



Procedures and Guidelines for Honorary Degrees

Approved By: Senate Honorary Degrees Committee

Effective Date: May 9, 2012; [Revised February 11, 2016, effective March 21, 2016]

Introduction

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 (Northwestern Ontario and Simcoe County).

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.

Nomination Selection Criteria

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

1. A candidate will be a person of provincial, national or international status.
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 will have contributed either directly or indirectly to the welfare of humankind.
4. A candidate will have made a substantial contribution to the University and/or the region(s) in which its campuses are located (Northwestern Ontario and Simcoe County).

Exclusions

- a) Active members of Lakehead University, including faculty, staff, librarians, the Board of Governors and the Senate are not eligible for honorary degrees.
- b) 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.
- c) Honorary degrees are not granted *in absentia*.
- d) Nominations for posthumous honorary degrees will not be accepted.*Exceptions may be made if the degree has been offered and accepted prior to the honorees death.

Nominations Procedure

The Secretary to the Committee sends out a notice to solicit Honorary Degree nomination(s).

Nominations for Honorary Degrees may be submitted to the University Secretariat Office through any of the methods indicated on the Nominations Form.

The Honorary Degrees Committee shall meet in the fall term to review honorary degree nominations.

The Committee will 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”).

The Senate Honorary Degrees Committee Chair will prepare a written in-camera report to Senate outlining how each candidate being recommended to be added to the HD Nominees List meets the Nomination Selection Criteria.

Once 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. The Committee will determine how many honorary degrees to confer.

The Office of the President will contact and confirm the availability of the top ranked proposed Honorary Degree Recipients and will report to the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee the names of candidates who have confirmed.

The names of Honorary Degree Recipients for that calendar year go to Senate for information at an In-Camera meeting after the offers have been accepted by the recipients.

Once 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.

Making a Nomination

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 of University staff, faculty, librarians, students, Alumni, Board of Governors members, Senators and Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council (O-AGC) members.

[CLICK HERE to access the nomination form](#)

Degrees

1. **Doctor of Laws (L.L.D.)**, first conferred in 1773, is the most popular honorary doctorate now awarded. Despite a wide variety of recipients in the past (clergymen, aviators, bankers, sportsmen and scholars), it is now regarded as the most appropriate award for a person distinguished in general service to the state, to learning and to mankind.
2. **Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.)**, first awarded in 1892, is considered to be appropriate as a reward for scholarly work of a somewhat restricted nature. It is usually conferred upon scholars in particular disciplines.
3. **Doctor of Science (Sc.D.)**, first conferred in 1884, unfortunately also is awarded as an earned doctorate at several prominent universities including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Despite this confusion, it is an increasingly popular award for persons who have made distinguished contributions and preformed services in the sciences.
4. **Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.)**, first awarded in the 1880's, is the honorary doctorate usually given to persons who have distinguished themselves in the humanities.

Other degrees may be conferred as appropriate. The degree to be awarded to a candidate for an honorary degree is decided by the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee.

Revocation of an Honorary Degree and/or Removal from the Senate Approved Honorary Degree 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 a 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 s/he belongs

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.