

Honorary Degrees Procedure

Office of the President

Effective Date: November 17, 2025

I. Nominations for Honorary Degrees awarded at Commencement

A. **Criteria:** To be eligible for an honorary degree, a candidate must meet at least one of these criteria:

1. Outstanding achievement or service for the benefit of the University of Arizona.
2. Outstanding achievement or service for the benefit of the City of Tucson or State of Arizona.
3. Outstanding achievement or service for the benefit of the nation or the world.

Additional considerations include:

1. Sustained and dedicated commitment to public life and service.
2. Significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge.
3. Significant contributions to the University's ability to achieve its mission.

B. **Exclusions:** Honorary degrees may not be awarded to current University employees, students, or incumbent elected officials. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the President.

C. Academic Unit and College Nominations:

1. **Academic Units:** An academic unit that seeks to nominate a candidate will provide its Dean with a curriculum vitae or resume and a brief statement (maximum 500 words) that clearly describes how the candidate meets the criteria for an honorary degree.

2. **Dean's approval and college vote:** If the Dean approves of the nomination, the Dean will call for a vote on the candidate by General Faculty members or the college-level elected Faculty Council. The method of the vote is at the discretion of the Dean. If a majority of the votes are supportive of the candidate, the Dean will forward the nomination materials from the academic unit to the Chief of Staff to the President.

D. **Other Nominations:** Other Academic Centers, Institutes, University units, or the University of Arizona Foundation may nominate individuals for honorary degrees directly to the Chief of Staff to the President.

II. Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees

A. **Committee Charge:** An Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees (Committee) will review nominations for honorary degrees and make recommendations to the President for who should be awarded an honorary degree, based on the honorary degree criteria.

B. **Membership:** The Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees will be appointed annually by the President and comprised of nine members, including:

1. The Secretary of the Faculty
2. The Chair of the Staff Council
3. A Dean
4. Three Regents or Distinguished Professors, selected from a list of six Regents or Distinguished Professors nominated by the Chair of the Faculty
5. The Chief of Staff to the President
6. The Chief Government Relations Officer
7. The President & CEO of the University of Arizona Foundation

C. **Convenor:** The Committee will be convened by the Chief of Staff to the President.

D. **Terms:** Members will serve annual terms.

E. **Confidentiality:** Committee members must maintain confidentiality of all information shared with them as part of this process.

III. Selection by the President

A. **Selection:** After receiving the recommendations of the Committee, the President will select the individuals who will be awarded honorary degrees.

B. **Notification:** The Chief of Staff to the President will provide notice to the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) of the names of the individuals selected to be awarded honorary degrees. The President will personally notify the individuals who are selected, and the Chief of Staff to the President will notify the nominating units and the Deans or Directors that oversee the nominating units.