

Trustees' Regulation on Honorary Degrees

Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, November 18, 1972, as amended July 26, 1980, October 26, 1990, and March 21, 1997, and March 25, 2021.ⁱ

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in the exercise of its authority to approve "the names of all individuals on whom it is proposed that an honorary degree or other honorary or memorial distinction be conferred by the institution," will consider only such names as are proposed in accordance with the following specifications of procedure and policy:

1. Honorary degrees to be awarded by The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shall be Doctor of Laws (LL.D.), Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.), Doctor of Science (D.Sci.), and Doctor of Divinity (D.D.). Only in exceptional circumstances shall a more specialized honorary degree be conferred.
2. Honorary degrees and other honorary or memorial distinctions shall be conferred only on those deemed deserving of such awards by reason of eminent achievement in scholarship or in public affairs or in service to the University or the State or the nation through activities recognized as significant in the educational world.
3. Initiation of nominations for honorary degrees or other honorary or memorial distinctions shall be the prerogative of the faculty, which is authorized to establish its own procedures for such initiation.
4. A list of the names of people properly recommended for an honorary degree shall be maintained by the Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a name of a recommendee shall remain on said list for consideration by the Board of Trustees until the sooner of the awarding of an honorary degree to the recommendee, the death of the recommendee, or five years from the date of receipt of the recommendation by the Chair of the Board of Trustees.
5. With the exception of Section 6 below, in the event that an honorary degree or other honorary distinction is offered to a person who for any reason does not appear at or participate in the Commencement or other stated occasion at which the award is to be conferred, that award shall lapse; and any later consideration of that person for an honorary or memorial distinction shall be initiated *de novo*.
6. In the event that an honorary degree or other honorary distinction is offered to a living person who then dies prior to the Commencement or other stated occasion at which the award is to be conferred, that award shall nonetheless be awarded posthumously.
7. No person shall be eligible to be awarded an honorary degree by the University at Chapel Hill while that person is serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of The University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as a member of the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, or as a member of the faculty, staff, or administration of The University of North Carolina or of any one of its constituent institutions; and no such person shall be eligible for such an award earlier than at the second Commencement after the termination of any such relationship with The University of North Carolina and/or any one of its constituent institutions.

ⁱ Amendments made to Section 3 of the regulation on March 25, 2021 were temporarily suspended by resolution of the Board of Trustees in September 2021 (suspending the amendments until June 30, 2022) and again by resolution of the Board of Trustees in July 2022 (suspending the amendments until June 30, 2023). Unless suspended again, the following version of Section 3 will be in effect beginning July 1, 2023:

3. A member of the faculty, staff, administration, student body, or Board of Trustees or the Chancellor or an alumna or alumnus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill may make recommendations for honorary degrees or other honorary or memorial distinctions conferred by The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which nominations shall be made in writing to the Chair of the Board of Trustees.