



Awarding of Honorary Degrees

Responsible Official: **President**

Responsible Office: **Office of The President**

Policy Purpose

This policy specifies when an honorary degree from East Tennessee State University may be awarded.

Policy Statement

The Board of Trustees authorizes the awarding of honorary degrees by East Tennessee State University (ETSU). ETSU may award a honorary degree to an individual who has made extraordinary achievements that distinguish the individual and benefit ETSU and the communities it serves. An honorary degree is distinctive and awarded only in exceptional circumstances. The Board of Trustees delegated authority to award honorary degrees to the ETSU President.

I. Criteria.

An honorary degree may be awarded to an individual whose career:

- A. Reflects sustained and superlative achievement in the arts and professions, research, scholarship, health care, public service, leadership, volunteerism, or cultural affairs;
- B. Advances ETSU's educational mission, goals, or programs by developing associations with persons who embody comparable ideals, values, or aspirations; and
- C. Inspires students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, or members of the local, national, or world communities to emulate such standards of excellence, integrity, and commitment to enhance the public good.

II. Eligibility.

Any individual who meets the criteria of this policy may be considered as a nominee, except the following individuals:

1. Current ETSU faculty, staff, and trustees;

2. Elected and/or appointed public officials while they hold office; and
3. Candidates and/or nominees during their candidacy for public elective and/or appointed offices within the ETSU region.

Faculty, staff, or trustees may be considered after they have retired or separated from ETSU.

III. Selection Committee.

The ETSU President may establish a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will review all nominees and will recommend candidates for honorary degree to the ETSU President.

IV. Awarding of Degree.

The ETSU President approves the awarding of an honorary degree. An honorary degree awarded will meet the standards of ETSU. No individual may receive more than one honorary degree from ETSU. The ETSU President will use discretion in determining the number of honorary degrees presented during each academic term.

Authority: Focus Act

Defined Terms

A Defined Term has a specific meaning within the context of this policy.

Selection Committee: comprised of ETSU faculty, staff, and administrators; fifty percent (50%) of the committee should be faculty.

Policy History

Effective Date: 12/21/21

Revision Date:

Procedure

I. Nomination.

A written nomination is submitted to either the President or the Selection Committee.

II. Review.

The Selection Committee convenes as needed to review a nomination, to review the nominee's achievements, to conduct confidential deliberations, and to recommend a nominee to the ETSU President.

IV. Notification.

The ETSU President informs the Board of Trustees of a selected recipient for an honorary degree. The ETSU President notifies the recipient and invites the recipient to receive their degree at graduation.

Procedure History

Effective Date: 12/21/2021

Revision Date:

Related Form(s)

Scope and Applicability

Primary:

Secondary: