

10-5 Guidelines for the Award of Honorary Doctorate Degrees

10-5-1 Purpose • 10-5-2 Policy • 10-5-3 Administration •
10-5-4 Guidelines • 10-5-5 Preparation and Presentation

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of these policies and procedures is to set forth the guidelines for the award by Eastern New Mexico University (the University) of honorary doctorate degrees.
2. **Policy.** The policies established in furtherance of the foregoing purpose are as follows:
 - A. The honorary doctorate degree is awarded by the University to individuals who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields, and/or in recognition of individuals whose meritorious contributions and achievements have benefited society.
 - B. The authority to confer honorary degrees rests with the Board of Regents (the Board).

The foregoing purpose and policies are implemented by the following.

Procedures

3. **Administration.** A nominating committee comprised of members of the Board, University faculty and administration shall receive nominations from the University community and other sources, propose candidates, obtain necessary biographical information on the candidates, screen nominations and submit recommendations through the president of the University to the Board for approval.
4. **Guidelines.** While the authority to grant degrees is vested in the Board, the following guidelines are intended to identify and select candidates for the honorary doctorate degree:
 - A. Persons recognized by the award of honorary doctorate degrees from the University should include prominent alumni, business and professional persons, civic leaders, national leaders in public affairs, statesmen, prominent educators and distinguished persons in the arts, sciences and humanities.
 - B. Honorary doctorates to be awarded by the University include:
 - (1) **Doctor of Laws**—usually awarded to persons distinguished in general service to the state, to learning and to mankind;
 - (2) **Doctor of Letters**—usually awarded to scholars in particular disciplines or as a reward for scholarly work of a restricted nature;
 - (3) **Doctor of Science**—usually awarded to persons who have distinguished themselves in the sciences;

(4) **Doctor of Humane Letters**—usually awarded to persons who have distinguished themselves in the humanities.

C. The current position of the person nominated for an honorary doctorate should not suggest a real or apparent conflict of interest because of a direct or indirect relationship with the University.

D. An honorary doctorate shall not be conferred:

(1) Solely on the basis of financial contributions to the University,

(2) Merely to obtain publicity,

(3) Upon faculty or administrators currently serving the institution or

(4) Upon current members of the Board.

E. Honorary doctorates shall not be awarded *in absentia*.

5. Preparation and Presentation. Honorary degree citations shall be prepared by the president of the University or his or her designee and conferred at commencement.

Approved by Board of Regents on June 21, 1986.

Amended version approved by the University Policy Council on April 18, 2005.

Approved by the Board of Regents on November 17, 2005.