

# ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

4110

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## HONORARY DEGREES

### I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. Honorary degrees shall be awarded by the individual college awarding the degree, upon approval of the respective college Academic Senate and the District's Board.
- B. Honorary degrees may be awarded at commencement or some other equally appropriate time.
- C. The honorary degree shall be conferred by the college president.
- D. The District reserves the right to revoke the honorary degree if the individual engages in conduct, which in the sole discretion of the Board, is significantly detrimental to the reputation of the individual, such that continued association between such individual and the District and/or college would be contrary to the best interests of the District.

### II. PURPOSES FOR WHICH HONORARY DEGREES MAY BE CONFERRED

- A. To recognize excellence and exceptional achievement in significant areas of human endeavor, which reflect the stated vision, mission, and goals of the college and the District.
- B. To honor meritorious and outstanding service to the District, the college, the communities the college serves, the State of California, the United States, or humanity at large.
- C. To recognize individuals whose lives and significant achievements serve as examples of the college's aspirations for its diverse student body.

### III. CRITERIA FOR THE AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES

- A. Nominees for an honorary degree must be distinguished in their respective fields, and the contributions of persons nominated should be widely recognized.
- B. Nominees must have demonstrated intellectual and humane values that are consistent with the aims of higher education and with the highest ideals of the nominee's chosen field.
- C. Service or financial support to the college does not in itself justify the awarding of honorary degrees. However, nothing in these criteria shall preclude nominees who are benefactors of the college.

### IV. LIMITATIONS ON ELIGIBILITY

Honorary degrees shall not be awarded to the following:

- A. Incumbent members of the District Board;
- B. Current or former employees of the college or the District;

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C. Anyone who has already been awarded an honorary degree by a college within the District.

V. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

- A. Any member of the college community may propose a candidate for an honorary degree; however, letters of endorsement for a nominee should not be solicited, as that activity could place the Board, the Chancellor, and the college in a difficult position if the nominee is not selected for the award.
- B. A college should confer no more than one honorary degree per academic year.
- C. The final recommendation comes from the college president to the Chancellor.
- D. No honorary degree shall be awarded without approval of the respective Academic Senate.
- E. The utmost care must be taken through all steps of the procedure to ensure confidentiality prior to submission to the Board.

*Reference:*

*Education Code Section 72122*