



## Honorary Degrees Policy

**Category:** Awards and Recognition;

**Jurisdiction:** Provost and Vice President, Academic; Senate Honorary Degrees Committee;

**Approval Authority:** Senate;

**Established on:** April 11, 2022;

**Amendments:** None.

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Lakehead University grants an honorary degree to individuals who it recognizes to have accomplished extraordinary achievements and remarkable service. These are individuals that support the values of advanced learning and the pursuit of knowledge, and whose acceptance and honour would bring acclaim to the University. Lakehead University promotes candidates who have made a substantial contribution to the University and/or the region(s) in which its campuses are located.

In choosing recipients for this honour, the University is also directed by the principle that in honouring individuals for their contributions the University is likewise honouring itself by its association with people of such special merit.

### I. Eligibility

#### a) Nomination Selection Criteria

The following criteria are used by the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee (the Committee) in its consideration of candidates. The Committee annually solicits nominations for eligible candidates - those who satisfy three (3) or more of the following five (5) criteria:

1. A candidate will be a person of recognized status as part of regional, provincial, national, international, and/or Indigenous communities (e.g., First Nation, Métis, Inuit Community).
2. A candidate will have demonstrated a distinctive and significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in one or more fields of endeavour.
3. A candidate has developed and/or maintained positive relationships with organizations (e.g., public sector, private sector, non-profits, Indigenous communities/nations, government) and/or the broader community.
4. A candidate will have contributed either directly or indirectly to the well-being of humankind (e.g., betterment of the social, cultural, environmental and/or political circumstances of people including under-represented<sup>1</sup> and equity-deserving-groups<sup>2</sup>)
5. A candidate will have made a substantial contribution to Lakehead University and/or the region(s) in which its campuses are located (e.g., increased profile of the University's research activity and expertise locally and/or globally; contributed to environmental, economic, and/or social sustainability; supported economic development with a focus on supporting local partnerships and/or community development).

## b) Exclusions

1. Active members of Lakehead University, including faculty, staff, librarians, the Board of Governors and the Senate are not eligible for honorary degrees.
2. Active politicians will not be considered for an honorary degree. For greater certainty, "active politicians" includes but is not limited to currently elected Indigenous, municipal, provincial or federal government officials.
3. Honorary degrees are not granted in absentia. <sup>\*</sup>In extenuating circumstances exceptions may be made with the approval of

the Senate.

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<sup>1</sup> Under-represented groups include women, Indigenous, racialized, persons with disabilities, as defined under s. 3 of the *Employment Equity Act*, SC 1995, c. 44

<sup>2</sup> Equity-deserving groups means persons with characteristics protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code, RSO 1990, c. H.19. These groups and characteristics include but are not limited to Age, Ancestry, Colour, Race, Citizenship, Ethnic origin, Place of origin, Creed, Disability, Family status, Marital status (including single status), Gender identity, Gender expression, Sexual orientation

4. Nominations for posthumous honorary degrees will not be accepted.\*Exceptions may be made if the degree has been offered and accepted prior to the honoree's death.

## II. Nominations

Nominations for Honorary Degrees may be submitted by any member of the University, or the public. For any nominations submitted by a member of the public, a co-nominator from the University community is required. For the purposes of this process, the University community comprises current and retired University staff, faculty, librarians, students, Alumni, Board of Governors members, Senators and Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council (OIEC) members.

## III. Types of Honorary Degrees

Lakehead University has conferred the following types of Honorary Degrees:

- Doctor of Civil Law
- Doctor of Commerce
- Doctor of Education
- Doctor of Engineering
- Doctor of Fine Arts
- Doctor of Humane Letters
- Doctor of Laws
- Doctor of Letters
- Doctor of Music
- Doctor of Science
- Doctor of Social Work

Other degrees may be conferred as appropriate. The type of honorary degree to be awarded to a candidate is decided by the Committee.

## IV. Privileges of Honorary Degree Recipients

- To process at Convocation
  - Become a member of the Alumni Association of Lakehead University
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- To use the honorific title of “Doctor” at Lakehead University events
- To attend select special events of Lakehead University

## V. **Revocation of an Honorary Degree and/or Removal from the Senate Approved Honorary Degree Nominees List (HD Nominees List)**

On recommendation of the Committee, the Senate may revoke an honorary degree from an individual or remove an individual from the HD Nominees List if any of the following becomes known to the Committee, and it is satisfied that:

- a. the individual has been convicted of an indictable offence; or
- b. the individual, in the reasonable opinion of the Senate, after investigation, has obtained the Honorary Degree or been added to the HD Nominees List by fraud, deception, or any other inappropriate means;
- c. the individual has been removed for misconduct by a properly constituted legal authority from any official register or roll of members of the profession to which they belong.

## VI. **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality must be maintained from the beginning of the honorary degrees process until a public announcement has been made.

More information about Honorary Degrees, including the nomination form, is available on the [Honorary Degrees web page](#).

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**Review Period:** 7 years;

**Next Review Period:** 2028-2029;

**Related Policies and Procedures:** Honorary Degrees Procedures (attached);

**Policy Superseded by this Policy:** None.

The University Secretariat manages the development of policies through an impartial, fair governance process, and in accordance with the Policy Governance Framework. Please contact the University Secretariat for additional information on University policies and procedures and/or if you require this information in another format:

Open: Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm;

Location: University Centre, Thunder Bay Campus, Room UC2002;

Phone: 807-343-8010 Ext. 7929 or Email: [univsec@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:univsec@lakeheadu.ca)



## Honorary Degrees Procedures

**Category:** Awards and Recognition;

**Jurisdiction:** Provost and Vice President, Academic;

**Approval Authority:** Senate Honorary Degrees Committee;

**Established on:** May 9, 2012;

**Amendments:** February 11, 2016, effective March 1, 2016; March 19, 2019; April 11, 2022.

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### Nominations Procedures

1. The Secretary to the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee (the Committee) sends out a notice to solicit Honorary Degree nominations.
2. The Committee shall meet in the fall term\* to review honorary degree nominations and determine based on the Nomination Selection Criteria which candidates to recommend the Senate add to the Senate Approved Honorary Degree Nominees List\*\* (“HD Nominees List”).
3. The Committee Chair will prepare a written in-camera report to the Senate outlining how each candidate being recommended to be added to the HD Nominees List meets the Nomination Selection Criteria.
4. Once the Senate approves the new candidates to be added to the List, the Committee begins the process of ranking and selecting the candidates for the upcoming Convocation, including determining how many and the types of honorary degrees to confer. The Committee will attempt to provide a balanced representation between scholarly disciplines, service and other fields of accomplishment.
5. The Office of the President will contact and confirm the availability of the top ranked proposed Honorary Degree recipients and will report to the Committee the names of candidates who have been confirmed. The President is authorized to extend an invitation to receive an honorary degree at the following year’s Convocation ceremonies

to any individuals ranked in the top four (4) who are not available for the upcoming Convocation ceremonies. Should the individual be unavailable for the following year's Convocation ceremonies, the President is required to obtain authorization from the Committee prior to extending any further invitations.

6. Honorary Degree recipients shall be asked to complete a voluntary self ID survey.
7. The names of Honorary Degree recipients for that calendar year go to the Senate for information at an in-camera meeting after the offers have been accepted by the recipients.
8. Once the Senate has been made aware of the successful recipients, the Office of the President will provide a media release to publicly announce the names of the honorary recipients.

CONFIDENTIALITY must be maintained from the beginning of the process until a public announcement has been made.

\*During this meeting, Honorary Degrees Committee members will be provided with unconscious bias training.

\*\*Names placed on the HD Nominees List shall remain there for a period of three years, after which time, if the nominee has not been selected or re-nominated, the Committee secretary shall notify the Committee and at the discretion of the Committee the name can remain on the list for an additional two years or the name shall be deleted.

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