

UR 11.07.99.H1 Awarding of Honorary Degrees



Approved February 4, 2020
Next Scheduled Review: February 4, 2025

Rule Summary

Texas A&M University System Policy [11.07, Granting of Honorary Degrees](#) provides a framework to govern the awarding of honorary degrees by member universities in The Texas A&M University System. Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) has adopted further requirements and clarifications detailed in this rule.

Reason for Rule

The guidelines offered in the System Policy allowed for A&M-Texarkana to specify the method for nomination, review, and decision making.

Rule

1. GENERAL

A&M-Texarkana selectively and judiciously awards the honorary doctorate degree to individuals of exceptional academic, scholarly, artistic and/or philanthropic accomplishment in order to bring honor and recognition to A&M-Texarkana and to identify persons whose accomplishments and service to humanity can be considered exemplary. An honorary degree selection committee will receive all nominations.

2. CRITERIA

A&M-Texarkana awards honorary doctorate degrees principally to individuals who have distinguished themselves in sustained scholarly activity in the arts, letters, sciences, technology, education, or service to humanity. An honorary doctorate also may be awarded to an individual from industry, government, communications, education, business, social services, or another public arena who has distinguished himself or herself through nationally or internationally significant contributions.

3. RESTRICTIONS

- 3.1 Honorary doctorates recognize an individual, not an office or position. The honorary degree selection committee will make an effort to ensure that the persons honored represent a variety of fields of endeavor. Normally, honorary degrees will be awarded during spring or fall commencements, and the recipient must be present to receive the award.
- 3.2 Honorary doctorates 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 An ad hoc honorary degree selection committee, consisting of seven members, will be appointed by the president or their designee to review the nominations. The committee will consist of the faculty senate president, the Staff Council president, the Student Government Association president, three additional faculty members chosen by the Faculty Senate, and a representative from the Office of University Advancement. The honorary degree selection committee shall meet as often as it deems necessary to consider the individuals that have been nominated as recipients. The chair of the committee shall be chosen by the committee.
- 4.2 A&M-Texarkana faculty, staff, administration, current students, or alumni may submit nominations for recipients of honorary degrees to the Office for Academic Affairs for consideration by the president.
 - 4.2.1 Nominations must be accompanied by a letter of nomination, curriculum vitae, and other appropriate supporting documentation.
 - 4.2.2 Nominations must be received at least seven months before the commencement exercises for which they are being considered to allow appropriate time for review and consideration to determine whether the requirements for Board of Regents approval are met.
- 4.3 The Office for Academic Affairs will review the nomination packet to verify that the information is complete prior to submission to the honorary degree selection committee for review and recommendation.
 - 4.3.1 The honorary degree selection committee must have a majority vote in favor of granting the honorary degree before the recommendation can be forwarded to the president for approval and submission to the Board of Regents.
- 4.4 Upon recommendation by the honorary degree selection committee, nominations, along with supporting documentation, will be submitted to the Office for Academic Affairs for forwarding to the Office of the President for further consideration.

4.5 The president, in consultation with executive management, shall forward approved recommendations for honorary degree recipients to the chancellor in accordance with system deadlines for items requiring approval by the Board of Regents.

5. NOTIFICATION

At the option of the president, confidentiality will be maintained throughout the process until the awarding of the degree.

Individuals selected to receive an honorary degree shall be notified by the Office of the President.

6. REVOCATION OF HONORARY DEGREE

In consultation with the legal counsel of The Texas A&M University System, A&M-Texarkana may revoke an honorary degree and rescind any privileges granted if the holder is found to be involved in activities that are deemed to be of a scandalous, disgraceful, or illegal nature that reflect poorly upon A&M-Texarkana or The Texas A&M University System.

Additionally, the university may revoke an honorary degree if fraudulent, misleading, or erroneous information was provided during the initial assessment (even if such information was not provided by the recipient) for the honorary degree.

If an honorary degree is revoked, all statements indicating that the former recipient is an A&M-Texarkana honorary degree holder must cease.

The decision to revoke an honorary degree will be reviewed by the Honorary Degree selection committee. In consultation with the President's Advisory Council and The Texas A&M University System, the president will make the final decision on revocation. The decision is not appealable.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

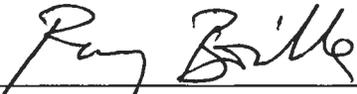
System Policy [*11.07, Granting of Honorary Degrees*](#)

Contact Office

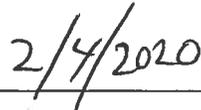
Vice President for Academic Affairs
903-223-3004

System Approvals*

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:



Ray Bonilla
General Counsel



Date

Approved:



John Sharp
Chancellor



Date

***System approvals are contingent upon incorporation of any and all System-required changes in the rule's final posting.**