

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 friend 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 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: Tyler Clayshulte

Date of Request: 05/08/2026

Email: biograd@unm.edu

Phone: 505-277-1712

Student's Name: Michael Fragua

Student ID: 101896255

College: Graduate Studies

Major(s): Biology

Concentration(s):

Minor(s):

Degree: MS

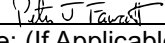
Number of Completed Credit Hours: 31

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 ldelgado@unm.edu.

For Use in the Office of the University Secretary

Approval	Approver Name	Date
Department: 	Cristina Takacs-Vesbach, Chair	5/20/26
College: 	Peter J. Fawcett, Associate Dean	5/26/26
Grad Committee: (If Applicable) 	Claudia Pratesi, Chair	09/17/2026
Faculty Senate:		
UNM Board of Regents:		
Registrar Request:		



Department of Biology

May 8th, 2026

From:

Tyler Clayshulte
Graduate Program Coordinator
Department of Biology
University of New Mexico
BioGrad@unm.edu
505-277-1712

RE: Letter of Support – Michael Fragua Posthumous Degree

The Department of Biology supports the awarding of a Posthumous Degree for Michael Fragua (101896255), an MS student. Michael had completed all of his required coursework in Fall 2025 and was set to defend his Plan I MS Thesis during the Summer 2026 term under the supervision of his faculty advisor, Joseph Cook. He had an approved Program of Studies by the Office of Graduate Studies for a prospective Summer 2026 graduation and was currently enrolled in Master's Thesis hours at the time of his passing. The department recognizes his great achievements, as well as his hard work and dedication to the graduate program.

If you require any additional information, you can reach us at biograd@unm.edu or call 505-277-1712.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tyler Clayshulte'.

Tyler Clayshulte
Graduate Program Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen Wearing'.

Helen Wearing
Graduate Chair
Department of Biology