

HONORARY DEGREES: POLICY AND PROCEDURES
Recommended by Faculty Senate May 5, 2003
Approved by Peter Likins May 2003
Amended to reflect accurately ABOR policy April 19, 2004
Amended policy approved as interim by Robert N. Shelton September 18, 2006

POLICY

The University of Arizona awards honorary degrees in order to recognize significant achievements within the academic environment and in the world at large. These degrees provide the University with an opportunity to honor individuals for their contribution to the University of Arizona, the state, the nation, or the world.

Approved honorary degrees for the University of Arizona are Doctor of Fine Arts, Doctor of Humane Letters, Doctor of Humanities, Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Music, and Doctor of Science.

A candidate for an honorary degree may be suggested by anyone, but must be formally nominated by an organized faculty within the University, usually an academic department or faculty of a college. A faculty Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees reviews all nominations and makes recommendations to the President and Provost. Approval by the Faculty Senate is required for honorary degrees.

Normally, no more than one nomination from a single college or faculty will be approved in any one year. If exceptions are made, the candidates should represent different subject areas.

Normally, candidates for honorary degrees from The University of Arizona will have some connection to the University, the Tucson community, or the State of Arizona, but exceptions to this general rule may be made if the case is compelling.

Honorary degrees from The University of Arizona will not be awarded to current University of Arizona employees, but may, in exceptional cases, be awarded to former University of Arizona employees.

Only in exceptional cases will the University confer an honorary degree in absentia.

PROCEDURES

When nominating a candidate, the originating faculty unit will provide its dean with a curriculum vitae and a brief biographical sketch (maximum 500 words) which clearly points out why the individual should be awarded an honorary degree. It is important that these statements emphasize the significance of a nominee's career rather than repeat, in text format, the details of the curriculum vitae

The dean will call for a vote on the nominee by college faculty members and forward the nomination to the Provost or his/her designee, together with the recommended degree, the result of the college faculty vote and the dean's comments.

The Provost or his/her designee will forward all nominations to the Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees. After receiving the advice of the Committee, the President and Provost will select those candidates whose nominations are to proceed.

For each approved nominee, a one-page biographical sketch will be prepared by the appropriate dean and sent to the Provost. The biographical sketch will then be made available to Faculty Senate members at the Faculty Senate meeting where the appropriate dean will present the nomination to the Senate for Executive Session action. In notifying the Board of Regents and the ABOR Executive Director of intended recipients of honorary degrees, the President will forward only those nominees receiving support from both a college faculty and the Faculty Senate.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees will have seven members, including the Secretary of the Faculty, a Dean, and five senior faculty members. The Provost or his/her designee will appoint the committee and may request the advice of the Committee on Committees. The Secretary of the Faculty will serve as chairperson. All other members will serve staggered three-year terms. The Committee is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Reviewing all nominations forwarded by the Provost; and
2. Advising the President and Provost on the merits of the various nominees with a view to ensuring high quality candidates, appropriate degrees, and diversity in fields of accomplishment.

SCHEDULE

Honorary degrees are conferred at the Spring Commencement, Winter Commencement, academic convocations and other important occasions at various times in the year. Given the variety of dates involved, it is not practical to establish separate schedules for considering candidates for each individual occasion. Candidates will usually be considered in a single group each year. Under normal circumstances, the honorary degree nomination and approval schedule will be as follows depending on the calendar:

September 15	Provost or designee calls for nominations
November 15	Departmental nominations to deans
December 1	Nomination, college faculty vote, recommended degree and deans comments to Provost
December 10	Provost or designee refers nominations to the Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees
December 20	Advisory Committee recommendations to the President and Provost
March 1-7	Faculty Senate (in Executive Session) considers candidates
March 7	Board of Regents and ABOR Executive Director notified of pending awards by the President.