

GUIDELINES FOR THE AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES

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SELECTION CRITERIA

A nominee must have sufficient stature and recognition to ensure that the awarding of an honorary degree brings credit to Concordia University and to the academic community as a whole, upholds the values that lead to the advancement of learning and to the pursuit of greater knowledge and inspires students. Candidates must meet one or more of the following criteria:

Eminence in a field of activity or profession

Exceptional record of distinction and achievement in an academic field, in the creative or performing arts or in a profession or discipline, preferably with some connection to the signature areas of Concordia University.

Outstanding public or community service

Distinguished service to the community, locally, nationally or internationally, or exceptional accomplishments having contributed to Canadian culture and society.

Significant connection or benefaction to the University

Extraordinary contribution to the development of the University or magnanimous contribution to the University, creatively, materially or financially.

ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSIONS

For reasons of propriety, honorary degrees will not be given to current members of the Board of Governors or their family members or to current members of the University community. Prudence should also be shown in recommending honorary degrees to holders of public office. Nominations that reflect the diversity of the Concordia community and Canadian society are encouraged. Save in exceptional circumstances, candidates must be present at the convocation ceremony to receive a degree; degrees will not normally be offered in absentia or posthumously.

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DEGREES TO BE CONFERRED

The Honorary Degree and Convocation Committee (“HDCC”) will make a recommendation on the type of honorary degree to confer. The following honorary degrees have most commonly been conferred, although other degrees may be considered as appropriate:

LLD (Doctor of Laws)

Awarded in recognition of exceptional service to the University or the community at large. This generic honorary degree is the most frequently awarded.

DSc (Doctor of Science)

Awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in science or engineering.

DLitt (Doctor of Letters)

Awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in the humanities or literature.

DFA (Doctor of Fine Arts)

Awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in visual or performing arts.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The Secretary of the HDCC will issue a call for nominations by December 1st of each year. Nominations may be submitted by the Faculty Councils, by any member of the Concordia community or by a member of the general public. A nominator must not inform a nominee at any stage of the process that he/she has been nominated or approved to receive an honorary degree. A nominator will not normally be a family member of a nominee.

Each nominator must complete and sign a confidential [Honorary Degree Nomination Form](#) containing a statement explaining why the University should award a degree to the nominee based on the criteria set out above. Each nomination must be accompanied by the nominee’s résumé and must be forwarded to the Secretary of the HDCC. The Secretary of the HDCC will acknowledge receipt of all nominations.

Nominations shall be received by the Secretary of the HDCC who will consult with the President to decide whether or not the nomination should be returned to the nominator for further information or be forwarded as is to the HDCC for consideration.

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All complete nominations are screened by the HDCC, which will evaluate the nominations in accordance with the criteria set out in these Guidelines. A slate of honorary degree recipients is approved by the Board of Governors upon recommendation of Senate. Once approved by the Board of Governors, nominations will be held active for a period of three years. After that period, the name of any nominee who has not yet been awarded an honorary degree will be removed from the pool of approved candidates. However, a candidate may be renominated and resubmitted for approval, either at the initiation of the HDCC or the original nominator.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All nominations must be held in the strictest confidence by the nominator or nominating body, by members of the HDCC and by members of Senate and the Board of Governors.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR CONVOCATION CEREMONIES

Save in exceptional circumstances, there should be no more than one honorary degree awarded at each convocation ceremony. While a candidate is invited to attend a specific convocation ceremony, the honorary degree is bestowed by the University and not by the Faculty.

The pool of approved candidates will be forwarded to the President by the Secretary of the HDCC. The President will confer in confidence with the Dean of each Faculty, in a timely manner, in order to determine who will be awarded the honorary degree at each of their respective convocation ceremonies. Candidates chosen will be contacted directly by the President and invited to receive an honorary degree.

Should a candidate who has accepted an invitation to receive an honorary degree be unable to attend the agreed-upon convocation ceremony, the degree will be awarded at another occasion. A candidate who declines an invitation, or who cancels an invitation twice without reasonable cause, will be removed from the pool of candidates and will not be considered eligible for further nomination.

Where a candidate for an honorary degree approved for inclusion in the pool of candidates subsequently dies, the name will be removed from the pool. Should a candidate who has accepted an invitation to receive an honorary degree die before the convocation at which it is to be awarded, the degree will not normally be awarded posthumously, although the President, in consultation with the relevant Dean, is at liberty to consider making an exception to this rule. Such a decision shall be brought forward to the Board of Governors for its information.

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Once the chosen candidates have accepted, their names and the ceremonies at which their degrees will be awarded will be confirmed to the Office of the Registrar on a confidential basis and shall remain confidential until such time as a public announcement has been made by University Communications Services with respect to the convocation ceremonies.