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.
### Related Information*

- [Honorary Degrees](https://facultyaffairs.arizona.edu/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

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