

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 ldelgado@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:		



To: Lisa Lindquist, LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, Dean of Students Office
From: Ann Murphy, Philosophy Department Chair
Date: 24 January 2025
RE: Posthumous Degree or Degree in Memoriam for Anthony Kanowitz

I am writing as the Chair of the Philosophy Department in strong support of granting our MA student, Anthony Kanowitz, a posthumous degree. Anthony enrolled as an MA student in the Philosophy Department in the fall of 2023, and completed one year of study toward the degree before he was diagnosed with cancer in the summer of 2024 and subsequently went on medical leave. Very sadly, Anthony passed of complications from cancer on January 9, 2025.

Anthony excelled during his year in residence in our MA program. His performance in his courses was exemplary in each and every case. One of his professors, Iain Thomson, remembers him as “a truly wonderful graduate student, not just extremely bright but unfailingly positive and enthusiastic, with a wry and subtle sense of humor, and so always great fun to talk to and have in class.” Anthony was a model graduate student, not just intellectually gifted, but a stellar departmental citizen and a pleasure to have around.

Because of the credit cap (no more than 6 credits per semester) on the UNM courtesy policy that grants in-state tuition rates to MA students during their first year in residence, Anthony enrolled in 12 credits during his first academic year at UNM. This leaves him 3 credits short of the 15 credits that would qualify him for a posthumous degree. I would like to request an exception to this credit requirement if possible. If that is not feasible, I would like to request that Anthony be granted a degree in memoriam.

Anthony was a valued member of our community in Philosophy and he will be missed. We feel that a posthumous degree or a degree in memoriam is well-deserved in his case, and that it would be a meaningful way to honor him. I also believe this gesture would be significant for Anthony’s family.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ann V. Murphy' in a cursive script.

Ann V. Murphy
Professor & Chair
Department of Philosophy
University of New Mexico
avmurphy@unm.edu