

HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE GUIDELINES

Introduction

The Eduscope Professional & Social Research University (EPSR-VU) Honorary Degrees to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in such areas as research, education, artistic creation, social activism, human rights, innovation or invention beneficial to society, and humanitarian outreach etc.

The following general principles shall apply to the selection process:

- The degree should be awarded in honor of extraordinary achievement over an entire career and not merely to recognize a single achievement;
- Recipients of the degree shall be selected by a faculty committee and approved by the President, and Board of Regents, Senate members as required;
- The degrees awarded shall be called: Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Honorary Doctor of Science, Honorary Doctor of Laws, or as appropriate to the individual being honored.
- The relevant field should be consulted about the title of the degree;
- Current employees of the university and individuals holding elected government office are not eligible, but honorary degrees may be awarded to former employees and former elected officials who meet the criteria.
- Philanthropy may not be the sole or main criterion for awarding an honorary degree, but may be taken into account as a factor when considered by the Honorary Degree Selection Committee. Nominations where philanthropy or the possibilities of future endowments are the main focus will not be considered.
- The award will not be conferred posthumously.

Honorary Degree Protocol

Decision

- The Ceremonies Committee will consider only complete nominations and may: recommend the nominee for approval by Senate and Executive of Council for one of the honorary degrees named in the Senate By-laws, or reject the nomination. If a nomination is rejected, the file is destroyed.

- Information on the action of the Ceremonies Committee regarding nominations will remain confidential.
- The Senate and Executive of Council will, at its next meeting, receive the names of those recommended for approval and will vote on each name separately at an in camera session. In unusual cases, such as a Special Convocation, such voting may take place by mail or confidential e-mail ballot. Those approved for the awarding of a degree will be added to the list of “approved” candidates, which is maintained by the Associate Registrar.
- Prior to each Convocation ceremony, the President and the University Secretary will review the approved list of honorary degree candidates and will choose the recipients to be honored at the Convocation.

Publicizing the Nomination and the Award

- If a nominator informs the nominee, or any one else, about the nomination, it must be on the basis that such communication is to be treated as strictly confidential communication and on the basis that such nomination is but a first step in a process which may or may not result in an honorary degree being granted.
- The University will not release the outcome of any individual nomination, except by making a public announcement of the honorary degree recipients for a particular Convocation. The names approved by Senate and Executive of Council will not be made public until this time. Members of Senate and Executive of Council are to treat as confidential any information regarding approved candidates.
- The University Secretary will determine the timing of the public announcement.

Awarding

- Honorary degree recipients may be invited to give the Convocation address but may decline the invitation to do so.
- Honorary degrees are not awarded in absentia. An exception may be made only when an honorary degree recipient has accepted and arrangements have been made for its awarding but extenuating and unforeseen circumstances (such as sudden ill health or inability to travel) prevent the individual’s attendance.

- Honorary degrees are not awarded posthumously. An exception may be made only when the honorary degree recipient has accepted and arrangements have been made for its awarding prior to the individual's death.
- The citation for the honorary degree is prepared by the University Secretary, in consultation with the President and in partnership with the presenter.
- The citation should be no longer than three (3) minutes in length. The Chancellor confers the honorary degree, the University Secretary hoods the honorary degree recipient, and the President presents the framed honorary degree parchment.
- Honorary degree recipients wear a scarlet wool gown trimmed with silk around the collar and down the front. The honorary degree which is presented to the honorary degree recipient at the ceremony, has a cover by official file.
- The University will make a gift of the honorary degree hood to the candidate after the ceremony. The gown will be available on loan but is retained by the University.

Rescission of Degrees

- The Senate, acting on the recommendation of Council or on its own initiative but after receiving a report from Council, may revoke an honorary degree conferred by the University and all privileges connected therewith from any holder of the same:
 - a. who shall have been convicted of any criminal offence which shall be held (by the Council) to be of an immoral, or scandalous or disgraceful nature;
 - b. whose membership in a Professional Society has been revoked for misconduct; or
 - c. whose conduct, in the opinion of the Senate, shall constitute a breach of any agreement made with the University as a condition of the conferment of such degree or degrees, diplomas, certificates or distinctions (including institutional honors).
- The Senate may restore the degree revoked by Senate without further examination, on cause being shown, and after report by Council.

Honorary Degree Selection Committee Procedures

- Nomination packets should be sent to the Honorary Degree Selection Committee and be comprised of:
 - a one- to two-page statement or letter outlining the nominee's achievements and must be accompanied by four letters of support, at least two of which must come from faculty members of the appropriate college.
 - Letters of support should be limited to two pages.
- The Honorary Degree Committee is convened by the Executive President and Senate members.
- The Faculty Senate Committee on Committees shall appoint the chair of the Honorary Degree Selection Committee from the list of seven faculty appointees.
- Committee members serve for three years, but initial appointments are staggered to ensure continuity and overlap of terms.
- If a conflict of interest arises on the committee (e.g., a member is also one of the nominators or has a personal relationship with the nominee), members must recuse themselves from the deliberations and vote.
- The Chair will challenge any inappropriate discussion of nominees where information is not relevant.

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Registration Link

<https://epsr.university/epsru-admission/>

Important Note:

Press and Media

- Press permission must be getting from the Organizing Committee of EPSRU before the event. The press will not quote speakers or delegates unless they have obtained their approval in writing. This conference is not associated with any commercial meeting company.
- Awardees / Honorary Doctorate delegates Should Obtain Prior Written Consent from EPSRU official team before Posting Pictures and contents of Awards / Honorary Doctorate on Press Media /Online media/ Websites or Social Media.

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