

# WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

## HONORARY DEGREE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

### CRITERIA

1. The honorary doctorate is the highest academic recognition Washburn 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 achievement; by public service to the world, the nation, the state, or the community; in wholehearted commitment to the development of Washburn 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.
2. Candidates for the honorary degree should generally have significant ties to the State of Kansas or to Washburn University through birth, residence, education, service, or notable achievement. Some benefit either direct or indirect should accrue to the University.
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. An honorary degree is awarded to an individual; therefore, a separate nomination is to be submitted for each individual.
5. Normally, the honorary degree should not be awarded in absentia and no more than three doctoral degrees should be awarded at any given commencement exercise.
6. All nominations must be referred to the Honorary Degree Committee, whose recommendations are transmitted by its chairperson to the President of the university for consideration and submission to the Board of Regents for formal action.

### PROCEDURES

1. Faculty, students, Washburn University Foundation members, Washburn Board of Regents members, and Alumni Association members will be invited to submit nominations. Nominations are eligible for consideration for a two-year period. At the end of the two-year period, the Honorary Degree Committee can elect to vote to extend consideration of a nominee for one more year.
2. The chairman of the Honorary Degree Committee shall forward its list of nominees to the committee members. The list shall be accompanied by the nominees' curriculum vitae and a written justification from the nominator for each selection based on the established criteria. **Nominees should not be made aware of their nomination.** A copy of the criteria shall be included in this mailing. The committee can vote to accept nominations received after the deadline.
3. The Honorary Degree Committee shall identify sources within the university to assist in supplying input where appropriate to the selection of nominees for honorary degree.

4. In the event that an approved nominee cannot be present at the commencement in May for which the degree was approved, the recommendation for the degree shall be reviewed annually by the Honorary Degree Committee. An approved nominee can also be offered the option to receive the degree at commencement the following December at the discretion of the president.
5. Nominees for honorary degrees shall not be voted upon by mail ballot except in circumstances judged to be emergencies by the Honorary Degree Committee, academic vice president and president.
6. Except for dedications and other special occasions, the presentation of nominations for honorary degrees by the Honorary Degree Committee to the university president normally shall be made no later than the January meeting of each year.
7. If a mail ballot becomes necessary, a candidate cannot be declared to have won unless the total of affirmative votes is greater than the total of both the negative and the further-study votes.

**Nomination Timeline for May 2016**

August 27	Call for nominations
September 28	Nominations due to Committee Chair
October TBA	Committee meets to review nominations and recommendations submitted to President
December or February	Nominations submitted to Board of Regents
February	Announcement of Honorary Degree Recipients for Spring 2016 Commencement