the awarding of honorary and posthumous degrees.

**Adopted: April 29, 2019**