

# Honorary Degree Information

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## Purpose

The honorary degree is the highest honour the University of Manitoba can confer upon an individual.

Honorary degrees are intended to:

- allow the University to recognize individuals who 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;
- provide role models and inspiration to our graduating students; and honor both the recipient and the University in the awarding of the honorary degree.

## Criteria

Honorary degrees are awarded on the basis of:

1. Distinguished achievement in scholarship, the arts and performance, visionary leaders and champions, or public service. Distinguished achievement is achievement that is widely recognized within relevant communities by peers in the field of endeavor and the public.
2. Both the recipient and the University should be honored in the granting of a degree honoris causa.

## Eligibility

- The University normally shall not offer an honorary degree to any individual currently holding elected office at any level of Canadian government;
- 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;
- 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;

- 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;

### **Types of Honorary Degrees**

#### **Doctor of Laws** (honoris causa) (LL.D.)

- awarded for outstanding service as visionary leaders, exemplary public figures, community leaders, humanitarians and philanthropists.

#### **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.

#### **Doctor of Science** (honoris causa) (D.Sc.)

- awarded for distinguished achievement in scholarship in the pure and applied sciences.

### **Honorary Degree Process**

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. Only candidates receiving a two-thirds majority of the number of members of Senate present and voting are placed on the reserve list of approved candidates. Results of the election are confidential.

Information respecting nominating candidates for Honorary Degrees, as well as the list of candidates who have received Honorary Degrees can be found at:

<https://umanitoba.ca/governance/honours/honorary-degree-recipient>

### **Honorary Degree Citations**

The citation is a statement of the significance of the candidate's work as prepared by one of the nominators. It is intended to state very briefly why a candidate should be elected, and is essentially a summary of the nomination. The citation should establish that the candidate has achieved such distinction as described in the [Honorary Degrees Policy](#). Those preparing citations are asked to respect the limitation of length of 200 words. The citation should concentrate on the candidate's original contributions.

The citation should be as readable as possible while sufficiently technical in content to allow those considering the nominations to make a confident assessment of the candidate's work for voting purposes. When a candidate is selected by the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees, the citation is the only document that will be circulated to the Senate to help them in their voting. If a nominee is approved, the citation, or a condensed version of it, will be used for convocation and all related publications. The citation is therefore an important document which should be carefully written and should contain as much useful information as possible.