

11.07 Granting of Honorary Degrees



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Policy Statement

This policy establishes the mechanism by which an individual may receive an honorary degree from a university (academic institution) of The Texas A&M University System (system).

Reason for Policy

It is necessary to provide a framework within which each academic institution may recommend an individual for an honorary degree so that the person's accomplishments and service are considered prior to the awarding of the degree. This policy allows for the participation of faculty, staff and the system Board of Regents (board) in the decision-making process.

Procedures and Responsibilities

Subject to approval by the chancellor, system academic institutions may establish specific rules for the awarding of honorary degrees as long as such rules conform to the following purposes, selection criteria and limitations.

1. PURPOSES

- 1.1 To recognize excellence in the fields of public affairs, the sciences, humanities and the arts, scholarship and education, business and philanthropy, and social services which exemplify the mission and scope of the system;
- 1.2 To honor meritorious and outstanding service to the system academic institution, the state of Texas, the United States, or to humanity at large; or
- 1.3 To recognize persons whose lives serve as examples of the system academic institution's aspirations for its students.

2. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 2.1 Degree recipients shall be individuals who have distinguished themselves in sustained scholarly activity in the fields of public affairs, humanities and the arts, the sciences, education, business and philanthropy, or services to humanity.
- 2.2 A degree may be awarded to an individual from industry or government who has achieved national or international distinction by significant contributions to society at large and scholarly pursuits in particular.
- 2.3 National or internationally significant achievement is the overriding criterion for all candidates.

3. ELIGIBILITY LIMITATIONS

Honorary degrees shall not be awarded to:

- 3.1 Current employees of System Offices or a system member, nor to current members of the board;
- 3.2 Individuals who have direct political, legal, or budgetary authority over the system academic institution; or
- 3.3 Individuals in consideration of any past, present, or future gift or other benefaction to the system or its members.

4. GRANTING PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Recommendations for honorary degrees will be made by the faculty, the administration, or members of the board through a selection committee of the system academic institution from which the recommendation originates to the institution's chief executive officer (CEO), the chancellor, and the board for approval. The recommendation shall have been approved by the CEO and the appointed selection committee, including senior professors.
- 4.2 The board will receive the recommendations for action at least six (6) weeks before the time chosen to award the degree.
- 4.3 At the option of the recommending CEO, confidentiality will be maintained until awarding of the degree.

5. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Under special circumstances, exceptions to this policy will be considered.

Member Rule Requirements

No rule is required to supplement this policy.

Contact Office

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