Purpose and Summary

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.

Policy


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**

1. When nominating a candidate, the originating faculty unit will provide its Dean with a 
curriculum vita and a brief biographical sketch (maximum 500 words) that 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 vita.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 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.
5. In notifying the Board of Regents and the ABOR President 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 on Honorary Degrees**

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
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.

The honorary degree nomination and approval schedule may vary depending on the calendar.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Step</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Departments send nominations to deans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Nomination, college faculty vote, recommended degree, and Dean’s comments to Provost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Provost or designee refers nominations to the Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 20</td>
<td>Advisory Committee sends recommendations to the President and Provost</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1-7</td>
<td>Faculty Senate (in Executive Session) votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 7-14</td>
<td>President notifies the Board of Regents and ABOR President of pending awards</td>
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**Related Information***

Honorary Degrees [2]

**Revision History***

Approved by Peter Likins, May 2003

Amended to accurately reflect ABOR policy, April 19, 2004

Amended policy approved as interim by Robert Shelton, September 18, 2006

Last revision October 3, 2012

Removed from University Handbook for Appointed Personnel (UHAP), March 8, 2016

**Source URL:** https://policy.arizona.edu/faculty-affairs-and-academicshonorary-degrees

**Links**

[1] mailto:provost@email.arizona.edu
[2] https://facultyaffairs.arizona.edu/honorary-degrees