

11.07.99.00.01

Honorary Degrees

Approved: October 2019

Next Scheduled Review: October, 2024



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

REASON FOR PROCEDURE

Texas A&M University System (System) Policy [11.07 *Granting of Honorary Degrees*](#) provides guidelines for granting honorary degrees. This Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-San Antonio) Rule on granting honorary degrees governs the University in matters not detailed in System Policy. It is necessary to have a method for recommending an individual for an honorary degree, for reviewing the individual's accomplishments, and for involving faculty, staff, and administrators in the decision-making process.

PROCEDURE

1. GENERAL

1.1 A&M-San Antonio selectively and judiciously awards the honorary degree to individuals of exceptional academic, scholarly, artistic and/or philanthropic accomplishment in order to bring honor and recognition to A&M-San Antonio and to identify persons whose accomplishments and service to humanity can be considered exemplary. Professional associations that are created by the process of awarding of an honorary degree are a means of aiding the University community in setting and achieving its mission. A committee of faculty members appointed by the Provost will receive all nominations for honorary degrees. The committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Executive Team who will forward their recommendation to the President. Candidate nominations that are not selected in any particular year but are otherwise deemed meritorious will remain eligible for consideration for three years from the date of nomination.

2. CRITERIA

2.1 A&M-San Antonio awards honorary degrees principally to individuals who have distinguished themselves in sustained scholarly activity in the arts, education, letters, science, technology, or service to humanity. An honorary degree also

may be awarded to an individual from industry, government, communications, education, business, social services, service to the University, or another public arena who has distinguished himself or herself through nationally or internationally significant contributions.

3. RESTRICTIONS

3.1 Honorary degrees recognize an individual, not an office or position. So far as possible, there will be an effort to ensure that the persons honored represent a variety of fields of endeavor. No more than one honorary degree will be approved in any one fiscal year. Honorary degrees will be awarded during spring commencement, and the recipient must be present to receive the award.

3.2 Honorary degrees are not awarded:

3.2.1 in absentia

3.2.2 posthumously

3.2.3 to current employees of the University

3.2.4 to individuals who have direct political, legal, or budgetary authority over the University

3.2.5 in consideration solely based on any past, present, or future gift or other benefaction to the University

4. SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF RECIPIENTS

4.1 Nominations and supporting documents shall be received and reviewed by the faculty committee. The Provost shall determine the size of the faculty committee and the term each member shall serve. The committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the Executive Team for further consideration.

4.2 The Executive Team shall recommend nominees for further consideration to the President.

- 4.3 The President, in consultation with the Provost, shall present his/her choice of approved nominees, through the Chancellor, to the Board of Regents.
- 4.4 Honorary degrees shall be awarded only to those nominees approved by the President and the Board of Regents. The names will be made public with the appropriate graduation ceremony announcement.
- 4.5 Five years from the adoption of this procedure the Executive Team shall review the list of recipients of honorary degrees, and the functioning of the selection and approval process to determine whether the practice of awarding honorary degrees at Texas A&M University-San Antonio shall continue.

5. TIMELINE

- 5.1 The deadline for submitting nominations to the faculty committee is 60 days before the required submission deadline for the Academic Affairs Agenda Item Submission to be considered for the May commencement ceremony.
- 5.2 Recommendation by the faculty committee will be forwarded to the Executive Team is 45 days before the required submission deadline for the Academic Affairs Agenda Item Submission to be considered for the May commencement ceremony..
- 5.3 Recommendations by the Executive Team will be forwarded to the President, along with all supporting documentation, 30 days before the required submission deadline for the Academic Affairs Agenda Item Submission to be considered for the May commencement ceremony.
- 5.4 The President will present his/her selections, through the Chancellor, to the Board of Regents by the required submission deadline for the Academic Affairs Agenda Item Submission to be considered for the May commencement ceremony.

6. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 6.1 Under special circumstances, exceptions to this procedure will be considered.

RELATED AUTHORITIES

System Policy [11.07 *Granting of Honorary Degrees*](#)

CONTACT OFFICE

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