

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 The Board of Governors of Grant MacEwan University is empowered to grant honorary degrees, as set out in the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, on the recommendation of the University President. Through the granting of an Honorary Doctorate, MacEwan University acknowledges individuals whose contributions to society merit the institution's greatest distinction.

2.0 PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this Policy is to set out the conditions under which MacEwan University may award an Honorary Doctorate at a convocation ceremony.

3.0 APPLICABILITY

- 3.1 This Policy applies to all Honorary Doctorates granted by MacEwan University.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

Honorary Doctorate

The Doctor of the University (D. Univ.), conferred *honoris causa* ("for the sake of honour").

5.0 POLICY ELEMENTS

5.1 Eligibility

- 5.1.1 Honorary Doctorates are intended to celebrate individuals whose achievements have had significant impact in their areas of expertise, including but not limited to academic luminaries, particularly those with expertise in areas of academic strength at MacEwan University; athletes; community builders of prominence in Edmonton and from across central and northern Alberta; performers; philanthropists; and public intellectuals.
- 5.1.1.1 Current members of the Board of Governors of Grant MacEwan University and current members of the academic and non-academic staff of MacEwan University are ineligible for an Honorary Doctorate.
- 5.1.1.2 Political figures who currently hold office are ineligible for an Honorary Doctorate.
- 5.1.2 Honorary Doctorates are not conferred posthumously and are not usually conferred *in absentia*.
- 5.1.3 MacEwan University shall maintain a process by which eligible individuals may be nominated to receive an Honorary Doctorate. Nominations for Honorary Doctorates will be gathered on a continuous basis, but MacEwan University will promote the nominations process as part of its ongoing communications strategy.

5.2 Conferment

- 5.2.1 The Board of Governors of Grant MacEwan University will consider the recommendation of the University President before granting an honorary degree.

5.2.2 Honorary Doctorates may be conferred at fall convocation ceremonies or spring convocation ceremonies. There is no limit to the number of Honorary Doctorates conferred in either the fall or the spring.

5.2.2.1 At least one recipient per academic year must be deemed by the MacEwan Honorary Doctorate Selection Committee to be on the basis of academic achievement. Otherwise, no Honorary Doctorates will be conferred at the next set of ceremonies.

5.3 Revocation

5.3.1 The Board of Governors of Grant MacEwan University may, on the recommendation of the University President, revoke the Honorary Doctorate of a recipient whose conduct is deemed to create a significant risk to the reputation of the University. Revocation of an Honorary Doctorate requires the support of two-thirds of Board members.

6.0 ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES

- Honorary Doctorates Procedure

7.0 RELATED POLICIES, FORMS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

- Honorary Doctorates Nomination Form

8.0 ACCOUNTABILITY

Policy Sponsor
President

Responsible Office
Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic

9.0 HISTORY

Relevant Dates

Approved: **21.02.02**

Effective: **21.02.02**

Next Review: **26.02**

Modification History

21.01.25: New Policy approved by General Faculties Council and recommended to the Board of Governors (motion #GFC-04-01-25-2021).

21.02.02: New Policy approved by Board of Governors motion #02-02-02-2020/21.

22.10.28: Minor change to clarify language of conferment. Approved by Policy Sponsor.