

HONORARY DEGREE POLICY

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Honorary Degree Committee is a standing University Committee and its membership consists of

- ❑ A senior academic officer (Provost, Dean, or Chair) appointed by the President to serve as Committee Chair
- ❑ Three senior faculty appointed by the President
- ❑ The Chair of the Academic Programs Committee of the Board of Trustees.

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING NOMINEES

Only highly qualified candidates may be selected as honorary degree recipients. It is not mandatory that an honorary degree be awarded each year. Generally, a maximum of two honorary degrees will be awarded at a single commencement. The honorary degree is typically conferred during a commencement exercise, but the President can authorize the awarding of the degree at other times.

The following guidelines will be followed in selecting honorary degree recipients:

- ❑ Persons who have rendered distinctive service to the University, the State or the nation.
- ❑ Graduates or former students who have achieved distinction.
- ❑ A person of high distinction, from this country or abroad, who is not necessarily associated with the University or the State.
- ❑ Such degrees should recognize distinguished scholarship and accomplishments in the professions, sciences, arts, humanities, public service, and service to humanity.
- ❑ Recipients of degrees should reflect the University's high ideals and values, should enhance the reputation of the institution, and should exemplify the concepts of excellence, service, and integrity.
- ❑ As a general policy, honorary degrees shall not be awarded to active members of the University faculty.

TYPES OF HONORARY DEGREES

The University of West Alabama shall grant the following honorary degrees:

- ❑ Doctor of Laws (L.L.D.)—Distinguished service to the State, to learning, to one's profession, or to humanity.

- ❑ Doctor of Science (Sc.D.)—Specific attainments and contributions in the field of science.
- ❑ Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.)—Specific attainments, contributions, and recognition in the field of literature, journalism, and drama, as a scholar, creative artist or writer of great talent and originality.
- ❑ Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.)—Specific attainments and creative contributions in the fine and performing arts.
- ❑ Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.)—Specific attainments in the humanities and the social sciences or noteworthy contributions to the well-being of humanity.

SELECTION PROCESS

- ❑ The Chair of the Honorary Degree Committee solicits from the University community, including Trustees and alumni, nominations of persons to be considered for the award of an honorary degree. Letters of nomination should outline the nominee’s qualifications and the reasons why the University of West Alabama should consider awarding such a degree. At least two letters of support and other materials documenting the nominee’s achievements should accompany the nominations.
- ❑ The Honorary Degree Committee assesses the nomination materials, requests additional supportive materials, if appropriate, and forwards a list of nominees to the President. The President presents the candidates for honorary degrees to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, which reviews the nominees and formulates recommendations to the full Board.
- ❑ The Board approves nominees. The President contacts approved honorary degree candidates and makes arrangements for the degree to be conferred at the appropriate ceremony.

CALENDAR FOR THE CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

For May Commencement	For December Commencement	Deadlines
First working day of January	First working day of August	Committee solicits nominations
First working day of May	First working day of December	Deadline for nominations
First working day of June	First working day of January	List of nominees to the President
First working day of September	First working day March	List of nominees to Executive Committee of the Board
December Board Meeting	June Board Meeting	Board approval of candidates
May	December	Conferring of degrees