



HONORARY DEGREE PROCEDURE

Procedure Type:	Board of Governors	Initially Approved:	February 10, 2021
Procedure Sponsor:	President and CEO	Last Revised:	February 10, 2021
Administrative Responsibility:	University Secretary	Review Scheduled:	February 2026
Approver:	Board of Governors		

A. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The *Post-Secondary Learning Act* stipulates that "the Board of an undergraduate university may grant an honorary degree on a person."

An honorary degree is generally considered that one of the most prestigious honors any university can bestow upon an individual; a degree which is conferred honoris causa (*for the sake of honor*). This type of degree is meant to recognize an individual's exceptional achievement or distinction in a field or activity consonant with the mission of the institution. In regard to honorary degrees bestowed by Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts), the focus includes art, craft and design with possible (when appropriate) expansion into the broader fields of creativity and innovation.

Honorary degrees provide an opportunity for the institution to publicly honour exceptional and unique individuals of national and international stature whose accomplishments support the ideals of AUArts and can serve as an example for our students, alumni, community and society.

B. PROCEDURES

1.1 Criteria

Honorary degrees shall be granted by Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) to recognize a wide range of professional and personal accomplishments and contributions to society. While one or more of the following criteria may be weighted more or less heavily in the consideration of an individual candidate, the following criteria shall guide the awarding of honorary degrees.

The nominee for an honorary degree from AUArts:

1. displays achievement in Art, Craft or Design or an auxiliary field or endeavor where innovation and creativity is core including industry or commerce.
2. displays distinguished service and performance in their accomplishments that support the ideals of AUArts and serve as an example to our students, our alumni, and society.
3. displays lifelong commitment to service and community.

1.2 Confidentiality

Nomination information submitted will be kept strictly confidential throughout the nominating process. No discussion concerning nominees shall take place outside of those directly involved in the evaluation process. The President and CEO, or a designee, is responsible for contacting the candidates once the Board of Governors has approved a candidate.

1.3 Exceptions

Honorary Degrees are typically not awarded posthumously, unless the offer has been made and accepted prior to the individual's death.

1.4 Ineligibility

The following are categories of individuals who are ineligible to receive an honorary degree due to conflict of interest:

- Current members of the faculty, staff, the Board of Governors or General Faculties Council or their immediate families. These individuals may not be considered for nomination until a minimum of one year has passed since their active connection with the University has ended;
- Current students; and
- Individuals actively serving a political office.

1.5 Timeline

Spring: Call for nomination released: Nominations for an Honorary degree to be awarded in one year will be accepted until **Fall of the preceding year**.

Early Fall: Honorary Degree Selection Committee meets to review nominations and make recommendations to the Board of Governors.

Fall: Board of Governors Honorary Degree Recipient(s) approved.

May: Conferral of Honorary Degree at a convocation ceremony, typically May.

1.6 Nomination Process

Nominations will be accepted on an ongoing basis and should be forwarded to the Secretary, Board of Governors using the **Honorary Degrees Nomination Form**. Nominations may be reconsidered in a subsequent year, but a nomination form must be re-submitted for the individual.

1.7 Revocation

The Board of Governors reserves the right to revoke any honorary degree conferred by Alberta University of the Arts.

Exceptions to these procedures may be made at the discretion of the Board of Governors.

C. DEFINITIONS

(1) AUArts

Alberta University of the Arts

D. RELATED POLICIES

- None.

E. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Post Secondary Learning Act

F. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Honorary Degree Call for Nominations
- Honorary Degree Nomination Form

G. REVISION HISTORY

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Description of Change	Sections	Person who Entered Revision (Position Title)	Person who Authorized Revision (Position Title)