



Policy IO2.06: Honorary Degrees

Oversight	Information
Policy Type	Institutional Organization
Policy Owners	University President
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Policy

An honorary degree is one of higher education's most significant accolades. American Sentinel University awards honorary degrees on a selective basis to distinguished individuals who merit special recognition for outstanding achievement or leadership in a field or activity consistent with the mission, ideals and purposes of the University. Only the Board of Trust may authorize the award of an honorary degree. This policy sets forth the following standards and procedures for granting honorary degrees.

Guidelines

The Board of Trust is committed to the award of honorary degrees to recipients who reflect the diversity of interests, backgrounds, and concerns reflected in the University community and the society and world served by the University.

An honorary degree may be awarded to a person who satisfies at least two of the three following criteria:

1. Distinguished professional, scholarly, intellectual, or creative achievement
2. Demonstrated interest in activities that contribute to the public good, including public service and/or philanthropy
3. Connection to the communities that American Sentinel University serves

Procedure

Nominations of candidates for honorary degrees may be made by any member of the university Board, faculty or staff. Nominations are reviewed by the CEO and President and forwarded to the Governance Committee of the Board of Trust for review, recommendation and confirmation in March. The Board of Trust makes the final decision on Honorary Degree recipients. Honorary Degrees are awarded during commencement each June. Each year the Board may award up to three Honorary Degrees.

- Recipients are invited to attend the June commencement.
- Honorary degrees may not be awarded in absentia; and



- Recipients are not compensated for speaking at commencement except under unusual circumstances when the Board of Trust determines otherwise (ordinary expenses incurred to attend commencement are covered).

Related Documents/References

- None

Definitions

- Honorary degree means a degree awarded as an honor for an outstanding contribution in some field, rather than as the result of matriculating and earning a degree based on studies at the institution.

Revision History

- May 7, 2020: Updated policy format for accessibility guidelines - AHB