



## FGCU REGULATION 3.002

Effective Date of  
Regulation:

### Honorary Degrees

September 14, 2021

#### A. GENERAL

This Regulation is in accordance with the regulations and guidelines of the Florida Board of Governors as it pertains to the awarding of honorary degrees.

#### B. SCOPE

Ever mindful of its mission, Florida Gulf Coast University (“FGCU” or “University”) grants honorary degrees to persons whose achievements are in concert with the mission of the University. Recipients of honorary degrees will be forever associated with the University; therefore, recipients of an honorary degree from FGCU must be of sufficient stature and character so as to honor the University.

#### C. HONORARY GRADUATE DEGREES

##### 1. Honorary Graduate Degrees Eligibility

Specific criteria for an honorary graduate degree at FGCU includes a distinguished record of scholarship and/or an outstanding contributions to society through humanitarian efforts, public service, education, or artistic achievement. Ordinarily, honorary doctoral degrees are not awarded to current members of the University faculty, staff, Board of Trustees, or any elected official or state employee who has direct oversight of the University. Former members of the Board of Trustees and emeriti faculty should only be considered for honorary graduate degrees on an exceptional basis.

##### 2. Honorary Graduate Degrees Offered

Honorary graduate degrees offered at FGCU include the following:

###### a. Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.)

*Litterarum Humaniorum Doctor, honoris causa:* Awarded for outstanding achievement in the humanities and the social sciences.

###### b. Honorary Doctor of Letters (Litt.D)

*Litterarum Doctor, honoris causa:* Awarded for outstanding contributions to the field of literature, journalism, and drama.

###### c. Honorary Doctor of Laws (L.L.D.)

*Legum Doctor, honoris causa:* Awarded for outstanding community contributions at the local, national, or international level in business, industry, government, and public office.

d. Honorary Doctor of Science (Sc.D.)

*Scientia Doctor, honoris causa:* Awarded for outstanding achievement in the pure and applied sciences, health professions, and technology.

e. Others as approved by the Committee on Honorary Graduate Degrees.

3. Honorary Graduate Degrees Nomination Process

Nominations and supporting materials for awarding honorary graduate degrees are encouraged from all constituents of the University. For full consideration, the nominator must supply the following information to the Office of Academic Affairs no later than October 1 for Fall Commencement and no later than February 1 for Spring Commencement:

- a. Letter of nomination that summarizes the candidate's qualifications for this honor;
- b. Brief curriculum vitae, resume, or biographical description of the nominee;
- c. Other supporting evidence as appropriate (e.g., letters of support, publications, materials, etc.); and
- d. Contact information for the nominee.

4. Honorary Graduate Degrees Selection Process

- a. The Committee on Honorary Graduate Degrees ("Honorary Graduate Degree Committee") is comprised of the following:
  - 1) Executive Vice President and Provost, or designee;
  - 2) Faculty Senate's Graduate Affairs Team;
  - 3) An Academic Dean or Chair/Director, appointed by the Provost;
  - 4) Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, or designee appointed by the Provost;
  - 5) A representative from the President's Office, appointed by the President; and

- 6) Vice President for University Advancement, or designee.
- b. The Honorary Graduate Degree Committee will publicize criteria and guidelines for nominations at least three (3) weeks prior to the nomination deadline.
- c. The Honorary Graduate Degree Committee will review nominations and identify individuals who meet the criteria for an honorary graduate degree. The Honorary Graduate Degree Committee shall recommend candidates and appropriate degree(s) to the President by November 1 for Fall Commencement and by March 1 for Spring Commencement.
- d. The Honorary Graduate Degree Committee will include a written rationale for each individual who is being recommended for an honorary degree. Ordinarily, the Honorary Graduate Degree Committee will submit no more than five (5) recommendations to the President.
- e. There shall be no communication with the prospective honorary degree recipient(s) until after the President has initially approved the conferral of honorary graduate degrees.
- f. Upon the President's approval, the President shall submit the recommendation(s) to the Board of Trustees for its final review and approval of all honorary graduate degrees.
- g. Upon the Board of Trustees' approval, the President, or designee, shall contact the selected recipient(s) concerning acceptance and conferral of the honorary graduate degree.
- h. In cases where nominees fail to satisfy minimal eligibility requirements, the President, with consultation from the Graduate Degree Committee, reserves the right not to award an honorary graduate degree.

#### 5. Awarding Honorary Graduate Degrees

- a. Normally, honorary graduate degrees will be awarded at Commencement and will not be awarded in absentia. Under special circumstances, whereas an awardee is physically unable to attend Commencement, special arrangement may be made by the University to confer the award.
- b. Unless otherwise initially approved, honorary graduate degrees will be awarded at Commencement.
- c. An honorary graduate degree may be awarded posthumously.
- d. The candidate will be presented with the University diploma carrying the title of the

degree, a citation indicating the reasons for the award, and a doctoral hood bearing the colors of the University.

#### **D. HONORARY BACHELOR'S DEGREES**

##### 1. Honorary Bachelor's Degrees Eligibility

An honorary bachelor's degree will be awarded to an individual who has achieved significant success in business, public service and/or community leadership. These recipient's achievements are such that we wish they had graduated from FGCU and that they serve as a model for our current and future students.

##### 2. Honorary Bachelor's Degrees Offered

Honorary bachelor's degrees offered at FGCU include the following:

- a. Honorary Bachelor's Degree - Life Success and Community Service.
- b. Others as approved by the Committee on Honorary Bachelor's Degrees.

##### 3. Honorary Bachelor's Degrees Nomination Process

Nominations for awarding honorary bachelor's degrees are encouraged from all constituents of the University. For full consideration, the nominator must supply the following information to the Office of the President no later than October 1 for Fall Commencement and no later than February 1 for Spring Commencement:

- a. Letter of nomination that summarizes the candidate's qualifications for this honor, including a short statement of accomplishments and character;
- b. Brief curriculum vitae, resume, or biographical description of the nominee;
- c. Other supporting evidence as appropriate (e.g., letters of support, publications, materials, etc.); and
- d. Contact information for the nominee.

##### 4. Honorary Bachelor's Degrees Selection Process

- a. The Committee on Honorary Bachelor's Degree ("Honorary Bachelor's Degree Committee") is comprised of the following individuals:
  - 1) A representative from Faculty Senate;
  - 2) A representative from Staff Advisory Council (SAC);

- 3) A representative from Student Government (SG);
  - 4) A representative from the Alumni Association; and
  - 5) Three (3) representatives appointed by the President.
- b. The Honorary Bachelor's Degree Committee will publicize criteria and guidelines for nominations at least three (3) weeks prior to the nomination deadline.
  - c. The Honorary Bachelor's Degree Committee will review nominations and identify individuals who meet the criteria for an honorary bachelor's degree. The Honorary Bachelor's Degree Committee shall recommend candidates and appropriate degree(s) to the President by November 1 for Fall Commencement and by March 1 for Spring Commencement.
  - d. The Honorary Bachelor's Degree Committee will include a written rationale for each individual who is being recommended for an honorary degree. Ordinarily, the Honorary Bachelor's Degree Committee will submit no more than five (5) recommendations to the President for review of the President's Cabinet.
  - e. There shall be no communication with the prospective honorary degree recipient(s) until after the President has initially approved the conferral of honorary degrees.
  - f. Upon the President's Cabinet's approval, the President will inform the Board of Trustees of the honorary bachelor's degrees awarded. The Board of Trustees will be informed prior to the awarding of an honorary bachelor's degree.
  - g. The President, or designee, shall contact the selected recipient(s) concerning acceptance and conferral of the honorary bachelor's degrees.
  - h. In cases where nominees fail to satisfy minimal eligibility requirements, the President, with consultation from the Bachelor's Degree Committee, reserves the right not to award an honorary bachelor's degree.
5. Awarding Honorary Bachelor's Degrees
- a. Normally, honorary bachelor's degrees will be awarded at Commencement and will not be awarded in absentia. Under special circumstances, whereas an awardee is physically unable to attend Commencement, special arrangement may be made by the University to confer the award.
  - b. Unless otherwise initially approved, honorary bachelor's degrees will be awarded at Commencement.

- c. An honorary bachelor's degree may be awarded posthumously.
- d. The candidate will be presented with the University diploma carrying the title of the degree, a citation indicating the reasons for the award, and current Florida Gulf Coast University bachelor's degree regalia.

*Authority*

*BOG Regulation 3.004; Resolutions on Presidential Authorizations*

*History of Regulation*

*New 4/21/09; Amended 06/07/16; Amended 09/14/21*

*Approved by Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees*

*September 14, 2021*