

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA POLICY

Policy:	HONORARY DEGREES
Effective Date:	October 4, 1975
Revised Date:	May 17, 2023
Review Date:	May 17, 2033
Approving Body:	Senate
Authority:	<i>The University of Manitoba Act</i> , section 34(1)(b)
Responsible Executive Officer:	President
Delegate:	University Secretary
Contact:	University Secretary
Application:	Senate Members; All Staff; University Community

Reason for Policy

- 1.1 To provide a process for the nomination, approval, selection, awarding, and revocation of honorary degrees at the University of Manitoba.

Policy Content

Purpose and Criteria

- 2.1 The honorary degree is the highest honour the University of Manitoba can confer upon an individual.
- 2.2 Honorary degrees shall be awarded to individuals who:
- (a) demonstrate distinguished achievement and/or have offered outstanding service at the local, provincial, national, or international levels in all fields of endeavor, including:
 - (i) leading academics in all disciplines and creative minds in arts and performance;

- (ii) public intellectuals and opinion makers;
 - (iii) visionary leaders and exemplary public figures;
 - (iv) champions of Indigenous achievement and reconciliation, Black excellence, anti-ableism and accessibility and the advancement and promotion of equity and social justice; and
 - (v) community leaders, humanitarians and philanthropists;
- (b) will serve as role models and inspiration to our graduating students;
 - (c) Distinguished achievement is achievement that is widely recognized within relevant communities, by peers in the field of endeavor and the public;
 - (d) Outstanding service is service that is widely recognizable within relevant communities and by the public, sustained over a significant period of time, has meaningful impact on the local, provincial, national, or international community, and is valued by impacted communities.

2.3 Both the recipient and the University should be honored through the awarding of the honorary degree.

General

2.4 Senate establishes and maintains a reserve list of approved candidates for honorary degrees to be awarded as the occasion demands. The President selects from this list the candidate(s) for each regular convocation:

- (a) Honorary degrees may be conferred at each session of Convocation. The decision of the number of honorary degrees to be awarded at any given session of Convocation shall rest with the President;
- (b) Additional Honorary Degrees may be awarded at Special Convocation ceremonies if it is deemed appropriate to do so for particular reasons;
- (c) The President assigns hosts to those who are to receive honorary degrees;
- (d) The University normally shall not offer an honorary degree to anyone who is not in a position to accept the degree in person. An honorary degree may be conferred in absentia for cause;
- (e) Posthumous honorary degrees shall not normally be offered. Posthumous honorary degrees may be awarded in a case where a confirmed honorary degree recipient passes away before the Convocation ceremony at which the honorary degree was to be conferred.

- (f) The University normally shall not offer an honorary degree to any individual currently holding elected office at any level of Canadian government;
- (g) Members of the Board of Governors and the Senate are not eligible to receive an honorary degree during their term on the Board or the Senate. Nominations of former members shall not normally be considered until two years have passed from the end of their term on the Board or Senate;
- (h) Members of the staff of the University are not normally eligible to receive honorary degrees, unless under exceptional circumstances. Retired members of the staff of the University shall not normally be considered for an honorary degree as other awards more appropriately recognize the contributions of staff. A retired staff member may be considered for an honorary degree three years after retirement, if they meet the criteria for an honorary degree for significant contributions made above and beyond their work at the University;
- (i) Recipients of other University-level awards (Peter. D. Curry Chancellor's Award, Distinguished Service Award, Alumni Awards) may be considered for honorary degrees, provided a reasonable amount of time has passed since the presentation of the other award and they clearly meet the criteria for an honorary degree;
- (j) Members of the Board of Governors, Senate and the University Community are solicited at least once a year for nominations. In addition, the Committee may consider nominations received from members of constituencies outside the University.

Types of Degree

2.5 The University may confer the following honorary degrees:

- (a) Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) (LL.D.) awarded for outstanding service as visionary leaders, exemplary public figures, community leaders, humanitarians and philanthropists.
- (b) Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) (D.Litt.) awarded for distinguished achievement in scholarship in the social sciences and humanities and for creative works in the arts and performance.
- (c) Doctor of Science (honoris causa) (D.Sc.) awarded for distinguished achievement in scholarship in the pure and applied sciences.

Guidelines for Nominations

2.6 The following information shall be provided when recommending candidates for an honorary degree:

- (a) Name of candidate;
- (b) Address and telephone;
- (c) Community-recognized knowledge and educational background (including degree(s) held, if any, and the University awarding the degree(s));
- (d) Curriculum vitae containing such details as:
 - (i) Place of birth;
 - (ii) Education;
 - (iii) Field of endeavor;
 - (iv) A short description of publications, if any;
 - (v) Special awards;
 - (vi) Distinguished service;
- (e) Contribution of special accomplishments, community engagement and impact on which the recommendation is made;
- (f) Other information which the nominator feels may be pertinent;
- (g) Three letters in support of the nomination;
- (h) A short, 200 biographical sketch of the nominee;
- (i) Degree recommended (LL.D., D.Litt., D.Sc.).

2.7 Recommendations for honorary degrees are to be submitted to the University Secretary, care of the Office of the University Secretary.

2.8 In addition to nominations received, the Committee may gather information and recommend candidates to Senate directly.

Revocation of Honorary Degrees

2.9 Both the recipient and the University should be honored through the awarding of the honorary degree. Should the actions or conduct of a living honorary degree recipient conflict with the values of the University, the Senate may revoke an honorary degree, by means of the following process:

- a) Upon recommendation of the President, the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees may:
 - i) determine, in a closed session meeting:

- a. that the actions or conduct of a living honorary degree recipient is materially immoral or unethical in nature;
 - b. if such person has displayed a lack of integrity that would cause the University significant embarrassment;
- in making this determination, the Committee may at its option, strike an ad hoc sub-committee to provide advice to the Committee.
- ii) recommend to a closed session of Senate that the honorary degree be revoked. The decision to withdraw a naming shall be determined by the Senate in closed session in a secret ballot vote.
- b) Any decision of Senate to revoke an honorary degree shall be communicated publicly.

Accountability

- 3.1 The Office of Legal Counsel is responsible for advising the President that a formal review of this Policy is required.
- 3.2 The University Secretary is responsible for the implementation, administration and review of this Policy.
- 3.3 Senate members, Staff and the University Community are responsible for complying with this Policy.

Authority to Approve Procedures

- 4.1 The President may approve Procedures, if applicable, which are secondary to and comply with this Policy.

Review

- 5.1 Governing Document reviews shall be conducted every ten (10) years. The next scheduled review date for this Policy is May 17, 2033.
- 5.2 In the interim, this Policy may be revised or repealed if:
 - (a) the President or the Approving Body deems it necessary or desirable to do so;
 - (b) the Policy is no longer legislatively or statutorily compliant; and/or
 - (c) the Policy is now in conflict with another Governing Document.

5.3 If this Policy is revised or repealed all Secondary Documents, if applicable, shall be reviewed as soon as possible in order that they:

- (a) comply with the revised Policy; or
- (b) are in turn repealed.

Effect on Previous Statements

6.1 This Policy supersedes all of the following:

- (a) all previous Board of Governors/Senate Governing Documents on the subject matter contained herein; and
- (b) all previous Administration Governing Documents on the subject matter contained herein.

Cross References

7.1 This Policy should be cross referenced to the following relevant Governing Documents, legislation and/or forms:

- (a) [Procedure: Recommending Candidates for Honorary Degrees](#);
- (b) [Honorary Degree Nomination Form](#); and
- (c) [Honorary Degree Recipients](#).