

Posthumous Degree Request Form

The University of New Mexico recognizes that an academic degree is a matter of legitimate pride in achievement for not only students, but for the family and friends who support and encourage them. UNM also recognizes that significant progress in an academic program is, under certain circumstances, an achievement which warrants special recognition.

Accordingly, UNM has made available opportunities to bestow upon a student who dies before the completion of their program either a *Posthumous* or *In Memoriam* degree.

Posthumous Degrees may be granted under the following circumstances and terms:

- Requests may be initiated by the student’s family, faculty of the department/college, or a UNM administrator.
- The student must have been in a degree status and either currently enrolled or enrolled in the academic year prior to their passing.
- The student must have completed a minimum of half of the credits required for the degree.
- The department, college, and Faculty Senate must approve requests. In addition, the Senate Graduate Committee must review and approve all graduate level posthumous degrees.
- Degrees awarded will be noted as “posthumous” on both the diploma and transcript.

In Memoriam Degrees

In the instance that a request does not fulfill the requirements of a Posthumous Degree, a “Degree in Memoriam” may be awarded. The degree will be noted as “in memoriam” on the diploma and transcript.

Instructions for Request

Prior to completing this form, we encourage you to review the [Posthumous Degree Policy](#). Please include a letter of support along with this completed form.

Initiator of Request:	Date of Request:
Email:	Phone:
Student’s Name:	Student ID:
College:	Major(s):
Concentration(s):	Minor(s):
Degree:	Number of Completed Credit Hours:
Would you like the Dean of Students to contact the family regarding this request?	Yes No
Degree Requested: Posthumous In Memoriam Letter of Support Attached?	Yes No

Thank you for your submission. For questions or to return this form, contact Lisa Lindquist, LoboRESPECT Director, at aldelgado@unm.edu .

For Use in the Office of the University Secretary

Approval	Approver Name	Date
Department:		
College:		
Grad Committee: (If Applicable)		
Faculty Senate:		
Registrar Request:		



December 9, 2025

Dear Faculty Senate Committee:

On behalf of the University of New Mexico Combined BA/MD Degree Program, we write with the highest regard to request the awarding of a posthumous degree to Isaias Alvidrez.

Isaias began experiencing persistent headaches and nosebleeds that were initially attributed to allergies, changing weather, and stress. When these symptoms continued, his family urged him to seek emergency care, where a tumor was discovered in his nasal cavity that unfortunately spread. Less than two weeks later, and only a few hours after beginning his first round of chemotherapy, Isaias tragically passed away.

Isa was just 22 years old - a bright, loving soul who touched the lives of everyone around him. As a student in the UNM Combined BA/MD Degree Program, he dedicated his future to helping others, a reflection of his compassion, character, and enormous heart. Though his time with us was far too short, his kindness, humor, and generosity of spirit live on in all who had the privilege of knowing him.

We had the pleasure of knowing Isaias since April 2022 through the program, an extremely competitive eight-year pathway that selects just 28 students annually from across New Mexico. The program prepares culturally competent physicians committed to addressing healthcare disparities, particularly in underserved communities. Isaias's acceptance into this program directly out of high school was a remarkable achievement that spoke to his academic promise, resilience, and passion for service.

Proud of his roots in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, Isaias was deeply devoted to his parents and three brothers. His family was his foundation, and he often spoke of his mother with great love and admiration. He embodied the qualities we strive to cultivate of initiative, integrity, compassion, and purpose. A self-starter, he followed through on his commitments and consistently held himself to a high standard. At the time of his passing, he was one semester away from graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Health, Medicine & Human Values, with a concentration in Health, Humanities & Society, and a minor in Chemistry, in May 2026. The BA/MD program oversees the HMMHV degree, so we share our "department" approval of this request.

What truly distinguished Isaias was his ability to excel across both the sciences and humanities while remaining grounded in his values and his community. He balanced an intense academic schedule while continuously holding one or two jobs. Most recently, he worked as a caretaker for a gentleman he affectionately regarded as a grandfather figure. Isaias cared for him as he would his own family, sharing photos and stories that made clear how meaningful their relationship was. When Mr. Matthew passed away, Isaias grieved deeply, learning about loss, honoring legacy, and expanding his understanding of compassion.

To help heal, Isaias joined the Student Union Building (SUB) team, where he found another close-knit community aligned with his values of resilience, discipline, and teamwork. Among this group, he allowed himself to laugh again, to grow again, and to continue pursuing his dream of matriculating to medical school.

These are only two examples of the many spaces in which Isaias centered people—engaging with empathy, humility, and genuine care. He possessed a rare combination of intellectual strength and emotional intelligence. He uplifted those around him with his warmth, positivity, and determination. He was a UNM Lobo through and through, the kind of future physician, community advocate, and friend anyone would be fortunate to have.

It is with great pride and without hesitation that we offer our strongest support for awarding Isaias Alvidrez a posthumous degree. If approved, we hope to honor him by surprising his family with a visit to the UNM campus to receive his degree. As his family will be traveling to Albuquerque in the coming months to collect his belongings, we respectfully request timely approval so this presentation may coincide with one of their trips.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss Isaias's contributions and character further, we welcome the opportunity to speak on his behalf. We can be reached at (505) 277-2128.

With deepest respect and on behalf of the University of New Mexico Combined BA/MD Degree Program,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. van der Goes', written in a cursive style.

David van der Goes, PhD
Undergraduate Director
Combined BA/MD Program
Associate Professor
Department of Economics