

Effective: June 26, 1986

**Administrative Policy  
HONORARY DEGREES**

Approved: June 26, 1986

Revised by the MU Council of Trustees: June 15, 2016

**Definition**

Honorary degree designations are limited to degrees not given in course as earned degrees by any institution of postsecondary education authorized by the Commonwealth to grant such degrees.

Millersville University is privileged to grant honorary degrees to persons who have made outstanding contributions to the welfare and well-being of the community at large. Such degrees are granted to recognize individual creativity, distinguished service, significant scholarship, and other individual accomplishments, whether in the arts, humanities, sciences, the professions, public service, or in service to mankind. The recipient shall exemplify the quality of character and achievement representative of the high ideals and values of Millersville University. As such, the recipient will serve as an inspiration and role model to the entire academic community.

**Limitations on Granting Honorary Degrees**

1. The University shall not grant an honorary degree to current members of the faculty, administration, staff, or Council of Trustees.
2. Generally the University shall not grant an honorary degree to individuals currently serving in the legislature or executive branches of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or as members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education or its Board of Governors. Special exception may be made for an outstanding individual whose public service or commitment to the welfare of the public higher education is both distinguished and worthy of such recognition. In such matters, the Council of Trustees, by majority vote, shall make the determination.

## Honorary Degree Committee and Procedures

The Honorary Degree Committee shall consist of twelve members:

1. Four trustees, selected by the Council of Trustees
2. One graduate student
3. Student trustee
4. Three faculty representatives, one from each college, elected by Faculty Senate
5. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, ex officio member\*
6. Vice President for Advancement, to serve as the Chairperson, ex officio member\*
7. University President, ex officio member\*

\*Ex-officio members are non-voting members of the committee.

With the exception of the ex-officio members, the term of each committee member shall be for two years. There shall be no prejudice against reappointment or re-election.

The Honorary Degree Committee shall be chaired by the Vice President for Advancement. The Committee will determine its own meeting schedule and agenda. It will request honorary degree nominations in a timely fashion from University constituencies, though nominations may come from any source. All nominations and the deliberation process shall be conducted with confidentiality.

Consistent with current Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) policy, recommendations of individuals for any honorary degree should be submitted to the Council of Trustees through the University President. Normally no more than two (2) honorary degrees may be awarded during any calendar year. Honorary degrees may be awarded at any commencement, convocation or other appropriate University function, though the University may choose not to grant an award in every calendar year. The Chancellor of PASSHE shall be notified of the identity, qualifications and degree to be awarded at least 30 days prior to the actual awarding of the degree, as required by PASSHE policy.

### Honorary Degrees

Honorary degrees shall not be awarded for any degree given in course by the University. No honorary degrees shall be awarded in absentia. The University will grant honorary degrees in the following categories:

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|---------|---|
| Litt.D. | Doctor of Letters ( <u>litterarum doctor, honoris causa</u> )                   |
| L.H.D.  | Doctor of Humane Letters ( <u>litterarum humaniorum doctor, honoris causa</u> ) |
| Sc.D.   | Doctor of Science ( <u>scientia doctor, honoris causa</u> )                     |

The committee shall make its recommendations to the University Council of Trustees through the University President.