

Southeastern Illinois College awards honorary and posthumous credentials on a selective basis. This policy sets forth the standards and procedures for granting these credentials.

The College recognizes the value of all students, especially those who may lose their lives in pursuit of higher education. One means of expressing gratitude for a student's life and work is to nominate that student for a posthumous credential.

Types of Awards

Honorary or Posthumous Credential: This may include a degree or certificate appropriate to award to a person based upon their outstanding contributions, achievements, or leadership during the course of a career and the extent to which such achievements exemplify the ideals and purposes of the College, including such persons who have a special connection to the College. Honorary degrees ordinarily will not be granted to any active trustee or to any currently employed faculty or staff member of the College.

The following protocol is designed to allow such an award.

Nomination

A nomination may be made by anyone to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) on or before March 1 of the year to be awarded. A nomination is the first step of the process and does not necessarily mean that a credential will be awarded. Surviving family and friends should not be notified of the nomination unless it is approved and the family reserves the right to reject the award. A nomination form is located on the college website or available in the VPAA.

The VPAA will convene a task force comprised of the following: VPAA, Executive Dean of Student Services, and Registrar. The President shall be informed of the nomination and task force recommendation.

Criteria

- The nomination should be vetted for accuracy. Misinformation or misrepresentation on the nomination will result in a rejected nomination.
- An undergraduate nominee must have substantially completed the requirements for the degree, typically 85%, and been in good academic standing.
- The student was actively pursuing completion of a degree or certificate.
- The student should have been enrolled at the College on or near the time of death as timeliness must be a consideration.

- The student must have been on an academic track to have successfully completed the credential.
- The student did not commit a felony or other relevant legal trouble
- The student did not have any holds, violations of student code of conduct, or violate other College policies or procedures that would reflect poorly on the College and/or student.
- Special Case: If a deceased student does not qualify for the award of a posthumous degree, the student may be given formal recognition for studying at the college. A posthumous “Certificate of Academic Recognition” may be given if the majority of criteria are met, except for the cases of felony, legal issues, or otherwise reflect poorly on the College.
- The President reserves the right to make special exceptions to an award recommendation based on a compelling argument. This should be based on overwhelming circumstance.

Final Process

- Once properly vetted and the nomination approved, then the President will charge the Registrar to print the internal (cannot be State approved) credential.

Venue for Awarding the Credential

The College considers it inappropriate to award the degree at venues where other students are celebrating their own accomplishments, such as a commencement exercise, or those settings held for grieving survivors such as a funeral service.

Venues for awarding the credential may include:

- Awarding a credential with family and friends
- Mailing the credential to appropriate family or friends
- Other agreed upon venue

Awards are not officially recorded due to official reporting purposes. A notation is placed on the student’s transcript that the credential is “Awarded Posthumously” or to the person as “Honorary.” The credential issued to the family does not include such notation. The student’s name may also be included in the commencement booklet with the same designation of the ceremonial award.

Adopted: July 19, 2022

Amended:

Legal Ref: