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Honorary Degrees

After a more than a decade hiatus, in 2017 the UO renewed its process of granting honorary degrees. The honorary degree is the highest award conferred by the university and must adhere to the following criteria as outlined in [UO policy](#).



Criteria

- An individual or individuals who has/have shown outstanding scholarship or artistic achievement in their lifetime; or,
- An individual or individuals who has/have performed extraordinary public service or contributions to society in their lifetime.

In addition to the criteria above, it is beneficial for an individual or individuals to have a connection to the University of Oregon, particularly for those who are to be considered for their public service and contribution to society.



Process

The honorary degree program is led by the Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Service Awards Committee.

The committee is responsible for the screening, investigation, and recommendation of candidates. The committee makes a recommendation to the University Senate, which in turn makes a recommendation to the university president. The president may then forward up to two nominees each academic year to the Board of Trustees for final consideration.



Nominations

- The committee will actively solicit nominations for individuals who meet the criteria once each academic year, typically during the fall. However, nominations are welcome at any point.
- Nominations may be submitted to feedback@uoregon.edu.
- Submissions must include a completed honorary [degree nomination form](#).
- A summary statement, not to exceed two typed pages, articulating why the nominee meets the criteria set forth in [policy](#), nominee's resume, curriculum vitae, or similar document articulating the individual's professional or personal accomplishments and achievements and additional supporting documents may also be provided to the committee for consideration.



Nominees

- Philanthropist and businessman Lorry Lokey received an honorary degree at the 2018 Commencement.
- The UO Board of Trustees has also approved bestowing honorary degrees upon UO alumnus, philanthropist, and Nike co-founder Philip Knight and renowned, influential artist Carrie Mae Weems.
- Information about the nominees as well as those who have been granted this honor in the past can be found on the website.



[https://president.uoregon.edu/
honorary-degrees](https://president.uoregon.edu/honorary-degrees)

