

Regulations Governing the Granting of Honorary Degrees at Brandon University

I. Eligibility

Recognition of outstanding achievement and contributions to the community is an integral part of the concept and role of a university. Brandon University confers honorary degrees on distinguished individuals who have contributed to the advancement of knowledge or the betterment of society and who have achieved eminence in their field of endeavour at a provincial, national or international level.

There are three general categories of people upon whom the University confers honorary degrees:

1. individuals who are distinguished scholars or who have made outstanding contributions to the creative or performing arts; or
2. individuals who have distinguished reputations in the area of public service at the national or international levels, or who have had long and distinguished careers in professions such as law, or as educators, for example.

All other considerations being equal, individuals in any one of these two categories are given preference if they are alumni of the University or are, or have been, associated with the University in some way.

Honorary degrees are not awarded posthumously, and not to any of the following: current or retired faculty or staff; current members of the Board of Governors or Senate or the University Foundation; or to current elected members of government at municipal, provincial, or federal levels.

II. Nominations

Normally, nominations of individuals to be considered for honorary degrees from Brandon University shall be received once each year by the Executive Committee of the Senate of Brandon University, acting as the Honorary Degree Committee of Senate. Nominations shall be submitted on a form approved by the Senate.

Normally, an appeal for nominations shall be made by the Honorary Degree Committee on or about June 5th of each year, with a second call for nominations issued on or about September 10th as a reminder. A closing date for receipt of nominations will be set as October 15th, or where October 15th falls on a weekend, the next business day.

Nominations shall be submitted in confidence and, therefore, shall not normally be discussed with the nominee.

III. **Number of Degrees Granted**

Normally, one honorary degree is granted at each convocation ceremony, although this varies depending on the circumstances and the honorary degree recipient. For example, in the exceptional circumstance that there are before the Honorary Degrees Committee a relatively large number of individuals who are well-qualified to receive honorary degrees, then the Committee may recommend that two or more honorary degrees be conferred at a particular Convocation.

IV. **Short Listing of the Candidates**

The Honorary Degree Committee shall meet in camera on or before November 21st of each year for the purpose of updating and reviewing its existing file of potential candidates. Those nominations deemed to be worthy of further consideration shall be added to the list of potential honorary degree recipients. The data collected on those nominees considered unacceptable shall be destroyed. A maximum of three potential candidates may be carried on file to the next year.

The Honorary Degree Committee may select and submit to the Senate, normally in December, from among the potential candidates, a short list of normally no more than three (3) individuals, upon whom it recommends that the Senate confer an honorary degree and the category of the degree to be conferred.

In making its recommendations to the Senate, the Honorary Degree Committee will be guided by the following considerations:

- That in any one academic year, of the nominations currently on file, none may be of sufficient merit to receive an honorary degree.
- That there are two categories of honorary degrees to be conferred:
 - **General:** The Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) degree is conferred upon individuals who have contributed significantly to the general areas noted in 1), 2) and 3) of Section I and who are not recommended for contributions as specifically defined in ii) below;
 - **Specialist:** The Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.), the Doctor of Science (D.Sc.), the Doctor of Education (D.Ed.) and the Doctor of Music (D.Mus.) degrees are conferred upon individuals recommended for contributions to a specialized discipline.
- That the Senate has the right to call Special Convocations and to confer honorary degrees at such Convocations.
- That the Senate will consider only those nominations that have been proposed by its Honorary Degree Committee.

V. **Confidentiality of Information**

All information pertaining to nominees shall be considered in strictest confidence by the Honorary Degree Committee and the Senate. Complete information about each nominee recommended by the Honorary Degree Committee shall be made available in confidence in the Senate Office to members of the Senate at least 96 hours before any meeting held to

consider such nominations. Such information shall be kept confidential and considered by the Senate in camera.

VI. Final Selection of Recipients

The final selection of the individual upon whom the honorary degree is to be conferred is the responsibility of the full Senate in closed session and will be made by secret ballot.

Each candidate brought forward by the Honorary Degree Committee shall be voted upon individually. Each candidate who receives positive votes from at least 2/3 of those present and voting shall be awarded an honorary degree.

VII. Notification of Candidates

The candidate or candidates to be honored shall be contacted by the President, as Chair of Senate, as soon as possible following the decision of the Senate to arrange a mutually agreeable time for the bestowal of the honorary degree.

VIII. Guidelines for the Use of the Designation

Brandon University from time to time confers honorary doctorates on distinguished individuals in accordance with this policy. There are conventions in Canada and within the university community more generally on the use of honorary degree titles. Brandon University subscribes to these conventions and these are described below:

- Given the honorary nature of the award, the title 'Dr' is not generally used by the recipient.
- The university that awards the honorary title uses the title 'Dr' in its communications with their awardees in recognition of the respect that the university holds for the recipient.
- The honorary degree designations may be included in lists of qualifications in the format:
 - Hon. LLD (Brandon University) or Hon. D.Sc. (Brandon University) or Hon. D. Lit. (Brandon University)
 - Hon. D.Ed. (Brandon University) or Hon. D.Mus. (Brandon University) as appropriate.

IX. Revocation of Honorary Degrees

Honorary degrees may be rescinded by the Senate, on the recommendation of the Honorary Degree Committee, if an honorary degree recipient engages in actions seriously injurious to the reputation of Brandon University. Such a revocation must be recommended to the Senate by at least a 2/3 majority vote of the Honorary Degree Committee.

Initial Senate Approval: October 19, 2010 (Motion 046.OCT10)

Revision Approved by Senate: February 15, 2022 (Motion 145.FEB22)

Revision Approved by Senate: October 14, 2025 (Motion 054.OCT25)