

C-6. AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREES POLICY

The University may award honorary degrees to individuals that the Board of Trustees determines have distinguished themselves in their achievements or their service to the University, the State of Alabama, the United States of America, or who have otherwise made significant contributions to society as a whole. While most recipients of honorary degrees should be graduates of Auburn or should otherwise have close ties to the University, the recipient of any honorary degree awarded on the basis of national or international prominence must have meaningful connections to the State of Alabama and to the University. In order to preserve the integrity of the honorary degree process, the principles below will generally apply.

1. Only unusual and distinctive circumstances justify the award of an honorary degree. the University has a rich history of storied alumni and friends, but only extraordinary circumstances warrant the award of an honorary degree.
2. No person is eligible to be nominated for or receive an honorary degree while that person is employed by the University or serving on the Board of Trustees.
3. Nominations may be made by any faculty member of the University and shall be submitted in writing to the University President. Each nomination must be accompanied by a written explanation and supporting documentation detailing the justification for the award.
4. If the University President determines that a nomination warrants the consideration of the Board of Trustees, the University President shall forward its written recommendation, along with the original nomination and supporting documentation, to the *President Pro Tempore*.
5. Upon the concurrence of the *President Pro Tempore* that a nomination warrants consideration by the full Board of Trustees, the *President Pro Tempore* will place consideration of the nomination on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees (unless the agenda for such meeting is already fixed, in which case the item shall be placed on the agenda for the following regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees) and will circulate the original nomination and supporting documentation, together with the University President's written recommendation and any additional information that the *President Pro Tempore* believes should be considered, to all of the voting members of the Board of Trustees.
6. Notwithstanding the forgoing, nominations may be considered at any meeting of the Board of Trustees (regularly scheduled or otherwise), and a special meeting may be scheduled to consider the nomination if warranted by the circumstances. The Board of Trustees may also hold one (1) or more executive sessions to discuss the merit of the nomination, general reputational or character issues or concerns, and any other matters relevant to the nomination.
7. A positive vote by written ballot of three-fourths of the voting members of the Board of Trustees present in an open session is required to approve the awarding of an honorary degree.
8. Only degree designations appropriate to the academic offerings of the University are to be used, but in no event may an honorary degree be awarded with the same designation as any for-credit degree offered by the University.

9. The University President will make arrangements for suitable activities surrounding actual granting of the degree and commemoration of the occasion, whether in connection with regular commencement exercises or otherwise, and in-person presence of the recipient should be prioritized absent extenuating circumstances.

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