



REGULATION: FGCU-PR3.002

*Effective Date of
Regulation:*

Honorary Degrees

06/07/16

A. 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.

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 Florida Gulf Coast University must be of sufficient stature and character so as to honor the University.

C. ELIGIBILITY

Specific criteria for an honorary degree at FGCU include:

1. Distinguished record of scholarship; and/or
2. 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 degrees on an exceptional basis.

D. 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 and Vice President for Academic Affairs no later than October 1 for Fall Commencement. Nominations and supporting materials for Spring Commencement must be received in Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs no later than February 1.

1. Letter of nomination that summarizes the candidate’s qualifications for this honor;
2. Brief curriculum vitae of the nominee (resume or biographical description);

3. Other supporting evidence as appropriate (e.g., letters of support, publications, materials); and
4. Contact information for the nominee.

E. SELECTION PROCESS

1. The Committee on Honorary Degrees (“Committee”) is comprised of the following individuals:
 - a) Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs or his/her designee.
 - b) Faculty Senate’s Graduate Affairs Team.
 - c) An Academic Dean or Chair/Director, appointed by the Provost.
 - d) Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies or his/her designee, appointed by the Provost.
 - e) Representative from the President’s Office, appointed by the President.
 - f) Vice President for University Advancement or his/her designee.
2. 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 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 initially approved the conferral of honorary degrees.
3. Upon his/her initial approval, the President shall recommend to the Board for its final approval all honorary degrees. Once the Board has provided final approval, the President, or his/her designee, shall contact the selected recipient(s) concerning acceptance and conferral of the honorary degree. Normally, honorary 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.
4. In cases where nominees fail to satisfy minimal eligibility requirements, the President, with consultation from the Committee, reserves the right not to award an honorary degree.

F. HONORARY DEGREES OFFERED AT FGCU

Honorary degrees offered at FGCU include the following:

1. Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.)

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

2. Honorary Doctor of Letters (Litt.D)

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

3. 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.

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

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

5. Others as approved by the Committee on Honorary Degrees

G. PROCEDURES FOR AWARDING HONORARY DEGREES

1. Unless otherwise initially approved, honorary degrees will be awarded at Commencement.
2. Unless otherwise initially approved, honorary degrees will not be given in absentia.
3. An honorary degree may be awarded posthumously.
4. 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.

H. PROCESS FOR AMENDING THE HONORARY DEGREE REGULATION

Proposed amendments to this regulation should be submitted in writing to the Committee. The Committee 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.

Action by Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees

Approved 06/07/16

Specific Authority

Board of Governors Regulation 3.004; Resolutions on Presidential Authorizations

History of Regulation

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

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