

# GRANTING HONORARY DEGREES

**POLICY NUMBER:** RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

**POLICY TYPE:** ACADEMIC & ADMISSIONS POLICY COMMITTEE

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL TITLE:** PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** PROVOST'S OFFICE

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 11/8/2017

**NEXT REVIEW DATE:** 11/8/2021

**SUPERSEDES POLICY DATED:** N/A

**REQUIRES LEGAL/COMPLIANCE REVIEW:**

(PER SECTION V. OF THE APPROVED POLICY REQUEST FORM)  YES  NO

**REQUIRES I.T. POLICY COUNCIL REVIEW:**

(PER SECTION V. OF THE APPROVED POLICY REQUEST FORM)  YES  NO

**REQUIRES HUMAN RESOURCES REVIEW:**

(PER SECTION V. OF THE APPROVED POLICY REQUEST FORM)  YES  NO

**REQUIRES BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVAL:**

(PER SECTION V. OF THE APPROVED POLICY REQUEST FORM)  YES  NO

## I. POLICY STATEMENT

An honorary degree is one of higher education's most significant accolades. Northern Kentucky University ("the University") awards honorary degrees on a selective basis to distinguished individuals who merit special recognition for outstanding achievement or leadership in a field or activity consistent with the ideals and mission of the University. This policy sets forth the following procedures for granting honorary degrees. Final decision on the granting honorary degrees rests with the Board of Regents.

1. Approved honorary degrees for Northern Kentucky University are Doctor of Fine Arts, Doctor of Humane Letters, Doctor of Humanities, Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Business, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Music, Doctor of Education, and Doctor of Science.
2. The selection of Candidates will seek to reflect the breadth of interests and activities of the University.
3. An honorary degree may be awarded to a person who satisfies the following criteria:
  - a. Eminence, in the course of a career, in some field of scholarship, in public service, or in an artistic, literary, governmental, religious, business, or other endeavor; and/or
  - b. Significant accomplishments, which have a direct bearing on the advancement of Northern Kentucky University.
4. While the number of nominations is not limited, except under unusual circumstances when the Board of Regents determines otherwise, the University shall not award more than two honorary degrees per academic year.
5. In recognition of the University's commitment to gender equality and social, economic, national, racial, and cultural diversity, the University is committed to the award of honorary degrees to recipients who reflect the diversity of interests, backgrounds, and concerns reflected in the University community and the society and communities served by the University.
6. Honorary degrees will not be awarded to current Northern Kentucky University employees, but may, in exceptional cases, be awarded to former University employees.
7. An honorary degree recipient shall not receive a speaker's fee or honorarium for accepting an honorary degree or delivering a commencement address or the equivalent.
8. Except under unusual circumstances, Northern Kentucky University shall not grant honorary degrees in absentia.

## II. ENTITIES AFFECTED

This policy applies to all members of the University Community involved in the nomination or selection of candidates for honorary degrees.

### III. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, as chair of the Honorary Recognition Committee, is responsible for implementing the policy.

### IV. COMMITTEE

Honorary Recognition Committee. See details in Procedures below.

### V. PROCEDURES

Describe the **MINIMUM ACTIONS** required to fulfill the policy's requirements. This section should **NOT INCLUDE** internal protocols, guidelines, optional or purely desirable actions.

#### Procedures

1. A candidate for an honorary degree may be suggested by anyone, but must be formally nominated by an organized faculty body within the University, usually an academic department or faculty of a college. All nominations are confidential and potential nominees should not be contacted directly. Review is ongoing and candidates may ultimately be selected several years after their initial nomination.
2. The Honorary Recognition Committee (HRC) serves as advisory to the President in the recommendation of honorary degrees to be granted by the University's Board of Regents.
3. The Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs shall serve as chair of the HRC.
4. The HRC membership the committee shall be comprised of the presidents of the governance organizations and the Alumni Council.
5. The deadline for submission of nominations is determined by the HRC. The nominating form may be found on the Provost's website.
6. The HRC shall review nominations and submit their recommendation(s) to the President. Only nominations approved by a majority vote of the HRC will be forwarded to the President.
7. The President shall review the nominations and forward a final slate of candidates to the Board of Regents for their final approval.

### VI. COMMUNICATIONS

University community.

### VII. REFERENCES AND RELATED MATERIALS

#### REVISION HISTORY

Indicate any revisions to this policy using the table below. Include the type of revision and the month & year the revision was approved

REVISION TYPE	MONTH/YEAR APPROVED
Revision	11/2017
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

