
HONORARY DEGREE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

(Adopted by Faculty Council, April 16, 1985)
(Guidelines Approved by the Board of Trustees, February 13, 1986)
(Amended by Faculty Council, November 14, 1989)
(Amended by the Board of Trustees, November 21, 1996)
(Amended by the Chancellor, December 1, 2009)
(Amended by the Board of Trustees, December 6, 2012)

I. Guidelines

- A. Honorary degrees at the University, as at other colleges and universities, serve a dual purpose. They both recognize men and women of high achievement and celebrate values that we profess as an institution of higher learning. They are a way of telling the larger public that certain people and accomplishments are important.
- B. In choosing individual recipients for these degrees, the one overriding consideration is the distinction of the candidate, though that distinction may be measured in a number of ways.
- C. As a public institution we are committed to openness and diversity, and our choices for honorary degrees should express that commitment. Nominees should represent a broad spectrum of noteworthy achievements whether national, regional or local. No calling or career serving a humane purpose should be excluded from consideration, so long as the achievement in question is distinguished. Individuals not eligible for selection include current faculty, staff, and trustees and elected or appointed public officials.
- D. A previous connection to the University or state should be viewed as a strength in a candidate, but to insist upon it for all would be limiting. It is, then, highly desirable but not mandatory.
- E. Finally, distinction and diversity are what we should seek. Neither allows for an easy or consistent definition, for like all such terms, they must be defined in practice. There will inevitably be honest disagreement among us as to what they mean and as to those persons who best exemplify them.

II. Honorary Degree Types

Recognized academic degrees shall not be awarded as honorary degrees. Instead, the recognized honorary degree titles shall be used. These titles include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. Doctor of Laws (LL.D.): contributions to government or public service.
- B. Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.): contributions to literature or the creative or performing arts.

- C. Doctor of Science (Sc.D.): contributions to any field of science, social science, engineering or technology.
- D. Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.): contributions to the humanities or to human welfare.

III. Procedures

The procedures for proposing and awarding Honorary Degrees are as follows:

- A. The honorary degrees committee shall be a University committee appointed by the Chancellor and designated the "University Committee on Honorary Degrees." The General Faculty of UNCG shall carry out its constitutional duty for recommending individuals for honorary degrees through appointment and participation of faculty members on the University Committee on Honorary Degrees.
- B. The solicitation for nominees for honorary degrees shall normally be undertaken in the fall semester of each academic year.
- C. The Chancellor shall solicit nominations from the faculty, individual members of the Board of Trustees, the Alumni Board, UNCG staff, and the rising senior class. Nominations from other sources will also be accepted. All nominations shall be made in writing in accordance with application guidelines and in strict confidentiality.
- D. The University Committee on Honorary Degrees shall be free to make nominations of its own in writing and in accordance with application guidelines and in strict confidentiality.
- E. The University Committee on Honorary Degrees shall present its nominations for honorary degrees to the Board of Trustees as specified in Section V below.
- F. The University Committee on Honorary Degrees shall maintain a pool of honorees already approved and of certain other nominees for reconsideration. Approved honorary degree candidates shall remain in the active candidate pool for five years or until they are awarded an honorary degree, whichever comes first.
- G. The University Committee on Honorary Degrees shall assist the Chancellor in making arrangements for those chosen for such degrees to accept them.
- H. Normally the University will present at least one honorary degree each year.
- I. Honorary degrees shall be awarded only at a Commencement.

IV. Honorary Degree Committee Membership

The University Committee on Honorary Degrees is appointed by the Chancellor. Its membership shall include four (4) faculty members nominated by the Faculty Senate in the Spring if needed, and approved by majority vote of the Faculty Senate and two (2) trustees selected by the UNCG Board of Trustees. Terms shall be staggered as four-year (academic year) appointments. Additional members of the Committee shall include the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate and the President of the Student Government Association. The

Provost and Vice Chancellor for University Advancement shall serve as non-voting ex officio members.

V. Nomination and Approval of Honorary Degrees by the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the final authority in granting the honorary degree. As such, they will receive regular reports about the nomination and selection process through the appropriate Trustee committee.

The usual process for the cycle of determining recipients for honorary degrees is noted below. It may be that individuals nominated in one year may be proposed for an honorary degree in the next academic year depending on the number of nominations and other considerations.

September/October: The Chancellor will seek nominations of individuals for consideration, setting an appropriate deadline for submission.

October/December: The Committee will review nominations and seek additional information as may be necessary to complete its work.

January/February: The Committee will recommend recipients to the Board of Trustees through the appropriate Trustee committee.

The Committee will submit a recommendation to the Board of Trustees of which nominees should receive honorary degrees. The Board of Trustees shall grant final approval of honorary degree recipients.