

Policy Title: Awarding Honorary Degrees

Policy Type: Academic **New/revised:** Revised

Old Policy #: 2:06:00:00

Approval level: ☒ Board of Trustees
☐ President
☐ Vice President
☐ Other (specify here)

Purpose: The ETSU Board of Trustees authorizes the awarding of honorary doctoral degrees to individuals who have made extraordinary achievements that distinguish them and benefit East Tennessee State University and the communities it serves. The Board delegates authority to award the honorary doctoral degree to the president.

An honorary degree will:

1. Honor persons whose careers reflect sustained and superlative achievement in the arts and professions, research, scholarship, public service, leadership, volunteerism, and/or cultural affairs;
2. Advance the educational mission, goals, and programs of ETSU by developing associations with persons who embody comparable ideals, values, and aspirations; and
3. Inspire students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and members of the local, national, and world communities to emulate such standards of excellence, integrity, and commitment to enhance the public good.

Policy:

- I. Criteria for Selection
 - A. An honorary degree is distinctive and awarded only in exceptional circumstances. No more than two honorary degrees can be awarded per academic year. The honorary degree awarded will meet the standards of ETSU and be awarded at the doctoral level. No individual may receive more than one honorary degree from ETSU.
- II. Eligibility
 - A. Individuals eligible for ETSU honorary degrees are identified in the purpose of this policy. Individuals who are not eligible for honorary degree consideration include current:
 1. ETSU faculty, staff, and trustees;
 2. Elected and/or appointed public officials; and
 3. Candidates and/or nominees for public elective and/or appointed offices within the ETSU region.
 - B. ETSU faculty, staff, and trustees who have been separated from ETSU and the ETSU Board of Trustees for at least three (3) years are eligible.
- III. Guidelines
 - A. The ETSU President will establish a Selection Committee comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators. At least 50% of the committee should be faculty.
 - B. The Selection Committee will receive nominations, use intense scrutiny of a nominee to ensure continued integrity of the award, conduct confidential deliberations, and as appropriate recommend a nominee to the ETSU President.

- C. The President informs the ETSU Board of Trustees of the selected recipient for an honorary doctoral degree and notifies the recipient. The recipient must attend graduation to be awarded the honorary degree.

3/24/2017 – approved by the Board of Trustees.

Notes: [optional information here]
[could be source information, historical notes, references to other policies]