



## REGULATION: FGCU-PR3.002

*Effective  
Date of  
Regulation:*

### Honorary Degrees

**4/21/09**

(1) General. This regulation is in accordance with the regulations and guidelines of the Florida Board of Governors as they pertain to the awarding of honorary degrees.

(2) Scope. Ever mindful of its mission, Florida Gulf Coast 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 Florida Gulf Coast University must be of sufficient stature and character so as to honor the University.

(3) Eligibility. Specific criteria for an honorary degree at FGCU include:

(a) Distinguished record of scholarship, and/or,

(b) Outstanding contributions to society through humanitarian efforts, public service, education, or artistic achievement.

(c) 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 degrees on an exceptional basis.

(4) Nomination Process. Nominations for awarding honorary degrees are encouraged from all constituents of the University. For full consideration, the nominator must supply the following information that must be received in the Office of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs no later than for Fall Commencement. Nominations and supporting materials for Spring Commencement must be received in Academic Affairs no later than February 1.

(a) Letter of nomination that summarizes the candidate's qualifications for this honor.

- (b) Brief curriculum vitae of the nominee (resume or biographical description).
- (c) Other supporting evidence as appropriate (e.g., letters of support, publications, materials).
- (d) Contact information for the nominee.
- (5) Selection Process.
  - (a) The Committee on Honorary Degrees is comprised of the following individuals:
    - (i) Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs or his/her designee.
    - (ii) One faculty member from each college, appointed by the Faculty Senate. Faculty members shall be appointed for two-year terms. Members may serve no more than two consecutive terms on the committee.
    - (iii) An Academic Dean or Chair/Director, appointed by the Provost.
    - (iv) Associate Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs or his/her designee, appointed by the Provost.
    - (v) Representative from the President's Office, appointed by the President.
    - (vi) Vice President for Advancement or his/her designee.
  - (b) The committee will publicize criteria and guidelines for nominations at least three weeks prior to the nominations deadline. The committee will review nominations and identify individuals who meet the criteria for an honorary degree. The committee shall recommend candidates and appropriate degree(s) to the University President by November 1 for Fall Commencement and by March 1 for Spring Commencement. The committee will include a written rationale for each individual who is being recommended for an honorary degree. Ordinarily, the Committee on Honorary Degrees will submit no more than five recommendations to the President. There should be no communication with the prospective honorary degree recipient(s) until after the President has made the final decision on conferral of honorary degrees.
  - (c) The President's Office shall contact the selected recipient(s) concerning acceptance and conferral of the honorary degree. Candidates who have been approved by the President, but are unable to come to Florida Gulf Coast University to

receive the honorary degree, will be invited to accept the honorary degree during the next academic year.

In cases where nominees fail to satisfy minimal eligibility requirements, the President, with consultation from the Committee on Honorary Degrees, reserves the right not to award an honorary degree.

(6) Honorary Degrees Offered at FGCU include the following:

(a) Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.)<sup>1</sup>

(b) Honorary Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.)<sup>2</sup>

(c) Honorary Doctor of Laws (L.L.D.)<sup>3</sup>

(d) Honorary Doctor of Science (Sc.D.)<sup>4</sup>

(e) Others as approved by the Committee on Honorary Degrees

(7) Procedures for Awarding Honorary Degrees.

(a) Honorary degrees will be awarded at Commencement

(b) Honorary degrees will not be given in absentia

(c) An honorary 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.

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<sup>1</sup> *litterarum humaniorum doctor, honoris causa*-awarded for outstanding achievement in the humanities and the social sciences.

<sup>2</sup> *litterarum doctor, honoris causa*-awarded for outstanding contributions to the field of literature, journalism and drama.

<sup>3</sup> *legum doctor, honoris causa*-awarded for outstanding community contributions at the local, national, or international level in business, industry, government, and public office.

<sup>4</sup> *scientia doctor, honoris causa*-awarded for outstanding achievement in the pure and applied sciences, health professions and technology

(8) Process for Amending the Honorary Degree Regulation

Proposed amendments to this regulation should be submitted in writing to the Committee on Honorary Degrees. The Committee on Honorary Degrees will submit recommendations to the Provost. The Provost, in consultation with Deans' Council and the Faculty Senate, will review the proposed changes. The Provost will submit the proposed revision(s) to the President for final review and approval before the revision(s) are noticed and then sent for review and approval to the University Board of Trustees.

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Law Implemented:  
Board of Governors' Regulation 3.004; §1001.74, Florida Statutes  
History of Regulation  
New 4/21/09  
Effective Date of Regulation  
4/21/09

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