



Board Policy 3.18 Honorary Degree

Part 1. Purpose

To establish the rationale for honorary degrees, authorize colleges and universities to grant honorary degrees, and provide standards and guidelines under which honorary degrees will be conferred.

Part 2. Definition

A degree awarded as an honor for an outstanding contribution in some field, rather than as the result of matriculating and earning a degree based on studies at the college or university.

Part 3. Rationale

The rationale for honorary degrees is to:

1. recognize and honor persons who have made exceptional contributions to a specific field or to society in general;
2. establish a public association between Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and such exceptional persons, thereby providing testimony to the values and quality of the state colleges and universities; and
3. assist the state colleges and universities with the goals and objectives of their educational programming, their service and outreach missions, and their institutional advancement.

Part 4. Authorization

Colleges and universities may confer honorary degrees according to procedures established by, and with the approval of, the chancellor.

Part 5. Internal Process

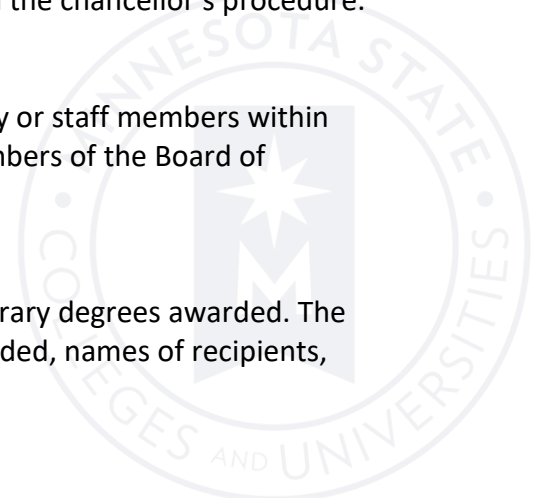
A college or university choosing to award an honorary degree shall establish its own internal process for determining honorary degree recipients consistent with the chancellor's procedure.

Part 6. Limits to Eligible Recipients

Honorary degrees may not be conferred on currently serving faculty or staff members within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, current members of the Board of Trustees, or current holders of elected political office.

Part 7. Report to Board

The chancellor shall provide an annual report to the board on honorary degrees awarded. The report shall include information about the number of degrees awarded, names of recipients,



and degree designations. Colleges and Universities shall report to the system office on the honorary degrees awarded each year.

Date of Adoption: 10/16/96

Date of Implementation: 10/16/96

Date of Last Review: 03/20/24

Date and Subject of Amendments:

03/20/24 – Full review, technical edits made in Part 1. Purpose consisting of deleting the “s” at the end of “authorizes” and “provides”.

5/22/19 – Regular review, technical edits.

05/22/13 - minor amendments throughout. Amended Part 7 to require that the chancellor report honorary degrees to the Board annually rather than twice a year and further amends Part 7 to require that colleges and universities report to the system office the honorary degrees that are awarded each year.

Additional HISTORY.