
HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREES

PURPOSE: To establish policies and procedures for honorary doctoral degrees.

I. Policy Statement

Boise State University awards honorary doctoral degrees to recognize individuals of outstanding accomplishment in scholarship, creativity, public service, education, or contributions to human welfare. The recipient of an honorary doctoral degree must exhibit a career of extraordinary and lasting distinction that serves as an inspiration to students and an indication of values that are esteemed by the university. An honorary doctoral degree is unrelated to the academic doctoral programs of the university and must therefore be distinguishable in title from all degrees earned in those programs.

II. Honorary Doctoral Degrees

- Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.): contributions to the humanities or to human welfare.
- Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.): contributions to literature or the creative or performing arts.
- Doctor of Laws (LL.D.): contributions to government or public service.
- Doctor of Science (Sc.D.): contributions to any field of science, social science, engineering, or technology.

III. Selection Committee

The Selection Committee is composed of twenty-one individuals as follows:

- the provost of the university who serves as chair;
- the graduate dean;
- the president of the Faculty Senate;
- one member of the Faculty Senate from each of the colleges and divisions represented in the senate;
- members of the official faculty appointed by the provost of the university to serve terms of three years each and to reach twenty-one total committee members.

Faculty appointments should be made so as to provide an approximately balanced representation of academic fields on the committee.

IV. Selection Guidelines

1. The candidate must not be a government official in a position to significantly influence the welfare of the university. However, a candidate who is retired from government service may receive consideration.
2. The candidate must not be a current student or current employee of the university.
3. An honorary doctoral degree is not given for monetary or material contributions to the university or for service to the university. However, a donor to the university is not precluded from consideration as long as his or her accomplishments and career fit the qualifications described in section I.
4. Special consideration may be given to candidates who are associated with Idaho or are graduates of Boise State University and/or with the State of Idaho.

V. Selection Procedure

1. The provost of the university solicits nominations from all members of the official faculty; this solicitation is issued by the 15th of September of each academic year and should reference this policy. Nominations are due in the Office of the Provost by the 1st of November and should be submitted on the approved form.
2. Each nomination is reviewed by the selection committee and a limited number of nominees with serious prospects for success are identified as finalists for further review. A subcommittee is assigned to each finalist and is charged with the task of compiling a full dossier that describes the finalist's career and suggests a degree title; see section VII for guidelines on the preparation of dossiers. These dossiers are to be completed by the 15th of January and consideration of them by the committee should start soon thereafter.
3. At a full meeting of the committee held no later than the 15th of February, the committee discusses the finalists and votes on them separately by written ballot to determine a set of approved finalists; approval requires at least a two-thirds affirmative vote of the committee (at least 14 yes votes). A committee member who is excused by the chair from voting in person may request that the chair or a committee member designated by the chair serve as proxy; the request should be made in writing. From the set of approved finalists, not more than two can be selected as eligible to receive honorary degrees during the current calendar year. The possible outcomes are described below.
 - If no finalists are approved, then no honorary degrees can be awarded in the current calendar year.
 - If only one finalist is approved, then only that approved finalist is eligible to receive an honorary degree during the current calendar year.
 - If only two finalists are approved, then only those two approved finalists are eligible to receive honorary degrees during the current calendar year.
 - If more than two finalists are approved, then only the two highest-ranking approved finalists (i.e., the two with the largest number of approval votes) are eligible to receive honorary degrees during the current calendar year. If a tie precludes identification of the two highest ranking approved finalists, a written ballot is cast by the members of the committee with

consideration limited to the approved finalists involved in the highest ranking tie.

4. All nominees, finalists, and approved finalists who are not selected as eligible to receive an honorary degree during the current calendar year can be renominated for consideration in any future year.
5. All aspects of the selection procedure are conducted with a level of confidentiality appropriate to personnel matters.

VI. Invitation and Award of the Degree

Honorary doctoral degrees can only be awarded at a university commencement (May or December or both). Only the president of the university can extend an invitation to an individual to attend a commencement and receive an honorary doctoral degree but the president is not required to extend any invitations. If an invitation is extended by the president, it can only be extended to an approved finalist who is eligible to receive an honorary doctoral degree during the calendar year of the commencement. The president makes all necessary arrangements upon acceptance of the invitation including all matters associated with the award ceremony. Except in the case of serious illness, an honorary doctoral degree cannot be awarded in absentia. An honorary doctoral degree can be awarded posthumously but only in those cases where the honoree dies after accepting the president's invitation.

VII. Guidelines for Dossiers

It is not possible to strictly define content requirements for dossiers because the information available for finalists is highly variable. However, to the extent possible, each dossier should include the following two elements:

- A resume summarizing the finalist's education, career, honors, and awards, with the items in each major section listed in chronological order.
- A brief discussion of the finalist's accomplishments, the impact of those accomplishments, and the relationship of the finalist to the university and to the State of Idaho.

Telephone interviews and letters of support cannot be used in the preparation of dossiers but the nominator of a particular finalist may be consulted for assistance. The dossier must specify the recommended degree title from the list given in section II.