

Honorary Degree Overview:

The Ohio State University bestows the distinction of an honorary degree upon those individuals who have made significant contributions to the human condition in the national and international arena. An honorary degree from our University is a public manifestation and reflection of its commitment to and support of excellence. A complete list of previous honorary degree recipients is available here:

<http://www.osu.edu/universityawards/dsa/honorary.html>

Although most nominees should come from academe, given the University's prime mission of instruction and research, outstanding non-academic individuals who have made important contributions to society and the world's well-being will be considered.

Since nominations for honorary degrees come almost exclusively from the faculty, your involvement in the process is crucial. I urge you to consider nominating an eminent person in your field and bring them to the attention of the University through the honorary-degree process. In addition, if your department is planning to invite distinguished guests to campus, please consider nominating them for an honorary degree.

Honorary Degree Nomination Process:

Step 1:

A letter of nomination and curriculum vitae or biographical listing from a published source is submitted to the Honorary Degree Committee Chair (Lorraine Wallace [wallace.621@osu.edu]). The nominator should identify any association of the candidate with The Ohio State University.

Step 2:

The nomination materials, in context of University Senate guideline standards (<https://senate.osu.edu/committees/honorary-degrees/guidelines>), are reviewed by Honorary Degree Committee members.

Step 3:

The Honorary Degree Committee chair notifies the nominator about the decision to advance or withhold the nomination. In the former case, the Committee will request a full candidate dossier, consisting of 3 intramural and 3 extramural letters of support and letter of support from the nominator's College Dean. The Committee will review the full dossier, and if approved for advancement, will submit materials to the Secretary of the University Senate for an e-mail vote by that body. Pending a positive recommendation by the University Senate, the nomination will then be submitted to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

Step 4:

Honorary degree awardees will be notified in writing by The Ohio State University President. The Office of Commencement and Special Events determines at which commencement the honorary degree will be officially awarded. Honorary degrees are awarded three times per year during Commencement. The timetable for completion of successful nominations varies, depending on the number of nominations in the queue and nominees' personal schedules.

Campus Engagement of Honorary Degree Recipients:

President Michael Drake, working with the Honorary Degree Committee, has made it possible to deepen the engagement of honorees with the University by providing sponsoring funds for units to bring honorees back to campus for events at a time *OTHER than commencement* weekend when they can interact with students and faculty (lectures, symposia, performances, etc.). This augmented engagement can occur during the academic year and funding is available to support approved program costs. The initial letter of nomination should indicate any interest in the candidate's involvement in the augmented-engagement program. If such a nomination is advanced to Step 3, a detailed budget, timetable, and plan for involvement of the honoree should accompany the required Step 3 materials.