



## HONORARY DEGREE PROCEDURE

<b>Procedure Type:</b>	Board of Governors	<b>Initially Approved:</b>	February 10, 2021
<b>Procedure Sponsor:</b>	President and CEO	<b>Last Revised:</b>	December 12, 2023
<b>Administrative Responsibility:</b>	University Secretariat Office	<b>Review Scheduled:</b>	December 2028
<b>Approver:</b>	Chair, Board of Governors		

### A. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The *Post-Secondary Learning Act* stipulates that "the Board of an undergraduate university may grant an honorary degree on a person."

An honorary degree is generally considered that one of the most prestigious honors any university can bestow upon an individual; a degree which is conferred honoris causa (*for the sake of honor*). This type of degree is meant to recognize an individual's exceptional achievement or distinction in a field or activity consonant with the mission of the institution. In regard to honorary degrees bestowed by Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts), the focus includes art, craft and design with possible (when appropriate) expansion into the broader fields of creativity and innovation.

Honorary degrees provide an opportunity for the institution to publicly honour exceptional and unique individuals of national and international stature whose accomplishments support the mission, vision, and values of AUArts and can serve as an example for our students, alumni, community and society.

### B. PROCEDURES

#### 1. CRITERIA

- 1.1 Honorary degrees shall be granted by Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) to recognize a wide range of professional and personal accomplishments and contributions to society. While one or more of the following criteria may be weighted more or less heavily in the consideration of an individual candidate, the following criteria shall guide the awarding of honorary degrees.
- 1.2 The nominee for an honorary degree from AUArts:
  - a) displays achievement in Art, Craft or Design or an auxiliary field or endeavor where innovation and creativity is core including industry or commerce.
  - b) displays distinguished service and performance in their accomplishments that support the ideals of AUArts and serve as an example to our students, our alumni, and society.
  - c) displays lifelong commitment to service and community.

## **2. CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 2.1 Nomination information submitted will be kept strictly confidential throughout the nominating process. No discussion concerning nominees shall take place outside of those directly involved in the evaluation process. The President and CEO, or a designee, is responsible for contacting the candidates once the Board of Governors has approved a candidate.

## **3. EXCEPTIONS**

- 3.1 Honorary Degrees are typically not awarded posthumously, unless the offer has been made and accepted prior to the individual's death.

## **4. INELIGIBILITY**

- 4.1 The following are categories of individuals who are ineligible to receive an honorary degree due to conflict of interest:
- a) Current members of the faculty, staff, the Board of Governors or General Faculties Council or their immediate families. These individuals may not be considered for nomination until a minimum of one year has passed since their active connection with the University has ended;
  - b) Current students; and
  - c) Individuals actively serving a political office.

## **5. TIMELINE**

Spring: Call for nomination released: Nominations for an Honorary degree to be awarded in one year will be accepted until Fall of the preceding year.

Early Fall: Honorary Degree Selection Committee meets to review nominations and make recommendations to the Board of Governors.

Fall: Board of Governors Honorary Degree Recipient(s) approved.

May: Conferral of Honorary Degree at a convocation ceremony, typically May.

## **6. NOMINATION PROCESS**

- 6.1 Nominations will be accepted on an ongoing basis and should be forwarded to the Secretary, Board of Governors using the Honorary Degrees Nomination Form. Nominations may be reconsidered in a subsequent year, but a nomination form must be re-submitted for the individual.

## **7. REVOCATION**

- 7.1 The Board of Governors reserves the right to revoke any honorary degree conferred by AUArts. While the utmost diligence has been, and will continue to be, exercised by the university when awarding an honorary degree, there may be occurrences when a recipient's past and/or current conduct, or statements,

bring disrepute to the university and/or call the decision to confer such an honour on the individual into question.

- 7.2 In such situations, the Honorary Degree Committee will be asked to review the facts of the situation and will advise on and/or make a recommendation to the Board of Governors accordingly upon which the Board may issue a special statement or revoke the honorary degree.
- 7.3 Exceptions to these procedures may be made at the discretion of the Board of Governors.

**C. DEFINITIONS**

**AUArts:** Alberta University of the Arts

**D. RELATED LEGISLATION**

- Post Secondary Learning Act

**E. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Honorary Degree Call for Nominations
- Honorary Degree Nomination Form

**F. REVISION HISTORY**

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Description of Change	Sections	Person who Entered Revision (Position Title)	Person who Authorized Revision (Position Title)
12/12/2023	Added content on Revocation of HD process.	Section 7	University Secretary	Chair, Board of Governors