



Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees

An honorary degree is one of the most significant accolades that an institution can confer. It is the policy of the University of Miami to confer honorary degrees on a selective basis upon distinguished individuals who merit special recognition for their transformative achievement or innovation in a field or activity aligned with the mission of the University of Miami. Although alumni or individuals affiliated with the University may be nominated, this is not a requirement.

Process

Faculty and staff of the University of Miami, as well as Trustees through the Board of Trustees Office, may nominate candidates for consideration for an Honorary Degree via the [Honorary Degree Recipient Nomination form](#). The nomination will be reviewed by the appropriate School/College Dean, Vice Provost, or Vice President, followed by the Committee on Honorary Degrees, chaired by the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. The Committee recommends qualified candidates to the President who makes final selections in consultation with the Board of Trustees.

Timeline

Recommendations for candidates for Spring Commencement ceremonies must be received no later than September 15th.

Recommendations for candidates for Fall Commencement ceremonies must be received no later than March 15th.

Please note that all nominations are treated as confidential until selections are announced, and only the President or the President's designee should contact a nominated candidate.

Criteria

An honorary degree may be awarded to an individual who satisfies at least two of the following criteria:

- Distinctive achievement or leadership, whether in the course of one's career, field of scholarship, public service, or artistic, literary, governmental, religious, financial, or other endeavor.
- A significant reason for recognition by the University of Miami, in form of an association or relationship with the University, or a valued relationship between the individual's achievements and the mission or life of the University.
- A person whose life or work exemplifies the highest values of the University of Miami, and its mission to transform lives through education, research, innovation, and service.
- Particular significance for the individual being recognized. Achievement and distinction that have not been similarly recognized by a number of other institutions.

In recognition of the University of Miami's unwavering dedication to diversity and inclusion, we are committed to awarding honorary degrees to individuals who reflect the diversity of interests, backgrounds, and concerns reflected in our University community and the global community we serve. Decisions to award honorary degrees will be made without regard to, and will not be based on, the political affiliations of recipients.

Persons not eligible for consideration include:

- Current trustees, faculty, or staff of the University of Miami
- Incumbent elected officials and sitting heads of state (except under special circumstances)

Restrictions

No honorary degree will be conferred unless the recipient is present at the Commencement ceremony. If a recipient is unable to attend the ceremony, the conferral of the degree can be deferred to an alternate opportunity.

Revocation

Honorary degrees are awarded for life. Awardees reflect and personify the values of the University. If at any time during the life of an awardee the University becomes aware of documented evidence of criminal, unethical or immoral behavior or activity, the University has the right to rescind the honorary degree.

The President will present to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees evidence warranting the revocation of an honorary degree. The Executive Committee will review and consider this evidence and, where it finds sufficient cause to warrant revocation, will forward its recommendation regarding revocation to the full Board of Trustees for a vote.

If revocation is approved, the awardee will be notified in writing of the Board's decision by the Chair of the Board.