



# Senate Honorary Degree Procedures

## Overview

Honorary Degrees are awarded by The University of Lethbridge Senate under the power conferred upon this body by *The Post-Secondary Learning Act* of the Province of Alberta.

Recipients of these degrees personify the values expressed in the philosophy of the institution - they cultivate humane values and seek to foster such things as intellectual growth, social development, aesthetic sensitivity, personal ethics, and the dimensions of a scholar's personality.

Individuals who are honoured have made substantial contributions to society at the provincial, national and/or international levels in such areas as the professions, business, public life, philanthropy, the arts, humanities, and the sciences. People in virtually all fields of endeavour are eligible and the recipients need not be in prominent positions the distinguishing feature is that they will have given distinguished public service within the scope available to them.

## Nominations

Nominations are solicited by the Honorary Degree Committee from the University community in general, as well as from the academic community. Nomination packages are to include a nomination form, at least two letters of support, and the nominee's curriculum vitae (CV). In circumstances where the nominee's CV is not easily accessible, special permission for exception may be granted by the Committee Chair. In an effort to preserve confidentiality, the nominee should not be made aware of the nomination. Deadline for submissions is November 1 of each year. Nominations are considered by the Honorary Degree committee for three years (current plus two). Honorary Degrees are not granted posthumously, or to sitting politicians, therefore these nominations will not be accepted. Should a nominee become deceased during the time their nomination is in the pool it will be removed. The only exception to this is if a nominee that has been voted in by Senate passes away between being chosen as a recipient and the ceremony, at which point Senate will vote on whether to award posthumously.

## Short List

Following the submission deadline, the Honorary Degree Committee shall review each nomination package, including the carry overs from the previous two years. A short list of candidates worthy of an honorary degree from the University of Lethbridge will be compiled using the information of last year's short list as reference. The usual practice is to confer one honorary degree at each of the convocation ceremonies per year, with the exception of expedited or special case recipients. The Honorary Degree Committee should be made aware of any pre-approved, non-conferred recipients (and obtain a commitment from them) each year prior to their deliberations.

## Approval at Senate

The short list of candidates shall then be forwarded to Senate for their consideration at an *in camera* portion of the February meeting. In order for a nominee to be considered approved, they must receive greater than 50% of affirmative votes by Senate. Best efforts shall be made to award at least one academic degree (those other than LL.D.) per year. An academic honorary degree short-listed candidate who is not in the top may bump out the lower of the candidates to receive an honorary degree, as long as they still receive greater than 50% of the affirmative votes.

If an approved candidate accepts an honorary degree, the recipient of the honorary degree shall be scheduled at a time that is mutually convenient to the university and the candidate, provided that it is no longer than three years after an affirmative vote by Senate. If the committee deems that extraordinary circumstances have arisen, they may choose to carry forward a candidate further.

For additional information, please contact the Senate Office 403-329-2482 or [governance@uleth.ca](mailto:governance@uleth.ca).