

11.07.99.C0.01 Granting Honorary Degrees

Approved: September 24, 2001

Revised: January 31, 2002

Revised: July 17, 2015



Procedure Statement

This policy establishes the mechanism by which an individual may receive an honorary degree from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi.

Reason for Procedure

It is necessary to provide a framework within which Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi may recommend an individual for an honorary degree so that the person's accomplishments and service are considered prior to the awarding of the degree. This policy allows for the participation of faculty, staff and the system Board of Regents (board) in the decision-making process.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. GENERAL

System Policy 11.07 provides guidelines for the granting of honorary degrees. The policy covers the following topics:

- (1) the purposes of honorary degrees awarded by TAMUS academic institutions;
- (2) the System criteria for selection of degree recipients;
- (3) System limitations on eligibility; and
- (4) System procedures for granting of an honorary degree.

2. UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES FOR THE GRANTING OF AN HONORARY DEGREE

2.1 Members of the faculty, administration, or Board of Regents may submit nominations for honorary degrees. Materials submitted should include a letter of nomination, the nominee's vitae, and supporting letters. The deadlines for submitting recommendations for honorary degrees to the Honorary Degree Recommendation Team are noted in section 3 of this procedure.

- 2.2 Honorary Degree Recommendation Team will review recommendations and forward them to the President. The chair of the team is selected by the President from the faculty representation on the committee. Recommendations approved by the President will be forwarded to the Chancellor and the Board of Regents for approval.
- 2.3 In reviewing nominations, the team will follow the guidelines in System policy 11.07 regarding the purpose of honorary degrees, the criteria for selection of degree recipients, and the limitations on eligibility. Recommendations approved by the team will be forwarded to the President, along with supporting documentation, by the deadlines noted in section 3 of this procedure. The team also will notify the college deans of the recommendation.
- 2.4 The President will review the recommendations in consultation with the President's Cabinet. Recommendations approved by the President will be forwarded to the Chancellor in accordance with System deadlines for items requiring approval by the Board of Regents.
- 2.5 Confidentiality will be maintained until the Board of Regents agenda is distributed.
- 2.6 Events involving the honorary degree recipient should be coordinated with the Office of Institutional Advancement.

3. TIME LINE

- 3.1 Although nominations should generally be submitted to the Honorary Degree Recommendation Team at least 7 months in advance of the commencement ceremony, the Provost's Office should be contacted for exact information on the Board of Regents' deadlines.

4. REVOCATION OF HONORARY DEGREE

- 4.1 In consultation with the legal counsel of the Texas A&M University System, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi may revoke an honorary degree and rescind any privileges granted if the holder is found to be involved in activities that are deemed to be of a scandalous, disgraceful, or illegal nature that reflect poorly upon Texas A&M – Corpus Christi or the Texas A&M University System. Additionally, the University may revoke an honorary degree if fraudulent, misleading, or erroneous information was provided during the initial assessment (even if such information was not provided by the recipient) for the honorary degree.
- 4.2 If an honorary degree is revoked, all statements indicating that the former recipient is an A&M University – Corpus Christi honorary degree holder must cease.
- 4.3 The decision to revoke an honorary degree will be reviewed by the Honorary Degree Recommendation Team. In consultation with the President's Cabinet and

the Texas A&M University System, the President will make the final decision on revocation. The decision is not appealable.

Related Statutes, Policies or Rules

[Texas Education Code Section 37.123](#)
[System Policy 11.07](#)

Contact Office

Contact for interpretation or clarification: President (361) 825-2621