

6.2 Honorary Degrees

Iowa State University awards honorary degrees to celebrate and honor careers of extraordinary achievement in the community of knowledge, understanding, and creativity of which it is a part. In conferring an honorary degree, Iowa State University associates itself with the highest achievements in scholarship, research, and creative activity consistent with its educational mission. It expresses the ideals of a great university by designating models of exceptional merit for emulation and respect.

6.2.1 Eligibility

An honorary degree is not awarded for philanthropic activity or service to the university or the State of Iowa. A candidate's qualifications must be deeply grounded in a career of scholarship, research, and creative activity consistent with the academic endeavors of the university. The following criteria apply for a candidate's eligibility:

- Neither active nor retired faculty of Iowa State University are eligible for candidacy.
- Those who have left Iowa State and have established a career in another setting would be considered eligible five years after leaving this institution.
- Holders of elective or appointive public offices are not eligible for consideration until five years or more after they have vacated office.

6.2.2 Policies for the Selection Process

- An honorary degree will be awarded only in exceptional circumstances. Awarding this degree need not be considered an annual occurrence.
- The committee will receive nominations only from members of the faculty. A nomination may originate from an individual faculty member, from an academic unit, or from the collaborative efforts of the faculties of two or more departments.
- A nomination that comes to the committee from a source other than the academic discipline with which the candidate is associated should be reviewed by the faculty of the appropriate academic unit before it is included in a recommendation forwarded to the president.

6.2.3 Guidelines for the Selection of a Candidate

- The primary criteria for the selection of a candidate are a career of superlative intellectual and/or creative activity and of representing the ideals of Iowa State University.
- Attention must be given to calendar, nomination procedures, and documentation of a candidate's qualifications.
- Special emphasis should be placed on securing nominations for female and minority candidates.

6.2.4 Procedures for the Selection of a Candidate

- A committee of the Faculty Senate, the Committee for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees, shall be chaired by a faculty member. It will be responsible for inviting and reviewing all nominations and making written recommendations. The committee will report in confidence its recommendations to the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate and the board will make its recommendations to the university president.
- The committee will announce its procedures and its timetable for receiving nominations from the faculty in a timely manner.
- In the event that the university president does not accept a recommendation for an honorary degree from the Executive Board, the president will communicate the reasons for not doing so to the Executive Board in a timely manner.

The following guidelines will apply in awarding honorary degrees :

- Ordinarily an honorary degree is awarded at commencement ceremonies.
- Normally an honorary degree will not be awarded in absentia.
- The president of the university extends the invitations to those selected to receive an honorary degree.
- Insofar as possible, the recipient of an honorary degree will interact with faculty and students in the field or area of interest while the recipient is visiting the campus.

6.2.5 Rescission of Honorary Degrees

If an honorary degree recipient has acted in a manner as to bring the University's name into disrepute, compromise the public trust, dishonor the University's standards, or otherwise be contrary to the best interests of the University, that recipient's honorary degree may be rescinded by the President of Iowa State University, following the recommendation of the Committee on Awarding Honorary Degrees and its approval by the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate.