

## District Academic Standards

### Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, March 2, 2023; 3:00-5:00pm**

<https://rccd-edu.zoom.us/j/83401946564?pwd=WIRONIBzVUtENm1hRk5sZzFzUkIvQT09>

Riverside City College CAK 224	Moreno Valley College SAS 101	Norco College ITEC 218	District Office CAADO 209
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Committee Members	Guests
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Douglass (DCC Chair, ENG, RIV)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bryan Medina (CPRO, RCCD)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Mills (DCC Co-Chair, VC Ed Services)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sabina Fernandez (CPRO, MOV)
<input type="checkbox"/> Brian Johnson (MAT, NOR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Casandra Greene (CPRO, RIV)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Pfeifle (HIS, MOV)	<input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Brown (CPRO, NOR)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ellen Brown-Drinkwater (AO, RCC)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Franco (AO, NOR)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeanne Howard (AO, MVC)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clara Lowden (KIN, RIV)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Norma Martinez (SPA, MOV)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Martin (GUI, NOR)	
Additional Guests:	

### Discussion Items

1. Ethnic Studies Title 5 Changes
  - a. No guidance has been received from the State Chancellor’s Office, but the Articulation Officers have developed a potential draft based on the information we have at this time. The general education updates would be effective for the 24-25 catalog year.
  - b. The crosswalk and draft developed list the draft changes from the State, area changes, title changes, and unit changes.
    - i. The Lifelong Learning and Self Development area is not required by Title 5, but we can continue to require it for RCCD GE, reducing it to 2-3 units.
    - ii. Language Other than English would also be an optional area, but the language courses can also be found in the Humanities GE area.
    - iii. Area 7, Ethnic Studies, would be new. At a minimum, the courses approved for CSU Area F would qualify. The State Chancellor’s Office may potentially release a description of the courses that would qualify, like they do for other areas.
    - iv. The changes to the GE pattern recommended by the State would more closely align with the CSUGE areas, and we should align our GE pattern accordingly.
  - c. Once guidance is received, a recommendation from District Academic Standards should be made to the College Academic Senates.

## 2. BP/APs

### BP 2110 – Honorary Degrees

- a. Two versions of the BP have been developed: one is Honorary and Posthumous degrees and the second is Posthumous degrees only.
- b. The committee made minor edits to both versions of the policy.
- c. Regarding Posthumous degrees, is the rule to exclude former Board members, former employees, and former incumbent elected officials required?
  - i. Ann Pfeifle – Does not see a problem. If there's an employee of the district and a college wants to award a degree, this may only impact a very small number of people that it may ultimately not matter.
  - ii. Kelly Douglass – Would only be concerned if there is a specific legal issue with the rule.
  - iii. Susan Mills – We can check with Keith Dobyms.
- d. Kelly Douglass – Can we change the name of the policy to “Honorary Posthumous Degrees” or “Posthumous Degrees” if the policy only awards Posthumous degrees? Can ask Keith Dobyms if this is appropriate.
- e. The next step is to forward the two versions to the Academic Senate for their review and decision as to which policy to move forward with.

**BP 2110 HONORARY and POSTHUMOUS DEGREES**

**Reference:** Education Code Section 72122

The Chancellor in consultation with the District Academic Senate shall establish procedures and criteria for the award of honorary and posthumous degrees.

Honorary or posthumous degrees may be awarded at commencement or some other equally appropriate time, according to the nominating and awarding process outlined in AP 2110 or as required by law. The names of persons receiving honorary degrees must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

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**Date Adopted:**  
**August 16, 2022**

## HONORARY AND POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

### AP 2110

Honorary Associate of Science and Associate of Arts Degrees may be awarded to recognize and honor individuals whose lives, conduct, and significant achievements are consistent with the mission of Riverside Community College District and the aims of higher education.

Recipients must have distinguished themselves in education, community, or national service, or in their profession. Their service must also support the mission and values of the Riverside Community College District.

Honorary degrees may also be conferred posthumously to recognize the academic aspirations and achievements of deceased students who were unable to complete their degrees and previously were enrolled at Riverside Community College District at a minimum threshold of units listed below.

1. Any group or individual, on or off campus, may nominate a candidate for an honorary or posthumous degree by writing a letter to the District Chancellor or College President describing how the candidate meets these criteria. (Candidates may not self-nominate.)
2. ~~The District Chancellor or The~~ College President shall meet with the College Vice President(s) and the President of the Academic Senate(s) for review and validation of merits. Further documentation may be requested of the person making the nomination as deemed necessary.
3. ~~The The District Chancellor or~~ College President in consultation with the Academic Senate will make a recommendation **to the Executive Cabinet District Chancellor and Board of Trustees** on the awarding of the honorary or posthumous degree.
4. Honorary and posthumous degrees are approved and conferred by the Board of Trustees. Approved honorary degrees shall specify "Honorary" on the diploma.

At each step in this process, care must be taken to ensure confidentiality. Any discussion or recommendations of candidates for an honorary or posthumous degree shall take place in closed session (as allowed by Education Code §72122).

Recommendations shall include:

- the full name of the recipient;
- a description of their educational and/or professional experience;
- if a posthumous award, documentation showing the completion of at least 12 semester units in residence at Riverside Community College District;
- any additional evidence of outstanding achievement or service that justifies awarding an honorary degree.

Pursuant to any legislative action or as required by law, the conferring of an honorary or posthumous degree, minimum units are not required.

Honorary degrees shall not be awarded to:

- members of the Board of Trustees of the Riverside Community College District
- any employee of the District
- incumbent elected officials

It is understood that honorary degrees will be awarded very infrequently. When they are approved, they will be awarded ordinarily at the annual commencement ceremony. At the conferral ceremony the District Chancellor or College President (or designee) will read the citation, the President of the Board of Trustees (or designee) will confer the honorary degree and issue the diploma, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs or Academic Senate President will cap the degree recipient.

In cases where an honorary degree is conferred upon a person who is deceased, the person's surviving next of kin, or another representative chosen by the person's surviving next of kin, may accept the honorary degree on the deceased person's behalf.

The district shall maintain a list of honorary degree recipients and the reasons for which the degree was given and the college at which they were awarded. Honorary or posthumous degrees are not equivalent to or a replacement for an earned academic degree and do not appear on transcripts.

Legal: Education Code Section 72122

**BP 2110 HONORARY and POSTHUMOUS DEGREES**

**Reference:** Education Code Section 72122

The Riverside Community College District does not currently award honorary degrees.

The Chancellor in consultation with the District Academic Senate shall establish procedures and criteria for the award of posthumous degrees.

Posthumous degrees may be awarded at commencement or some other equally appropriate time, according to the nominating and awarding process outlined in AP 2110 or as required by law. The names of persons receiving posthumous degrees must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

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**Date Adopted:**

**August 16, 2022**

## HONORARY AND POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

**Commented [MB1]:** Can this title be edited to just Posthumous Degrees?

### AP 2110

The Riverside Community College District does not currently award honorary degrees other than posthumous degrees meeting the criteria below.

Posthumous degrees may also be conferred posthumously to recognize the academic aspirations and achievements of deceased students who were unable to complete their degrees and previously were enrolled at Riverside Community College District at a minimum threshold of units listed below.

1. Any group or individual, on or off campus, may nominate a candidate for a posthumous degree by writing a letter to the District Chancellor or College President describing how the candidate meets these criteria.
2. The ~~District Chancellor or~~ College President shall meet with the College Vice President(s) and the President of the Academic Senate(s) for review and validation of merits. Further documentation may be requested of the person making the nomination as deemed necessary.
3. The ~~District Chancellor or~~ College President in consultation with the Academic Senate will make a recommendation **to the Executive Cabinet District Chancellor and Board of Trustees** on the awarding of the posthumous degree.
4. Posthumous degrees are approved and conferred by the Board of Trustees.  
**Approved posthumous degrees shall specify "Honorary" on the diploma.**

**Commented [KD2]:** This is a version of the same sentence in the AP that does offer honorary degrees. Appropriate to include here or not needed, or needed but with different language?

At each step in this process, care must be taken to ensure confidentiality. Any discussion or recommendations of candidates for a posthumous degree shall take place in closed session (as allowed by Education Code §72122).

**Commented [MB3R2]:** This sentence is needed.

Recommendations shall include:

- the full name of the recipient;
- documentation showing the completion of at least 12 semester units in residence at Riverside Community College District.

Pursuant to any legislative action or as required by law, the conferring of an honorary or posthumous degree, minimum units are not required.

**Honorary degrees shall not be awarded to:**

- members of the Board of Trustees of the Riverside Community College District
- any employee of the District
- incumbent elected officials

**Commented [KD4]:** Is it appropriate to preserve these rules for posthumous degrees or is this not necessary?

When a posthumous degree is conferred, the person's surviving next of kin, or another representative chosen by the person's surviving next of kin, may accept the honorary degree on the deceased person's behalf.

**Commented [MB5R4]:** Remove unless Keith Dobyns says we need it.

The district shall maintain a list of posthumous degree recipient names and the college at which they were awarded. Posthumous degrees are not equivalent to or a replacement for an earned academic degree and do not appear on transcripts.

Legal : Education Code Section 72122