

**Honorary Degrees
ACA-62**

ACTION: Amend.

<p>Current policy <i>Unchanged text = black; minor changes and updates = blue; proposed substantive changes = red</i></p>	<p>Policy as amended</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p>About This Policy Effective dates: 03-13-1979 Last updated: 05-06-2011</p> <p>Responsible University Administrator: University Faculty Council Policy Contact: Kelly Kish, Deputy Chief of Staff, kekish@iu.edu</p> <p>Scope All Indiana University campuses.</p> <p>Policy Statement Criteria 1. The honorary doctorate is the highest academic recognition Indiana University can bestow. Candidates for these degrees should have demonstrated in their life and in their work high standards of excellence as evidenced by scholarship or creative activity; by professional development and achievement; by public service to the world, the nation, the state, or the community; in wholehearted commitment to the development of Indiana University; or through excellence in any calling or occupation which visibly contributed to the development of society and serves as a model for present and future generations. In all honorary degree candidates these scholarly, creative, professional, service or occupational achievements should be placed in a</p>	<p>About This Policy Effective dates: 03-13-1979 Last updated: 04-23-2019 Responsible University Office: University Faculty Council Responsible University Administrator: President of Indiana University Policy Contact: Kelly Kish, Deputy Chief of Staff, kekish@iu.edu</p> <p>Scope All Indiana University campuses.</p> <p>Policy Statement A. The honorary doctorate is the highest academic recognition Indiana University can bestow. Candidates for these degrees should have demonstrated in their life and in their work high standards of excellence as evidenced by scholarship or creative activity; by professional development and achievement; by public service to the world, the nation, the state, or the community; in wholehearted commitment to the development of Indiana University; or through excellence in any calling or occupation which visibly contributed to the development of society and serves as a model for present and future generations. In all honorary degree candidates, these scholarly, creative, professional, service or occupational achievements should be placed in a</p>	<p><i>Overview: The amendments re-order some parts to comply with the policy template, add a requirement that the committee be diverse, and clarify that the President has an active role in the process.</i></p> <p><i>Changed to president’s office; UFC is not an administrator</i></p> <p><i>Subheading “criteria” deleted because there is only one section.</i></p>

framework of high personal integrity and concern for the public good. By awarding honorary degrees to [women and men](#) of such outstanding qualities, the University seeks to present to its several constituencies veritable models worthy of emulation and respect. Students, faculty, alumni, and the people of the state as a whole should recognize in the honorary degree recipients qualities they consider particularly relevant to their own experiences, whether these be scholarship, creative activity, a profession, public service, University service, or a vocation.

2. Candidates for the honorary degree may have, but are not required to have, ties to the state of Indiana or [IU](#) through birth, residence, education, service, or notable achievement. Allowing for a continuum of possibilities, one [nominee](#) might have a strong Indiana connection with considerable accomplishments, while another might have national or international distinction tied to scholarly endeavors [at IU](#).

3. Honorary degrees are not normally awarded to candidates for political office or to elected officials currently in office or to faculty, staff, or administrators currently in service. Retired or former faculty members must meet the same high standards for nomination as all other honorary degree candidates.

4. The honorary degree may not be awarded in absentia; but, if an approved [nominee](#) cannot be present [at the convocation](#) for which the degree was [offered](#), the recommendation for the degree shall be reviewed annually by the Honorary Degrees Committee.

framework of high personal integrity and concern for the public good. By awarding honorary degrees to [individuals](#) of such outstanding qualities, the University seeks to present to its several constituencies veritable models worthy of emulation and respect. Students, faculty, alumni, and the people of the state as a whole should recognize in the honorary degree recipients qualities they consider particularly relevant to their own experiences, whether these be scholarship, creative activity, a profession, public service, university service, or a vocation.

B. Candidates for the honorary degree may have, but are not required to have, ties to the state of Indiana or to [Indiana University](#) through birth, residence, education, service, or notable achievement. Allowing for a continuum of possibilities, one [candidate](#) might have a strong Indiana connection with considerable accomplishments, while another might have national or international distinction tied to scholarly endeavors [at Indiana University](#).

C. Honorary degrees are not normally awarded to candidates for political office or to elected officials currently in office or to faculty, staff, or administrators currently in service. Retired or former faculty members must meet the same high standards for nomination as all other honorary degree candidates.

D. The honorary degree may not be awarded in absentia; but, if an approved [candidate](#) cannot be present [at the graduation or other ceremony at which the degree was intended to be awarded](#), the recommendation for the degree shall be reviewed annually by the [Honorary Degrees Committee \(HDC\)](#).

Updated language

Minor language updates

Minor wording changes

5. All nominations are referred to the **Honorary Degrees Committee**, whose recommendations are transmitted by its **chairperson** to the University Faculty Council. **After** approval by the University Faculty Council the nominations are transmitted to the President of the University for submission to the Board of Trustees for formal action.

Reason for Policy

The conferral of honorary doctoral degrees provides a special opportunity for the university to recognize **persons** of outstanding accomplishment. Indiana University, as a leading public university in the State of Indiana, recognizes a particular responsibility to acknowledge and honor **persons** of outstanding achievement who have significant ties to the state or the university. As an institution particularly responsible for advanced teaching and research in the various academic and professional

E. All nominations are referred to the **HDC**, whose recommendations are transmitted by its **chair** to the University Faculty Council. **Upon** approval by the UFC, the nominations are transmitted to the President of the university for submission to the Board of Trustees for formal action, **together with the President’s recommendations as to the appropriate ceremony for the award and any associated considerations.**

F. Since nominations for honorary degrees can be initiated by **any member of the university community**, the achievement of individuals which prompt nominations will reflect the broad spectrum of values expressed in contemporary culture. The faculty and Board of Trustees share the important and challenging task of selecting those **candidates** most appropriate for recognition as exemplary models for all of us. The award ceremony focuses attention at the interface between the university and society and the qualities of the **individual** honored reveal the values of academia.

G. The HDC invites the participation of all interested **individuals** in this important process **and awaits** the nomination of **candidates** of truly outstanding achievement for conferral of honorary doctoral degrees at graduation and **other public** academic ceremonies on all campuses of the University.

Reason for Policy

The conferral of honorary doctoral degrees provides a special opportunity for the university to recognize **individuals** of outstanding accomplishment. Indiana University, as a leading public university in the State of Indiana, recognizes a particular responsibility to acknowledge and honor **individuals** of outstanding achievement who have significant ties to the state or the university. As an institution particularly responsible for advanced

Minor language changes plus clarification of role of President.

This ¶ F has been moved up from p. 6, 3rd ¶, with only minor updates made to the wording.

This ¶ G has been moved up from p. 6, 4th ¶, with only minor updates made to the wording.

Minor word change

fields, Indiana University has an equally important responsibility to identify and honor persons of national and international eminence who are the leaders of their fields of creative or professional endeavor.

The honorary doctorate is the highest academic recognition Indiana University can bestow. Thus, candidates for the honorary degree must have demonstrated the highest levels of excellence as scholars, artists, professionals, or public servants. Equally high expectation is placed on their personal integrity and concern for the public good. In recognizing such persons, the university identifies women and men who can serve as role models for students, faculty, and alumni of Indiana University, indeed, for all persons of the state, to respect and emulate.

Candidates for an honorary doctorate can be nominated by any member of the university family. Nominations are submitted for the first stage of review to the Honorary Degrees Committee (HDC), which is a standing committee of the University Faculty Council. Some campuses have established faculty committees to initiate nominations and provide for preliminary review at the local level.

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Nomination materials need not be extensive but should indicate the extraordinary nature of the candidate's life and contribution and should document the backing of the campus faculty and administration. The following initial

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Procedures

A. Candidates for an honorary doctorate may be nominated by any member of the university community. Nominations are submitted for the first stage of review to the Honorary Degrees Committee (HDC), which is a standing committee of the University Faculty Council.

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B. The HDC shall be composed of four members of the faculty selected by the Executive Committee and four members selected by the President. Members shall be selected so as to assure diversity among campuses, disciplines, and perspectives. The chairperson shall be selected by the Executive Committee in consultation with the President.

C. Nomination materials need not be extensive, but should indicate the extraordinary nature of the candidate's life and contribution and should document the backing of the campus faculty and administration. The following initial

Paragraph to the far left deleted. It is an almost verbatim repetition of the first paragraph of the Policy section.

Minor word changes.

Last sentence ("Some campuses...") deleted as redundant, not a procedure and incorrect.

This ¶ B was moved up from p. 7, ¶ 1, and updated. Redundant text deleted.

It drops the requirement that committee members be members of the UFC as impractical and unnecessary, since the UFC votes on the degrees, and requires instead a diverse committee.

documentation is suggested:

1. A letter of nomination from the primary nominator.
2. A short (one-page maximum) narrative explaining why the candidate is worthy of an honorary doctorate from our institution.
3. A curriculum vitae.
4. Several letters of recommendation from within the university, usually from senior professors, distinguished scholars, and/or administrators, and a letter from the [dean of the sponsoring college \[or appropriate head of the academic unit on the campus making the recommendation\]](#).

Nominators may be asked by the HDC to expand the dossier and to solicit statements of support from distinguished individuals outside the university.

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Approved candidates are recommended by the HDC to the University Faculty Council for a second stage of review and approval.

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2. A short (one-page maximum) narrative explaining why the candidate is worthy of an honorary doctorate from our institution.
3. A curriculum vitae.
4. Several letters of recommendation from within the university, usually from senior professors, distinguished scholars, and/or administrators, and a letter from the [head of the College, School, or other unit making the nomination](#).

D. Nominators may be asked by the HDC to expand the dossier and to solicit statements of support from distinguished individuals outside the university.

E. The HDC shall identify resources within the university to assist in supplying input where appropriate to the selection of nominees for honorary degrees.

F. Approved candidates are recommended by the HDC to the University Faculty Council for a second stage of review and approval. The list shall be accompanied by the nominees' curriculum vitae and a written justification from the HDC for each selection based on the established criteria. A copy of the criteria shall be included.

G. A candidate cannot be [considered to have been approved](#) unless the total of affirmative votes is greater than the total of both the negative and the further-study votes.

Minor stylistic changes

This ¶ E was moved here unchanged from p. 7, ¶ 3.

The 2nd and 3rd sentences were moved here unchanged from p. 7, ¶ 2.

This ¶ G was moved here with minor word changes from p. 8, ¶ 7.

The president of the university then transmits the dossiers of approved candidates to the Board of Trustees for review and final, formal action.

It should be noted that the process of [committee](#), [council](#), and board review is a long one, often taking one to two years from inception to the actual awarding of the degree [at a public ceremony](#). To assist university colleagues in their efforts, nominators should start the process early.

Since nominations for honorary degrees can be initiated by persons from any segment of the university [family](#), the achievement of individuals which prompt nominations will reflect the broad spectrum of values expressed in contemporary U.S. culture. The faculty and Board of Trustees share the important and challenging task of selecting those [nominees](#) most appropriate for recognition as exemplary models for all of us. The award ceremony focuses attention at the interface between the university and society and the qualities of the [persons](#) honored reveal the values of academia

The Honorary Degrees Committee invites the participation of all interested [persons](#) in this important process. We await the nomination of [persons](#) of truly outstanding achievement for conferral of honorary doctoral degrees at graduation and [major](#) academic ceremonies on all campuses of the University.

(University Faculty Council, March 13, 1979; April 4, 1980; February 8, 1983; March 26, 1985; April 23, 1985; January 26, 1988; November 10, 1992; May 6, 2011)

H. The President of the university then transmits the dossiers of approved candidates to the Board of Trustees for review and final, formal action.

I. It should be noted that the process of [HDC](#), [UFC](#), and board review is a long one, often taking one to two years from inception to the actual awarding of the degree. To assist university colleagues in their efforts, nominators should start the process early.

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Minor changes and deletion of redundant language.

Paragraph to the far left has been moved to p. 3, ¶ F, and minor language changes made.

Paragraph to the far left has been moved to p. 3, ¶ G, and minor language changes made.

Moved to History section and updated.

FULL TEXT OF POLICY AS AMENDED

About This Policy

Effective dates: 03-13-1979

Last updated: 04-23-2019

Responsible University Office: University Faculty Council

Responsible University Administrator: President of Indiana University

Policy Contact: Kelly Kish, Deputy Chief of Staff, kekish@iu.edu

Scope

All Indiana University campuses.

Policy Statement

A. The honorary doctorate is the highest academic recognition Indiana University can bestow. Candidates for these degrees should have demonstrated in their life and in their work high standards of excellence as evidenced by scholarship or creative activity; by professional development and achievement; by public service to the world, the nation, the state, or the community; in wholehearted commitment to the development of Indiana University; or through excellence in any calling or occupation which visibly contributed to the development of society and serves as a model for present and future generations. In all honorary degree candidates, these scholarly, creative, professional, service or occupational achievements should be placed in a framework of high personal integrity and concern for the public good. By awarding honorary degrees to individuals of such outstanding qualities, the University seeks to present to its several constituencies veritable models worthy of emulation and respect. Students, faculty, alumni, and the people of the state as a whole should recognize in the honorary degree recipients qualities they consider particularly relevant to their own experiences, whether these be scholarship, creative activity, a profession, public service, university service, or a vocation.

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individuals which prompt nominations will reflect the broad spectrum of values expressed in contemporary culture. The faculty and Board of Trustees share the important and challenging task of selecting those candidates most appropriate for recognition as exemplary models for all of us. The award ceremony focuses attention at the interface between the university and society and the qualities of the individual honored reveal the values of academia.

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Procedures

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Additional Contacts

University Honors and Awards
uha@indiana.edu. (812) 856-3275

History

Enacted by University Faculty Council, March 13, 1979.

Amended by University Faculty Council April 4, 1980; February 8, 1983; March 26, 1985; April 23, 1985; January 26, 1988; November 10, 1992; May 6, 2011; April 23, 2019.